

The OfS strategy 2025 to 2030

Office for
Students



Striving to deliver exemplary regulation
in the interests of students

We will be:

Ambitious

for all students
from all
backgrounds.

Vigilant

about safeguarding
public money and
student fees.

Collaborative

in pursuit of our priorities
and in our stewardship of
the sector.

Vocal

that higher education
is a force for good,
for individuals,
communities and for
the country.



The story so far...

English higher education is a national asset

A diverse sector



Over
400 institutions on the
OfS Register, ranging from small,
specialist institutions to large,
multi-faculty universities



Collectively teach
2.4m
students



Including over
600,000
international students

That enriches students' lives and careers



85%
of students say their course has
developed knowledge and skills they will
need for their future



176
institutions were found to be delivering very
high or outstanding quality in the latest
Teaching Excellence Framework ratings



The higher education entry rate for
students eligible for free school meals
has risen **by over a third** since 2012

And drives growth



Contributes
£221bn
to the economy



But challenges remain



29%
of students believe their course offers poor value for money



25%
of students report experiencing sexual harassment



43%
of institutions forecast a deficit for 2024-25



6x more students are reporting mental health conditions to their institution, compared with 2010



68% of students now undertake paid work during term time, up 26 percentage points since 2020



Young people from the South West and North East are
35% less likely to enter higher education by age 19 than those in London



The interests of students, past, present and future, are at the heart of our approach

Our discussions with students found they expect:

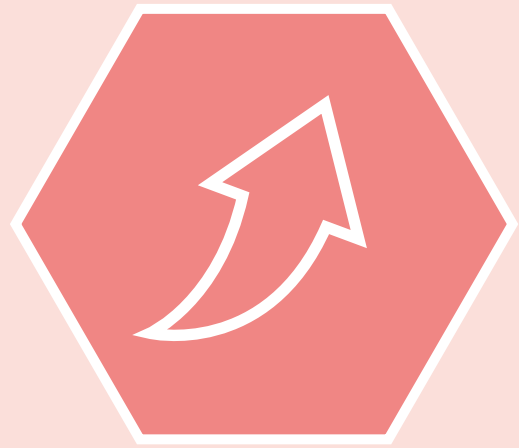
- High quality teaching
- High quality academic resources and support
- Fair treatment
- Tailored learning experiences
- Supportive and enriching learning environments
- To acquire knowledge and practical skills that lead to good jobs and other opportunities.





“Delivering our strategy in the interests of students will be as much about how we regulate as what we regulate. Four attitudes will drive our stewardship of this important sector in a period of change as we work to become an exemplary regulator.”

Professor Edward Peck CBE, OfS Chair



Ambitious for all students from all backgrounds.

Every student - regardless of their background, circumstances or pathway - should have the opportunity to benefit from high quality education that meets their needs and equips them to succeed. **We will be relentlessly focused on securing positive higher education experiences for all students**, informed by a sharper understanding of students' priorities and concerns. We will help drive improvement across the sector, recognising that while much provision is already excellent, there is room to improve further. And we will hold institutions to account when they fall short.





Collaborative in pursuit of our priorities and in our stewardship of the sector.

We will deliver our work in collaboration with students and the institutions we regulate. Accepting there will be issues on which we disagree, we will cultivate relationships based on mutual respect, confidence and trust. We will work with student bodies, sector agencies and other partners that share responsibility for stewardship of this important sector to support a cohesive regulatory environment and foster a thriving ecosystem equipped to create opportunity and drive growth.



Vigilant about safeguarding public money and student fees.

We intervene where we have concerns that public money is not being used as intended, while also ensuring that in return for their investment of time, money and hard work, students benefit from high quality higher education experiences. We will strengthen our focus on governance, recognising the critical role of effective leadership in securing positive outcomes for students and taxpayers. And we will mobilise the diversity, talents and commitment of OfS staff to deliver efficient, effective and impactful regulation, ensuring value for the taxpayers and institutions that fund our work.



Vocal that higher education is a force for good, for individuals, communities and the country.

We will champion the many benefits of higher education for society, culture and the economy and regulate in a way that enables universities and colleges to drive growth, create opportunity, champion free expression and support a flourishing society. **We will identify and celebrate achievements**, helping institutions to learn from and build on the success of others, alongside highlighting concerns, empowering universities and colleges to drive positive change.

Our goals



Quality

1. Students receive a high quality education that has a significant and enduring positive impact on their lives and careers, delivered by institutions that continue to improve the quality of their courses.
2. Prospective students have a range of high quality options and are well equipped to exercise informed choice about what, where, when and how they study.

Student experience and support

3. Students receive the higher education experiences they were promised.
4. Students benefit from rich and rewarding wider environments that help them to make the most of their time in higher education.

Sector resilience

5. A financially resilient sector delivers high quality higher education and student choice in the context of constrained finances.
6. Effectively governed institutions successfully navigate an environment of increased financial and strategic risk, enabling students to reap the benefits of higher education while giving taxpayers confidence that public funding is used appropriately.

Improving equality of opportunity will be central to all our work