

## Blackburn College: Specific ongoing condition B3B

Blackburn College ('the Provider') was registered on 1 February 2019.

The Provider was selected for assessment of its performance in relation to **Condition B3** in 2022. The outcome of the assessment is that the OfS has deemed the Provider to be:

- At increased risk of breach of Condition B3 in respect of its:
  - Completion, full-time, first degree outcomes
  - Continuation, full-time, first degree outcomes
  - Continuation, full-time, other undergraduate outcomes.

The OfS has therefore imposed requirements to ensure that the interests of current and future students, and the interests of the taxpayer, are protected.

The primary reasons for this are:

- a. The actions the Provider has taken have not yet led to sustained performance at or above the **Relevant Numerical Thresholds** for its Completion, full-time, first degree, Continuation, full-time, first degree and Continuation, full-time, other undergraduate outcomes.
- b. The Provider's plans were not sufficiently targeted to sustain outcomes at or above the **Relevant Numerical Thresholds** for the **Relevant Indicators** in an appropriate timescale.

To mitigate the risks associated with the increased risk of breach, the OfS has imposed Specific Condition B3B.

### B3B Notice to improve outcomes for students

**B3B.1** The Provider must undertake a comprehensive review of its performance in relation to the **Relevant Indicators** which includes the following:

- i. A review of the effectiveness of its current improvement plans in light of the findings of the OfS in relation to this increased risk of breach;
- ii. Identification of targeted actions to improve outcomes in relation to the **Relevant Indicators** within the **Relevant Timescale**;
- iii. Arrangements for periodically reviewing the implementation and effectiveness of any targeted actions and, where appropriate, identifying and implementing new targeted actions; and
- iv. The provider must ensure that targeted actions are informed by the OfS **Outcome Data**.

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**B3B.2** Thereafter, the Provider must take such targeted actions as identified in its comprehensive review, as set out at B3B.1 above, and any other targeted actions subsequently identified through its periodic reviews, so that its performance in relation to the **Relevant Indicators** is at or above the **Relevant Numerical Thresholds** within the **Relevant Timescale**.

**B3B.3** Where the Provider's performance in relation to the **Relevant Indicators** is not at or above the **Relevant Numerical Thresholds** within the **Relevant Timescale**, before deciding that the Provider is in breach of this condition the OfS will consider whether the Provider's context otherwise justifies its performance.

**B3B.4** The Provider must keep complete and accurate records of the comprehensive review carried out in accordance with B3B.1, and the actions it takes to improve outcomes in relation to the **Relevant Indicators** until the OfS has completed its assessment of performance set out in B3B.8 below. Any such records must be provided to the OfS on request.

**B3B.5** The Provider's compliance with this condition does not in any way affect the ability of the OfS to take regulatory and/or enforcement action in respect of the Provider's compliance with any other condition of registration, including (but not limited to) ongoing Condition B3.

### Timing and monitoring

**B3B.6** The Provider must complete its comprehensive review as outlined in B3B.1 above within six months from the condition becoming effective. The Provider must submit confirmation in writing that it has completed its comprehensive review by the end of January 2025.

**B3B.7** The OfS may undertake periodic reviews of the actions taken by the Provider to improve its outcomes in relation to the **Relevant Indicators**. We will identify whether any further information is to be requested from the Provider following the annual publication of OfS student outcomes dashboards, or on receipt on any other relevant regulatory intelligence. The Provider must take all reasonable steps to provide any additional information requested by the OfS.

**B3B.8** The OfS will undertake an assessment of the Provider's performance in relation to all **Relevant Indicators** following the publication of **Outcome Data** in spring 2028.

**B3B.9** If, following this assessment, the OfS judges that the Provider remains at increased risk of breach of **Condition B3**, the OfS reserves the right to take further regulatory action.

### Definitions

**B3B.10** For the purposes of this condition:

'**Condition B3**' means the condition set out in the OfS's regulatory framework.

'**Outcome Data**' has the same meaning as 'outcome data' in Condition B3.

'**Relevant Indicators**' means the following indicators defined in 'Description of student outcome and experience measures used in OfS regulation' or similar documents published by the OfS (and, for the avoidance of doubt, includes a consideration of any related split indicators):

- Continuation, full-time, first degree

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- Continuation, full-time, other undergraduate
- Completion, full-time, first degree

**'Relevant Timescale'** means by 31 July 2027, so that student outcomes data is reflected in OfS dashboards published in spring 2028.

**'Relevant Numerical Threshold / Relevant Numerical Thresholds'** mean the numerical thresholds set by the OfS in respect of the Relevant Indicators, namely:

- 'Continuation for full-time, first degree students' – 80%
- 'Continuation for full-time, other undergraduate students' – 75%
- 'Completion for full-time, first degree students' – 75%.