

Statement about the prioritised categories for the 2022 assessment cycle and the provisional prioritised categories for the 2023 assessment cycle

Condition B3: prioritisation criteria

The Office for Students (OfS) is publishing the prioritisation criteria we will use to select providers to assess in relation to their compliance with ongoing condition B3 (student outcomes). A final decision has been made about the criteria that will apply to the first assessment cycle in 2022 and a provisional decision has been taken in relation to the second assessment cycle in 2023.

General approach to prioritisation

Paragraph 36 of Regulatory advice 20¹ explains that in each year we will decide:

- which student outcome measures, modes and levels of study we wish to prioritise
- whether we should focus on particular split indicators, such as subject of study or student characteristics, or on any themes, such as partnership arrangements
- how many cases we will assess in that year.

We have now decided on the final criteria for the calendar year 2022. In line with the intention set out in our consultation response, we are also announcing the criteria for 2023 but these are provisional, pending a review of the latest data when that is available to us in spring 2023.

The criteria are set out in full in Annex A.

In 2022, we will assess up to 20 providers. We will decide how many providers we will assess in 2023 in spring 2023.

2022 assessments

We will decide which providers we will assess in 2022 using the factors set out in paragraph 36 of Regulatory advice 20:

- the number of students affected by performance below a numerical threshold in the prioritised categories
- the distance from the relevant numerical threshold in the prioritised categories

¹ See [Regulatory advice 20: Regulating student outcomes - Office for Students](#).

- the statistical certainty we have that a provider's underlying performance is below a relevant numerical threshold
- the number of a provider's indicators or split indicators not in the prioritised categories that are below a numerical threshold
- other regulatory intelligence, including but not limited to notifications from third parties, outcomes from the Teaching Excellence Framework exercise, and previous compliance with condition B3 or other conditions of registration.

We will then decide the scope of the assessment for each provider, including whether our assessment will relate only to the prioritised categories or will extend beyond these. We will then undertake step 1 of our assessment process, by considering whether any existing information we hold in relation to a provider justifies its performance. For more information, see paragraphs 37 to 46 of Regulatory advice 20.

When we have made these decisions, we will write to the providers we have selected. We expect to do this in November or December 2022.

If you have any questions about the information in this statement, please email us at regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk.

Annex A: Condition B3 prioritisation criteria for 2022 and 2023

Table 1: Prioritisation criteria for 2022

Student outcome measures	Continuation Completion Progression
Mode of study	Full-time
Levels of study	First degree Postgraduate taught masters'
Specific split indicators to be used	Subject: Business and management Subject: Computing Subject: Law Subject: Psychology Subject: Sociology, anthropology and social policy Subject: Sport and exercise sciences Subject: History and archaeology

Table 2: Provisional prioritisation criteria for 2023

Student outcome measures	Continuation Completion Progression
Mode of study	Full-time
Levels of study	First degree Other undergraduate
Specific split indicators to be used	Other undergraduate: Level 5+ Other undergraduate: Level 4 First degree with integrated foundation year, subject to updated analysis of performance before the next assessment cycle Specific split indicators relating to student characteristics, to be decided following outcomes of the OfS's consultation on access and participation plans Specific split indicators relating to subject, to be decided following updated analysis of performance before the next assessment cycle