

Annex A: Glossary and abbreviations

Glossary of terms

TEF assessments: where providers apply for ratings that show different levels of quality below, at or above the minimum requirements.

TEF ratings: the outcomes of either Requires improvement, Bronze, Silver or Gold following a TEF assessment.

Minimum requirements assessment: where providers do not apply for TEF ratings and are assessed only on whether or not they meet minimum requirements.

Minimum requirements outcomes: the outcomes of either Unsatisfactory or Satisfactory following a minimum requirements assessment.

Quality investigations: where we identify potential concerns about compliance and carry out an assessment focused on establishing whether the concerns are substantiated.

Making representations: providing information, evidence or reasons for us to consider before we make a final decision.

Student recruitment limits: a limit on the number of students a provider is permitted to recruit.

Reduction in student recruitment: a requirement for a provider to recruit fewer students than it currently recruits. This would apply to providers that receive a Requires improvement rating or an Unsatisfactory outcome.

Limit on growth in student numbers: a requirement that allows a provider to continue recruiting at its current level but prevents it from increasing the number of students it recruits. This would normally apply to providers that receive a Bronze rating or a Satisfactory outcome.

B conditions: ongoing OfS conditions of registration for quality and standards – full details are available at: [How we regulate quality and standards - Office for Students](#).

Abbreviations used in this consultation

Abbreviation	Definition
ABCS	Associations between characteristics of students (measures)
DAPs	degree awarding powers
DfE	Department for Education
FSM	free school meals
FTE	full-time equivalent
GO	Graduate Outcomes (survey)
HERA	Higher Education and Research Act 2017
HTQ	higher technical qualifications
IFS	Institute for Fiscal Studies
ILR	Individualised Learner Record
LEO	Longitudinal Education Outcomes (survey)
LLE	Lifelong Learning Entitlement
NSS	National Student Survey
OfS	Office for Students
PAYE	Pay as You Earn
PSRB	Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body
QAC	Quality Assessment Committee
SPG	Strategic Priorities Grant
TEF	Teaching Excellence Framework