



Registration with the Office for Students (OfS)

<p>Outcome requested:</p>	<p>Council is asked:</p> <p>[a] to note the process for registration with the OfS;</p> <p>[b] to agree that QMUL should apply for registration in the Approved (Fee Cap) category.</p>
<p>Executive Summary:</p>	<p>[a] All universities that were previously registered with HEFCE are required to apply for registration with the OfS. Once registered, universities will be required to comply with ongoing conditions of registration similar to those of HEFCE. Council will receive information about these ongoing responsibilities at its meeting in July 2018. The present paper addresses only the process and conditions for initial registration with the OfS.</p> <p>[b] ‘Approved (Fee Cap)’ is the highest category of registration with the OfS. We must apply in this category in order to retain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eligibility to charge regulated fees at the higher amount, subject to a satisfactory TEF award; • eligibility for public grant funding for teaching and research; • access to the student support system; • eligibility to admit international students; • eligibility to exercise Degree Awarding Powers and apply for University Title. <p>[c] There are six conditions of registration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access and participation; • quality and standards; • consumer protection law; • student protection plan; • financial viability and sustainability; • management and governance. <p>[d] For the conditions on quality and standards, and financial viability and sustainability, the OfS will take assurance from the annual accountability return submitted to HEFCE in December 2017. In order to satisfy the condition on access and participation, we must submit a new Access and Participation Statement and Plan, which is equivalent in form and scope to the existing OFFA Agreement.</p> <p>[e] For the condition on consumer protection law, we must submit a self-assessment covering our overall approach to ensuring compliance with a particular focus on</p>

	<p>arrangements for providing reliable information to applicants and students, contract terms and conditions, and complaint handling processes and practices. Our submission will build on material from the annual report on legal compliance that was considered by the Audit and Risk Committee in October 2017. The Student Protection Plan is a new document setting out how we will assist and/or compensate students under consumer protection law in the event that we are unable to continue delivering a programme of study.</p> <p>[f] For the condition on management and governance, we must complete a proforma describing how our arrangements follow the Higher Education Code of Governance and the public interest principles within it.</p> <p>[g] The OfS has not asked Council to approve the content of QMUL's application for registration, but Council is asked to agree that the application can go ahead. Subject to Council's agreement on this point, the final application will be approved by QMSE. The finalised Student Protection Plan will be circulated to Council for information as an illustration of the significant difference in approach between HEFCE and the OfS.</p>
QMUL Strategy:	Registration with the OfS is an enabling factor for all aspects of the QMUL Strategy.
Internal/External reference points:	Regulatory Framework for Higher Education in England (OfS) Higher Education Code of Governance (CUC)
Strategic Risks:	Registration in the Approved (Fee Cap) category mitigates risks in the following areas of the QMUL Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • student recruitment; • research income generation; • sustainable growth.
Equality Impact Assessment:	Not required. The Access and Participation Plan is subject to an individual Equality Impact Assessment.
Subject to prior and onward consideration by:	For consideration by Council only. The final application for registration with the OfS will be approved by QMSE.
Timing:	In order to receive a decision from the OfS by mid-July 2018, before the beginning of the UCAS applications cycle, QMUL must submit its application by 30 April 2018.
Author:	Jonathan Morgan, Academic Registrar and Council Secretary
Confidential paper:	No.
Date:	4 April 2018
Senior Management Sponsor:	Laura Gibbs, Chief Operating Officer