

## Arden University Limited: Specific ongoing condition B3A

Arden University Limited (the Provider) was registered on 28 January 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 breaching Condition B3 in respect of the **Relevant Indicators**.

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**.
- b. For the continuation and completion, full-time, first degree indicators there is a risk that the Provider's current plans may not lead to sufficient and sustained improvement in a reasonable timeframe.
- c. For the progression, full-time first degree, continuation, part-time first degree and continuation, part-time postgraduate taught masters' indicators, the Provider's plans were not sufficiently targeted to improve outcomes at or above the **Relevant Numerical Thresholds** in an appropriate timescale.

To mitigate the risks associated with the increased risk of breach, the OfS has imposed Specific Condition B3A.

### B3A Notice to improve outcomes for students

**B3A.1** The Provider must undertake reviews of its performance in relation to the **Relevant Indicators** which include 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 progression, full-time first degree, continuation part-time first degree and continuation part-time postgraduate taught masters' indicators within the **Relevant Timescale**.
- iii. Monitoring of outcomes in relation to the continuation and completion full-time first-degree indicators and, where these are below threshold, identification of further targeted actions to improve outcomes within the **Relevant Timescale**.

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- iv. Arrangements for periodically reviewing the implementation and effectiveness of any targeted actions and, where appropriate, identifying and implementing new targeted actions.

**B3A.2** Thereafter, the Provider must take such targeted actions as identified in its reviews (as set out at **B3A.1** above), and as set out in its current improvement plans as submitted to the OfS in March 2023 and April 2024, 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**.

**B3A.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.

**B3A.4** The Provider must keep complete and accurate records of the reviews carried out in accordance with **B3A.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 **B3A.8**. Any such records must be provided to the OfS on request.

**B3A.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

**B3A.6** The Provider must complete its review as outlined in **B3A.1(i) and (ii)** above within six months of this condition becoming effective on 27 June 2024. The Provider must submit confirmation that it has completed its review by email to [regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk) by 31 December 2024.

**B3A.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 **Outcome data**, or on receipt of any other relevant regulatory intelligence. The Provider must take all reasonable steps to provide any additional information requested by the OfS.

**B3A.8** The OfS will undertake an assessment of the Provider's performance, in line with the guidance in Regulatory advice 20, in relation to all **Relevant Indicators** following the publication of **Outcome data** in spring 2028.

**B3A.9** If, following this assessment, the OfS judges that the Provider remains at increased risk of breach, or in breach of Condition B3, the OfS reserves the right to take further regulatory action.

### Definitions

**B3A.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**.

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**‘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):

- i. Continuation, full-time, first degree
- ii. Completion, full-time, first degree
- iii. Progression, full-time, first degree
- iv. Continuation, part-time, first degree
- v. Continuation, part-time, postgraduate taught masters’.

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

**‘Relevant Numerical Thresholds’** mean the numerical thresholds set by the OfS in respect of the **Relevant Indicators**, namely:

- i. Continuation, full-time, first degree – 80 per cent
- ii. Completion, full-time, first degree – 75 per cent
- iii. Progression, full-time, first degree – 60 per cent
- iv. Continuation, part-time, first degree – 55 per cent
- v. Continuation, part-time, postgraduate taught masters’ – 65 per cent.