

Regulatory case report for London Film School: Ongoing condition B3 investigation outcome

Summary

This report confirms that the Office for Students (OfS) has found London Film School (LFS) compliant with ongoing condition of registration B3 (student outcomes). Our investigation concluded that contextual factors relating to historical data reporting issues justified the provider's performance in relation to our B3 numerical thresholds.

Background

LFS is an international graduate film conservatoire. It delivers full-time and part-time postgraduate taught masters' courses and doctoral studies validated by partner universities, as well as workshops and summer schools.

LFS was selected for assessment of its compliance with ongoing condition of registration B3 (student outcomes) as part of the OfS's 2022-23 annual prioritisation cycle. As set out in 'Regulatory advice 20: Regulating student outcomes',¹ each year the OfS decides:

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

We published the final prioritised categories for 2022-23 in a statement on the OfS website in November 2022.² As part of its assessment cycle for student outcomes in 2022-23, the OfS opened investigations into 12 higher education providers.

Our investigation into LFS's student outcomes focused on completion rates for its full-time postgraduate taught masters' courses. This was because its performance as shown in the OfS's 2022 student outcomes data indicated that only 23.3 per cent of all entrants in 2013-14 had secured a qualification (or other positive outcome) by the relevant census point (in this case, four years and 15 days from starting their course).³ This was 56.7 percentage points below the OfS's numerical threshold of 80 per cent.

¹ See OfS, '[Regulatory advice 20: Regulating student outcomes](#)'.

² See OfS, '[Statement about ongoing condition B3 prioritisation criteria](#)'.

³ Available under 'Archived data' at OfS, '[2022 student outcomes data](#)'.

Investigation outcome

Our investigation concluded that the provider's performance was justified by its context. This was because our engagement with the provider revealed historical data reporting issues, which meant the positive outcomes of a significant number of students were not recorded correctly.

Specifically, the students in question had studied with LFS in 2013-14 via a subcontractual arrangement with a university partner. The university partner had, in error, omitted these students from its 2014-15 data return, such that their successful completion was not captured in the underlying student data that forms the basis of the OfS's student outcomes data. We were able to confirm that this data return was the responsibility of the university partner at that time, and the obligation to return complete and accurate data, including for subcontractual partnerships, was clarified with them. As a registered provider with the OfS, London Film School now completes all required data returns directly.

When the actual outcomes of these students were taken into account, the OfS was satisfied that the provider's performance would be around 86 per cent and therefore above the relevant numerical threshold. Having considered the contextual evidence submitted by the provider, we judged the provider to be complying with ongoing condition B3 and closed our investigation without any further regulatory action.