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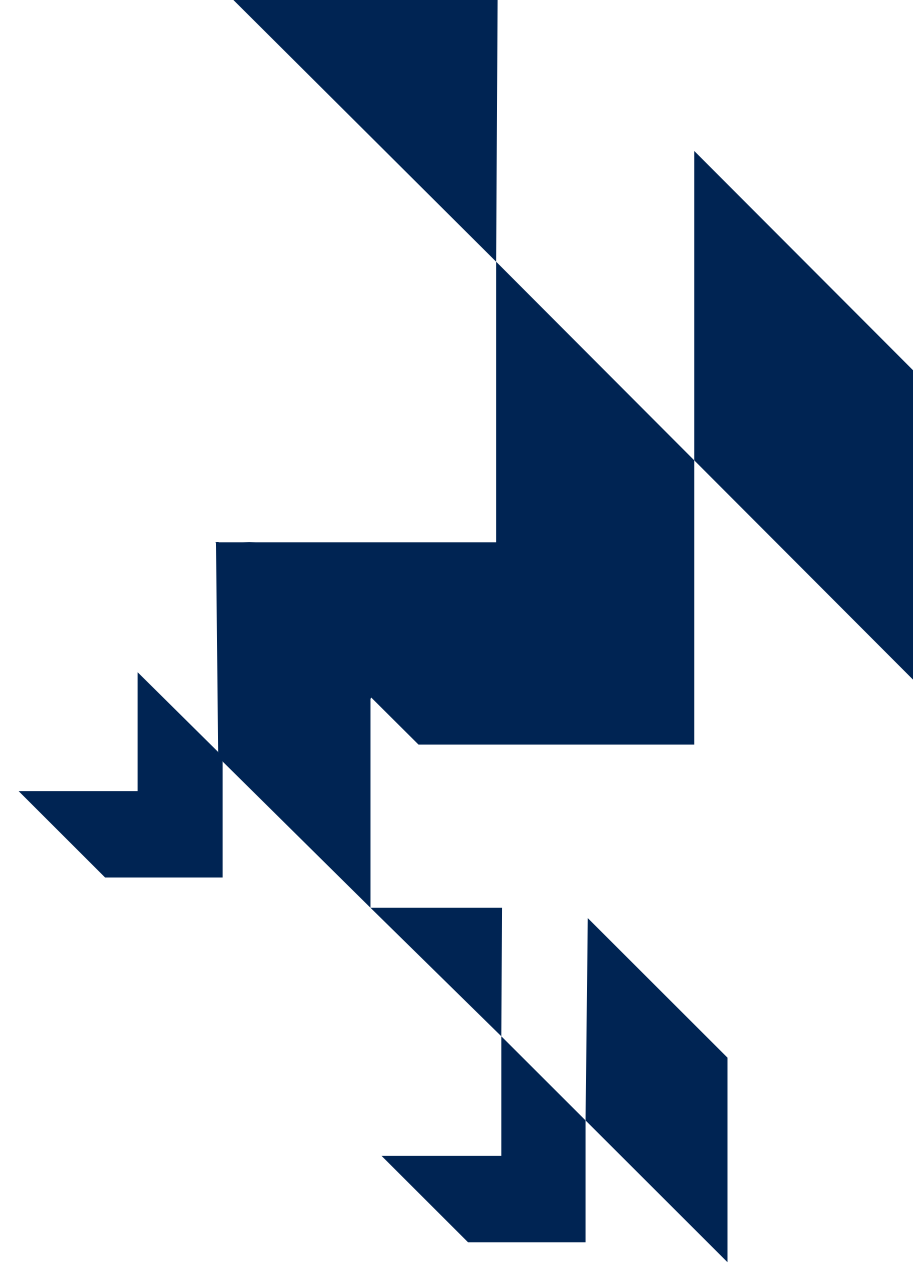
# Office for Students Registration

Office for  
Students



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# Why register?



# What benefits can a registered provider access?

All registered providers gain the following benefits of registration:

- Official recognition by the OfS as a provider of higher education in England
- Eligibility to apply for a student sponsor licence (subject to Home Office rules)
- Eligibility to apply for degree awarding powers and/or university title
- Eligibility for **student support funding** and various types of grant funding. These depend on the **category** of registration:

Benefit	Approved (fee cap)	Approved
Eligibility for OfS public grant funding	Yes	No
Eligibility for UKRI public grant funding provided by Research England	Yes	No
Eligibility for Research Council funding	Yes – automatic eligibility	Yes – via a separate UKRI eligibility process
Eligibility for student support funding and fee limits	<p>With an approved <b>access and participation plan</b>, may charge fees up to the <b>higher amount</b> for eligible undergraduate and postgraduate initial teacher training courses. Called ‘fee cap higher’</p> <p>With an <b>access and participation statement</b>, may charge fees up to the <b>basic amount</b> for eligible undergraduate courses and postgraduate initial teacher training courses. Called ‘fee cap basic’</p> <p>Eligible undergraduate students on eligible courses can access student fee loan support up to these fee levels.</p> <p>Eligible postgraduate students can access student support.</p> <p>Eligible students can access Disabled Students’ Allowance.</p>	<p>May charge uncapped fees and, for eligible undergraduate and postgraduate initial teacher training courses, eligible students can access student support up to the basic fee level (currently £6000/£6125).</p> <p>Eligible postgraduate students can access student support.</p> <p>Eligible students can access Disabled Students’ Allowance.</p>

# Why might providers not apply?

- Providers of higher education who do not need / wish to access the benefits of registration
- Providers operating under 'subcontractual' arrangements with other registered higher education providers. In these arrangements:
  - A higher education provider registered with the OfS enrolls and is responsible for students. Students can access student loans via this provider's registration
  - The registered provider may then subcontract teaching to a 'delivery partner', and pay the delivery partner for this teaching. The delivery partner does not need to be registered with the OfS
  - The OfS regulates the registered provider. It is the one held to account for the quality, standards and outcomes of its higher education provision

There are costs associated with registration in terms of:

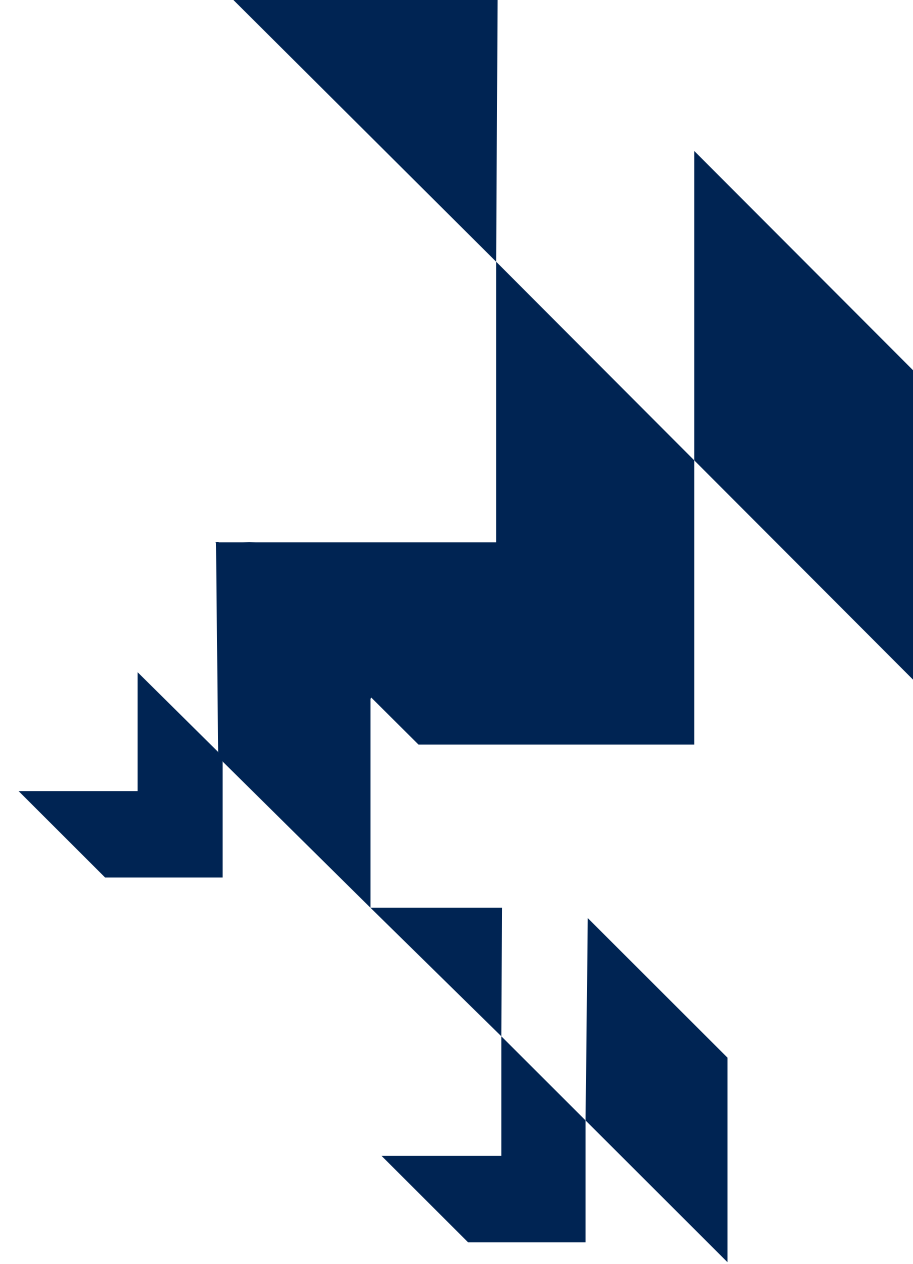
- Fees payable to the OfS and other bodies (DQB, DDB and OIAHE)
- Staff who understand and can fulfil compliance requirements

The OfS is seeking to reduce the burden associated with regulation, but it is important to have understood these costs up front

# Key considerations

- Are we able to satisfy the initial *and ongoing* conditions of registration?
- What requirements of registration will be new to us?
  - Data returns?
  - Approach to regulating student outcomes?
  - Reportable events requirements?
  - Access and participation requirements?
- Will staffing, governance or other structures need to adjust in light of these new requirements?

# Eligibility for registration

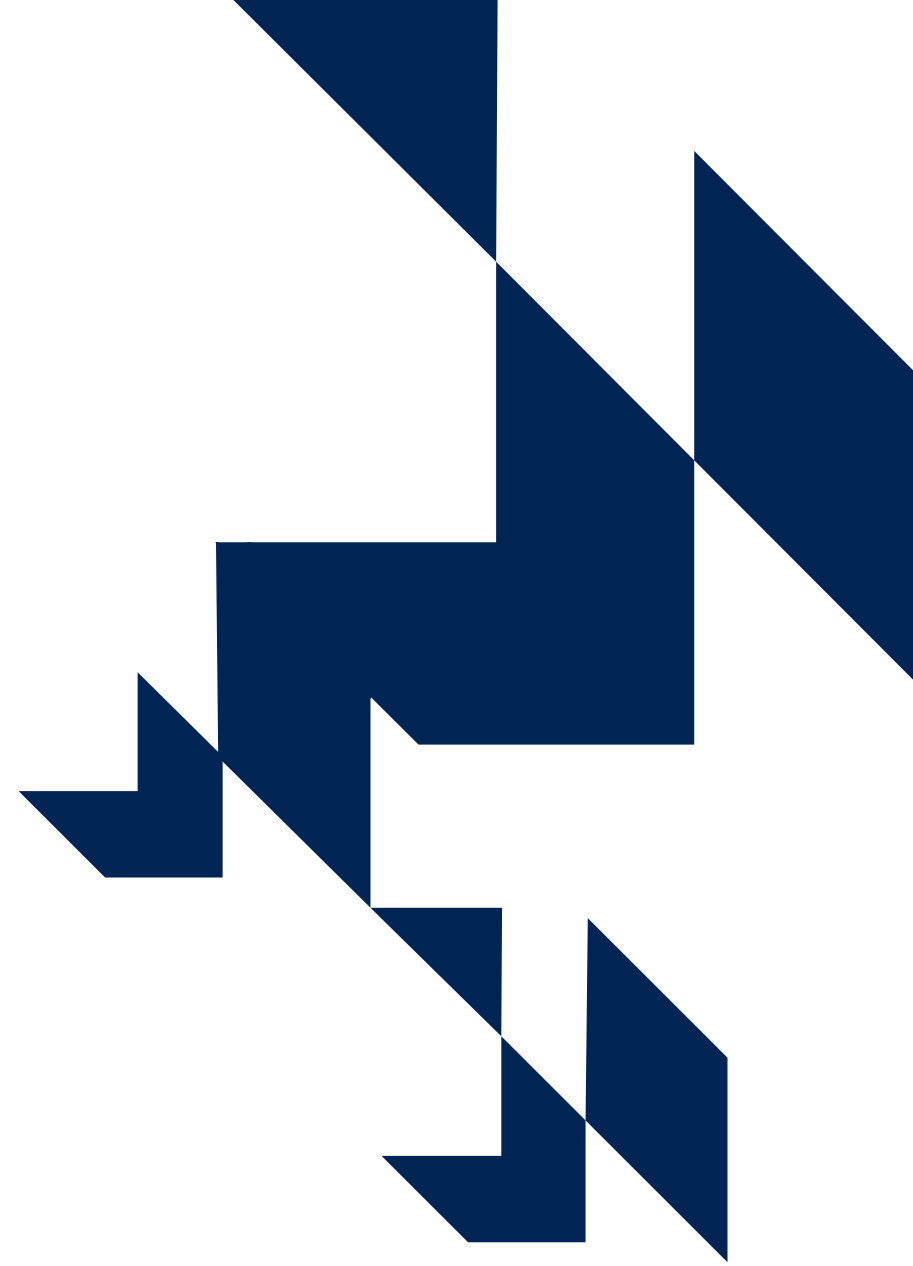


# For a provider to be eligible to register with the OfS:

- It must deliver (or intend to deliver) higher education
- It must be English – this means that more than 50 per cent of its education activities are carried on in England
- It must be an institution – it is usually a distinct legal entity and must be able to demonstrate that it can satisfy the initial and ongoing conditions of registration in its own right.
- See paragraphs 74-91 of the [Regulatory framework for higher education in England](#)

*FECs incorporated in England who deliver, or intend to deliver, higher education will normally be able to fulfil these eligibility requirements*

# Application process





# How to apply for registration

- Read the guidance available at <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/regulation/how-to-register/> (Includes contact details for queries)



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## How to register

### Sections in this guide

1. Overview

2. How to apply

3. Assessment process and timescales

4. Suspending or withdrawing an application

5. Registration decisions

6. Help and advice

### Registration guidance

Regulatory advice 3: Registration of English higher education providers with the OfS

The OfS regulatory framework

### About registration with the OfS

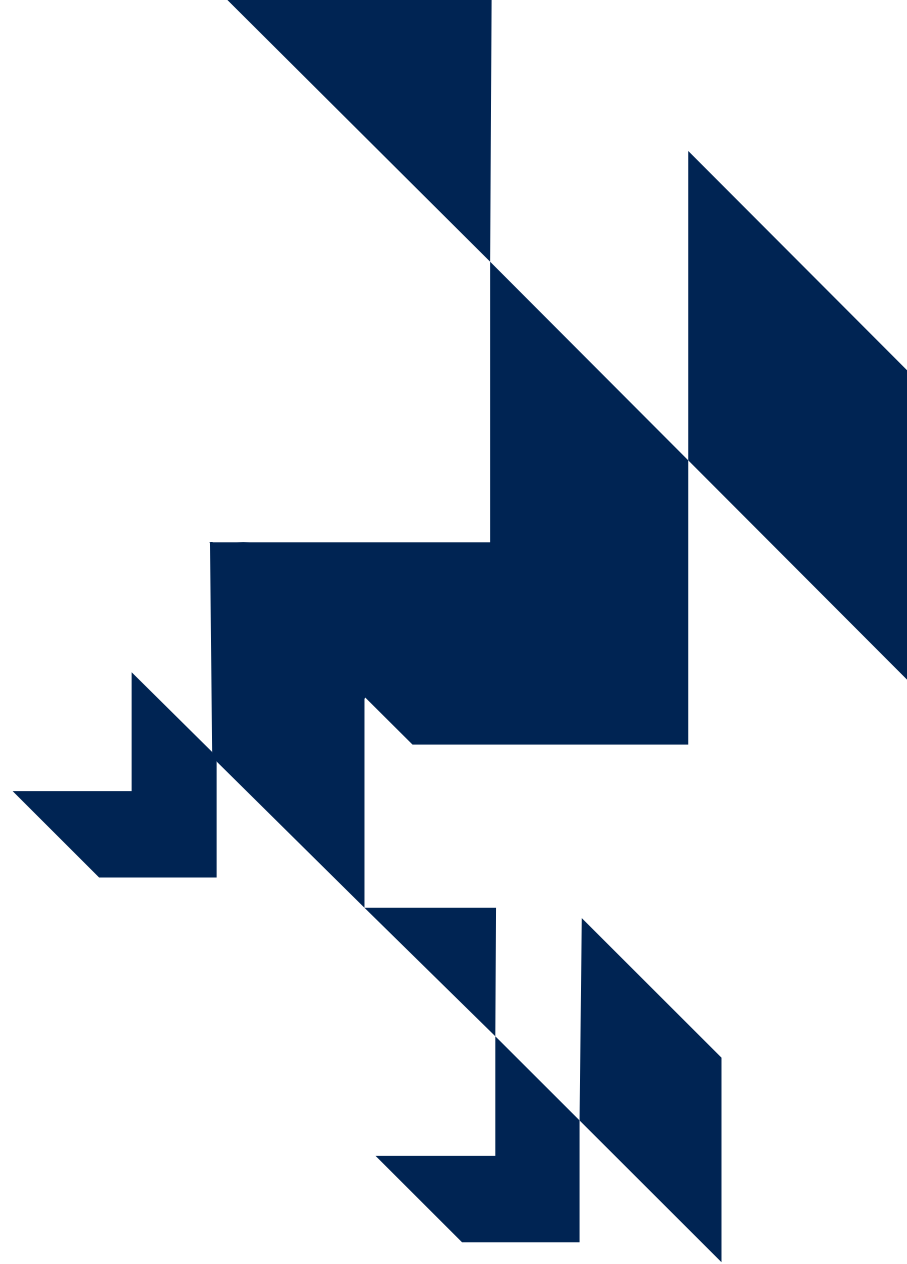
These pages provide a summary of how to register with the Office for Students (OfS).

# How to apply for registration

- Submit application form and supporting documentation. Guidance (Regulatory Advice 3 Annex C) summarises required supporting documents needed:

FECs must submit information for:	FECs do not have to submit information for:
<b>A conditions:</b> Access and participation plan or statement	<b>Condition B3:</b> Data dashboard generated by OfS
<b>B conditions:</b> Quality plan and supporting information about quality and standards for assessment of conditions B7 and B8* <i>*B8 submission requirements to be published in coming months</i>	<b>Condition D:</b> We seek financial information from the ESFA.
<b>C conditions:</b> Self assessment (template provided) and supporting information for C conditions (student protection plan, information about student terms and conditions)	
<b>E conditions:</b> Self assessment for E conditions (template provided) and supporting information	

# Assessment process and timescales



# Indicative timescales for the registration process:

Step of registration process	Indicative timeframe
<b>OfS checks whether application is complete and confirms this with provider</b>	4 weeks - Additional time may be needed for a provider to resubmit information if the application is incomplete
<b>OfS assesses eligibility, and undertakes preliminary assessment of initial conditions</b>	8-12 weeks from the date the OfS confirms that it has sufficient information to begin its assessment
<b>OfS conducts B7 visit (if needed)</b>	12-16 weeks from the completion of the preliminary assessment of initial conditions
<b>OfS conducts standards assessment (no longer DQB from 1 April 2023)</b>	8 weeks from the date the standards assessment is commissioned by the OfS
<b>OfS makes registration decision</b>	4 weeks from the completion of the standards assessment or the B7 visit (whichever is the later)

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# Thank you for listening

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