Higher Education and Research Act 2017

CHAPTER 29

HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ACT 2017

PART 1

THE OFFICE FOR STUDENTS

Establishment of the Office for Students

1 The Office for Students
2 General duties

The register of English higher education providers

3 The register
4 Registration procedure

Registration conditions

5 The initial and general ongoing registration conditions
6 The specific ongoing registration conditions
7 Proportionate conditions

Mandatory registration conditions

8 Mandatory ongoing registration conditions for all providers
9 Mandatory transparency condition for certain providers
10 Mandatory fee limit condition for certain providers
11 Duty to publish a list regarding the fee limit condition
12 Mandatory access and participation plan condition for certain institutions
Other registration conditions

13 Other initial and ongoing registration conditions
14 Public interest governance condition

Enforcement of ongoing registration conditions

15 Power to impose monetary penalties
16 Suspension of registration
17 Suspension: procedure
18 De-registration by the OfS
19 De-registration by the OfS: procedure
20 De-registration: appeals
21 Refusal to renew an access and participation plan

Voluntary de-registration

22 Voluntary de-registration

Quality and standards

23 Assessing the quality of, and the standards applied to, higher education
24 Quality Assessment Committee
25 Rating the quality of, and the standards applied to, higher education
26 Report on operation of section 25 schemes
27 Performance of assessment functions by a designated body
28 Power of designated body to charge fees

Access and participation

29 Power to approve an access and participation plan
30 Duration of a plan
31 Content of a plan: fees
32 Content of a plan: equality of opportunity
33 Variation of a plan
34 Review of decisions on approval or variation
35 Advice on good practice
36 Duty to protect academic freedom
37 Power of Secretary of State to require a report

Student transfers

38 Duty to monitor etc the provision of arrangements for student transfers

Powers to give financial support

39 Financial support for registered higher education providers
40 Financial support for certain institutions
41 Financial support: terms and conditions

Powers to grant degrees etc

42 Authorisation to grant degrees etc
43 Supplementary powers with authorisation
44 Variation or revocation of section 42 authorisation
45 Variation or revocation of other authorisations to grant degrees etc
46 Grant, variation or revocation of authorisation: advice on quality etc
47 Grant of authorisation: notification of new providers
48 Variation or revocation of authorisation: procedure
49 Appeals against variation or revocation of authorisation
50 Validation by authorised providers
51 Validation by the OfS
52 Sections 42 to 49: consequential amendments
53 Unrecognised degrees
54 Unrecognised degrees: supplementary
55 Saving for right to grant degrees under the Ecclesiastical Licences Act 1533

Powers in relation to “university” title

56 Use of “university” in title of institution
57 Unauthorised use of “university” in title of institution etc
58 Revocation of authorisation to use “university” title
59 Revocation of authorisation: procedure
60 Appeals against revocation of authorisation

Powers of entry and search

61 Entering and searching premises with a warrant

Information powers

62 Power to require information from unregistered providers
63 Cooperation and information sharing by the OfS

Information duties

64 Duty to compile and make available higher education information
65 Duty to publish higher education information
66 Designated body
67 Power of designated body to charge fees

Financial sustainability

68 Duty to monitor and report on financial sustainability

Efficiency studies etc

69 Studies for improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

Funding of the OfS

70 Registration fees
71 Other fees
72 Retention of fee related income
73 Costs recovery
74 Grants from the Secretary of State

Regulatory framework

75 Regulatory framework
Supplementary functions
76 Secretary of State's power to confer supplementary functions

Directions
77 Secretary of State's power to give directions

Powers of Secretary of State to obtain information and advice
78 Power to require information and advice from the OfS
79 Power to require application-to-acceptance information
80 Use of application-to-acceptance information for research purposes

HEFCE and the DFA
81 Higher Education Funding Council for England
82 The Director of Fair Access to Higher Education

Interpretation
83 Meaning of “English higher education provider” etc
84 Designation of other providers of higher education
85 Other definitions

PART 2
OTHER EDUCATION MEASURES

Financial support for students
86 Power to make alternative payments
87 Section 86: consequential amendments
88 Other amendments relating to financial support

Student complaints scheme
89 Qualifying institutions for purposes of student complaints scheme

Deregulation of higher education corporations
90 Higher education corporations in England

PART 3
RESEARCH

Establishment of United Kingdom Research and Innovation
91 United Kingdom Research and Innovation
92 The Councils of UKRI

Research and innovation functions and role of the Councils
93 UK research and innovation functions
94 Financial support: supplementary provision
95 Exercise of functions by science and humanities Councils
96 Exercise of functions by Innovate UK
97 Exercise of functions by Research England
98 Exercise of functions by the Councils: supplementary
Strategies and strategic delivery plans

99 UKRI’s research and innovation strategy
100 Councils’ strategic delivery plans

Funding and directions

101 Grants to UKRI from the Secretary of State
102 Secretary of State’s power to give directions to UKRI
103 Haldane principle, balanced funding and advice from UKRI

General functions

104 General duties
105 Power to require information and advice from UKRI
106 Studies for improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness
107 Provision of research services
108 Representing the United Kingdom

Supplementary

109 Predecessor bodies and preservation of symbolic property
110 Amendments to powers to support research

Interpretation

111 Definitions

PART 4

GENERAL

112 Cooperation and information sharing between the OfS and UKRI
113 Joint working
114 Advice to Northern Ireland departments
115 Transfer schemes
116 Power to make consequential provision etc
117 Transitional, transitory or saving provision
118 Pre-commencement consultation
119 Regulations
120 Directions
121 General interpretation
122 Minor and consequential amendments
123 Extent
124 Commencement
125 Short title

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — The Office for Students

Status

1 (1) The OfS is not to be regarded—
Membership

2. (1) The OfS is to consist of the following members...

The Director for Fair Access and Participation

3. (1) The Director for Fair Access and Participation (“the Director”)... 

Terms of appointment and tenure of members

4. (1) A person holds and vacates office as a member...
5. (1) A person may resign from office as a member...

Remuneration etc of members

6. (1) The OfS must pay to members of the OfS...

Staffing of the OfS

7. (1) The OfS may— (a) appoint employees, and

Committees

8. (1) The OfS may establish committees, and any committee so...

Procedure

9. (1) The OfS may determine— (a) its own procedure, and...
10. The validity of any proceedings of the OfS, or of...

Delegation of functions

11. (1) The OfS may delegate any of its functions to—...

Accounts and audit

12. (1) The OfS must— (a) keep proper accounts and proper...

Annual report

13. (1) The OfS must prepare a report on the performance...

Seal and evidence

14. (1) The application of the OfS's seal must be authenticated...

Supplementary powers

15. (1) The OfS may do anything (except borrow money) which...

Public records

16. In Part 2 of the Table in paragraph 3 of...

Investigation by the Parliamentary Commissioner

17. In Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967 (departments...
House of Commons disqualification

18 In Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the House of...

Northern Ireland Assembly disqualification

19 In Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland...

Freedom of information

20 In Part 6 of Schedule 1 to the Freedom of...

Public sector equality duty

21 In Part 1 of Schedule 19 to the Equality Act...

SCHEDULE 2 — The fee limit

Introduction

1 (1) This Schedule is about determining the amount of “the...

The fee limit where the provider has an access and participation plan

2 (1) This paragraph applies if an access and participation plan...

The fee limit where the provider has no access and participation plan

3 (1) This paragraph applies if an access and participation plan...

Accelerated courses

4 (1) The power for regulations to prescribe different amounts for...

Procedure

5 (1) The Secretary of State must— (a) notify the OfS...

SCHEDULE 3 — Monetary penalties: procedure, appeals and recovery etc

Introduction

1 This Schedule applies in relation to the imposition by the...

Procedure

2 (1) Before imposing a monetary penalty on the provider under...

Appeals

3 (1) The governing body of a provider may appeal to...

Interest and recovery

4 (1) This paragraph applies if all or part of a...

Retention of sums received

5 The OfS must pay the sums received by it by...
SCHEDULE 4 — Assessing higher education: designated body
   Part 1 — DESIGNATION

   Consultation prior to recommendation
   1 (1) The OfS may consult in accordance with sub-paragraph (3)...

   Recommendation
   2 (1) This paragraph applies where the OfS has consulted in...

   Designation
   3 (1) This paragraph applies where, in accordance with paragraph 2,....

   Bodies suitable to perform assessment functions
   4 (1) A body is suitable to perform the assessment functions...

   Removal of designation
   5 (1) The Secretary of State may by notice remove a...

   Part 2 — OVERSIGHT BY THE OfS

   Application
   6 This Part applies if there is a body designated under...

   Oversight arrangements
   7 The OfS must make arrangements for holding the designated body...

   Annual report by the designated body
   8 (1) As soon as possible after the end of each...

   Triennial report by the OfS
   9 (1) As soon as possible after the end of each...

   Power of the OfS to give directions
   10 (1) The OfS may give the designated body general directions...

   Duty of the OfS to inform the Secretary of State about significant concerns
   11 The OfS must inform the Secretary of State if it...

   Part 3 — INTERPRETATION
   12 (1) In this Schedule— “the assessment functions” has the meaning...

SCHEDULE 5 — Powers of entry and search etc

   Power to issue search warrant
   1 (1) A justice of the peace who is satisfied that...

   Application for search warrant by an authorised person
   2 (1) A search warrant may be issued only on the...
Search warrant
3 (1) A search warrant must— (a) specify the name of...

Powers conferred by search warrant
4 (1) A search warrant authorises an authorised person—

Entering and searching premises
5 (1) Where the occupier of the premises to be entered...

Inspecting, copying, seizing and retaining items
6 (1) The powers conferred by a search warrant to inspect,...

Offence
7 (1) A person commits an offence if, without reasonable excuse,...

Self-incrimination
8 (1) An explanation or information provided by a person in...

Interpretation
9 (1) In this Schedule— “authorised person” has the meaning given...

SCHEDULE 6 — English higher education information: designated body
Part 1 — DESIGNATION

Consultation prior to recommendation
1 (1) The OfS may consult in accordance with sub-paragraph (3)... 

Recommendation
2 (1) This paragraph applies where the OfS has consulted in...

Designation
3 (1) This paragraph applies where, in accordance with paragraph 2...

Bodies suitable to be designated under this Schedule
4 (1) A body is suitable to be designated under this...

Removal of designation
5 (1) The Secretary of State may by notice remove a...
   Part 2 — OVERSIGHT BY THE OFS

Application
6 This Part applies if there is a body designated under...

Oversight arrangements
7 The OfS must make arrangements for holding the designated body...
Annual report by the designated body

8 (1) As soon as possible after the end of each...

Triennial report by the OfS

9 (1) As soon as possible after the end of each...

Duty of the OfS to inform the Secretary of State about significant concerns

10 The OfS must inform the Secretary of State if it...

Part 3 — INTERPRETATION

11 (1) In this Schedule— “designated body” means a body for...

SCHEDULE 7 — Costs recovery: procedure, appeals and recovery etc

Introduction

1 This Schedule applies in relation to the imposition by the...

Procedure

2 (1) The notice which the OfS gives the governing body...

Appeals

3 (1) The governing body of a provider may appeal to...

Interest and recovery

4 (1) This paragraph applies if all or part of an...

Retention of sums received

5 (1) The OfS must pay the sums received by it...

SCHEDULE 8 — Higher education corporations in England

Education Reform Act 1988

1 The Education Reform Act 1988 is amended as follows.
2 In section 122 (orders incorporating higher education institutions maintained by...}
3 Before section 122A insert— Orders for further education corporations in...
4 In section 122A (orders transferring further education corporations to higher...
5 In section 123 (provisions supplementary to sections 121 and 122)—...
6 Before section 124 insert— Principal powers of a higher education...
7 In section 124 (powers of a higher education corporation)—
8 Before section 124A insert— Instrument of government of higher education...
9 In section 124A (constitution and conduct of higher education corporations)—...
10 In section 124B(2)(b) (accounts), at the beginning insert “ in...
11 In section 124C (initial and transitional arrangements)—
12 Before section 125 insert— Articles of government: higher education corporations...
13 In section 125 (articles of government)— (a) in the heading,...
14 In section 125A (charitable status of a higher education corporation) —...
15 In section 127(1) (transfer of staff to higher education corporations),...
16 Before section 128 insert— Dissolution of higher education corporations in...
17 In section 128 (dissolution of higher education corporations)—
18 In section 129(5)(e) (designation of institutions), before “128” insert “...
19 In section 157(2)(a) (variation of trust deeds etc: institutions conducted...
20 In section 161(1) (interpretation of Part 2)—
21 In Schedule 7 (the higher education corporations)—
22 In Schedule 7A (instruments of government made by Privy Council),...

Further and Higher Education Act 1992
23 The Further and Higher Education Act 1992 is amended as...
24 (1) Section 78 (financial years of higher education corporations) is...
25 In section 90(1) (interpretation of Act), in the definition of...
26 In section 91 (interpretation of Education Acts), in subsection (6)(b),...

SCHEDULE 9 — United Kingdom Research and Innovation

Status
1 (1) UKRI is not to be regarded—

Membership of UKRI
2 (1) UKRI is to consist of the following members appointed...

Membership of the Councils
3 (1) Each Council is to consist of—

Terms of appointment and tenure
4 A person holds and vacates office as a member of...
5 (1) This paragraph applies to a person (a “Ministerial appointee”)...
6 (1) This paragraph applies to a person (an “UKRI appointee”)...

Remuneration etc
7 (1) UKRI must pay to members of UKRI and Council...

Staffing of UKRI
8 (1) UKRI may— (a) appoint employees, and

Executive Committee
9 (1) UKRI must establish a committee called “the Executive Committee”...
Other committees and sub-committees

10 (1) UKRI may establish committees (in addition to the Councils... 

Procedure

11 (1) UKRI, a Council and the Executive Committee may each...
12 The validity of any proceedings of UKRI, or of any...

Delegation of functions by UKRI

13 (1) UKRI may delegate any of its functions to—

Accounts and audit

14 (1) UKRI must— (a) keep proper accounts and proper records...

Annual report

15 (1) UKRI must prepare a report on the exercise of...

Seal and evidence

16 (1) The application of UKRI's seal must be authenticated by...

Supplementary powers

17 (1) UKRI may do anything which appears to it to...

Public records

18 In Part 2 of the Table in paragraph 3 of...

Investigation by the Parliamentary Commissioner

19 In Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967 (departments...

House of Commons disqualification

20 In Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the House of...

Northern Ireland Assembly disqualification

21 In Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland...

Freedom of information

22 In Part 6 of Schedule 1 to the Freedom of...

Public sector equality duty

23 In Part 1 of Schedule 19 to the Equality Act...

SCHEDULE 10 — Transfer schemes

Transfer schemes

1 (1) The Secretary of State may make one or more...
Supplementary

2 (1) The things that may be transferred under a property...

Interpretation

3 (1) For the purposes of this Schedule—

SCHEDULE 11 — Minor and consequential amendments relating to Part 1

Public Records Act 1958

1 In Part 2 of the Table in paragraph 3 of...

Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967

2 In Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967 (departments...

Superannuation Act 1972

3 In Schedule 1 to the Superannuation Act 1972 (kinds of...

House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975

4 In Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the House of...

Education (No. 2) Act 1986

5 (1) Section 43 of the Education (No. 2) Act 1986...

Education Reform Act 1988

6 The Education Reform Act 1988 is amended as follows.
7 In section 124B(2)(b) (accounts), for “the higher education funding council”...
8 (1) Section 128 (dissolution of higher education corporations) is amended...
9 In section 129(1) (designation of institutions), for “a higher education...
10 (1) Section 133 (payments in respect of persons employed in...
11 In Schedule 7 (higher education corporations), in paragraph 18(2)(b), for...

Further and Higher Education Act 1992

12 The Further and Higher Education Act 1992 is amended as...
13 In section 61 (interpretation of Part 1), omit subsection (3)(b)....
14 (1) Section 62 (establishment of the Higher Education Funding Councils)...
15 (1) Section 65 (administration of funds by councils) is amended...
16 (1) Section 66 (administration of funds: supplementary) is amended as...
17 (1) Section 68 (grants to councils) is amended as follows....
18 (1) Section 69 (supplementary functions) is amended as follows.
19 Omit section 70 (England: assessment of quality of education provided...
20 (1) Section 79 (duty to give information to funding councils)...

22 (1) Section 81 (directions) is amended as follows.

23 (1) Section 82 (joint exercise of functions) is amended as...

24 In section 83 (efficiency studies), in subsection (1B), for “A...

25 In section 91(4) (interpretation of Education Acts), for the words...

26 (1) Section 92 (index) is amended as follows.

**Education Act 1994**

27 (1) Section 18 of the Education Act 1994 (power to...

**Education Act 1996**

28 In section 13 of the Education Act 1996 (local authorities'...

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

29 (1) Schedule 1 to the Freedom of Information Act 2000...

**Higher Education Act 2004**

30 (1) The Higher Education Act 2004 is amended as follows....

**Education Act 2005**

31 (1) The Education Act 2005 is amended as follows.

**Equality Act 2010**

32 In Part 1 of Schedule 19 to the Equality Act...

**Education Act 2011**

33 In the Education Act 2011, omit the following (which amend...

**Charities Act 2011**

34 In Part 2 of Schedule 7 to the Charities Act...

**Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**

35 In section 32(5)(b) of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015...

**SCHEDULE 12 — Minor and consequential amendments relating to Part 3**

**Geological Survey Act 1845**

1 In section 1 of the Geological Survey Act 1845 (power...

**Mining Industry Act 1926**

2 In section 23 of the Mining Industry Act 1926 (facilities...

**Public Records Act 1958**

3 In Part 2 of the Table in paragraph 3 of...
Science and Technology Act 1965

4 (1) The Science and Technology Act 1965 is amended as...

Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967

5 In Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967 (departments...

Agriculture Act 1967

6 In section 50(3) of the Agriculture Act 1967 (provisions on...

Conservation of Seals Act 1970

7 (1) The Conservation of Seals Act 1970 is amended as...

Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970

8 In section 24 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons...

Mineral Exploration and Investment Grants Act 1972

9 In section 1(3) of the Mineral Exploration and Investment Grants...

Supply Powers Act 1975

10 In section 7 of the Supply Powers Act 1975 (interpretation)...]

House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975

11 In Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the House of...

Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975

12 In Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland...

Patents Act 1977

13 In section 41(3) of the Patents Act 1977 (assignment of...

Further Education Act 1985

14 In section 2(4)(a) of the Further Education Act 1985 (cases...

Water Resources Act 1991

15 (1) The Water Resources Act 1991 is amended as follows....

Scotland Act 1998

16 (1) In Part 2 of Schedule 5 to the Scotland...

Northern Ireland Act 1998

17 In Schedule 3 to the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (reserved...

Freedom of Information Act 2000

18 In Part 6 of Schedule 1 to the Freedom of...
Higher Education Act 2004
Omit sections 1 to 9 of the Higher Education Act...

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
In paragraph 9(a) of Part 2 of Schedule 5 to...

Government of Wales Act 2006
(1) Schedule 3A (functions exercisable concurrently or jointly with
the...
In paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 7 (Acts...
(1) In Part 2 of Schedule 7A (specific reservations) (which...

Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 5)
In sections 116(1), 117, 118(2), 120(1), 121(1), 125 and 129(2)(b)...

Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 (nawm 1)
(1) The table in Schedule 6 to the Welsh Language...

Antarctic Act 2013
(1) In section 10(4) of the Antarctic Act 2013 (the...

Public Service Pensions Act 2013
(1) Schedule 10 to the Public Service Pensions Act 2013...

Psychoactive Substances Act 2016
In paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 to the Psychoactive Substances...
Changes to legislation:
There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Higher Education and Research Act 2017.