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8 October 2021

Dear Mr Farquharson

Access and Participation Plan Monitoring

Thank you for submitting your provider's 2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring return.

2019-20 APP monitoring outcome

The OfS has completed its review of your monitoring return and there is no further action for you to take in respect of this return. However, we have noted the explanation given in respect of your financial support underspend where you considered that the application process for a bursary may have acted as a barrier to students accessing this funding. The OfS's expectation is that all eligible students identified will receive support in future years following the changes you have made.

We will write to you during the autumn with the guidance for the 2020-21 monitoring exercise and this is likely to follow a very similar format to this year's return. A sector level 2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring outcomes report will be published later this year.

If in your monitoring return you stated that you wish to request a variation to your approved 2020-21 onwards access and participation plan, or information you provided in the return indicated you may wish to consider a variation, colleagues from our Access Inclusion and Skills team will get in touch with you to confirm the process for this.

Enhanced monitoring requirements for ongoing condition A1

We contacted you on 25 March 2020 to inform you of our decision to suspend your enhanced monitoring requirements relating to condition A1.

We wrote to you again on 26 November 2020 to inform you that if you were required to submit information in January 2021, you should instead include this information in Section 5.2 of the 2019-20 APP monitoring return entitled "Progress against key commitments in the 2020-21 onwards plan".

We have reviewed the information you shared in Section 5.2 of the monitoring return and have now decided that this enhanced monitoring will be removed. You are no longer required to:

- submit any information in relation to the enhanced monitoring requirements set out in the Notice under condition F3 of registration of 25 October 2019.
- meet any deadlines relating to the enhanced monitoring as set out in that notice.

It is important to note that condition A1 is an ongoing condition of registration and that the OfS expects all providers to meet its requirements. These include taking all reasonable steps to comply with the provisions of an approved access and participation plan. Therefore, although the reporting requirement is removed, you are still expected to deliver the commitments highlighted in the Notice under condition F3 of registration of 25 October 2019 where these have not already been delivered:

i) "By December 2019, it is envisaged that key data gaps will be identified and processes for building capacity will be put in place" (page 12).

ii) "The College will closely monitor [POLAR Q4 and IMD student attainment] and emerging data over the life of this Plan. Should further datasets indicate a material gap, the College will consider setting targets in future years and seek to agree this with the OfS" (page 4).

iii) "The College will explore and develop capacity in [BAME progression] in 2019-20. Should gaps appear as the emerging data is analysed, the College will seek to agree appropriate targets" (page 5).

iv) "Should further datasets indicate a material gap [in mature student continuation] the College will consider setting a target in future years and seek to agree this with the OfS" (page 6).

v) "The College will explore and develop capacity in [disabled student progression] in 2019- 20. Should gaps appear as emerging data is analysed, the College will seek to agree appropriate targets" (page 7).

vi) “The College will continue to develop its capacity and build a data picture [for care leavers] across the life of this Plan... as further data emerges (and potentially targets are set), the College will ensure appropriate support is provided across the lifecycle” (page 8). 10 vii) “Evaluation of the success and progression areas will be monitored in 2019-20, and initiatives will be implemented accordingly over the life of this Plan” (page 12).

viii) “The College, in partnership with Northeastern, has an ambitious plan for growth over the next decade including expansion of the curriculum. New provision and increased capacity will specifically seek to attract a more diverse market... with significant opportunities to integrate, and set a trajectory of continuous improvement in, access and participation outcomes” (page 10).

Furthermore, we also expect you to deliver the actions (that is, all of the actions highlighted in Requirement A, Annex C of our letter of 25 October 2019), where these have not already been delivered:

- a. “Developing Institutional Capability” (page 29).
- b. “Development of Networks with others in the sector (including higher education providers and third sector organisations) to inform and enhance collaborative practice” (page 31).
- c. “Effective activities with target groups” (page 33).
- d. “Reducing barriers to Admission” (page 36).

The decision to remove the enhanced monitoring for Condition A1 should not be relied on in connection with your future compliance with this condition. The OfS reserves the right to reintroduce enhanced monitoring of Condition A1 or apply an alternative intervention if it finds or reasonably suspects that NCH at Northeastern Limited is not meeting the requirements of this condition in the future. In addition, as part of our ongoing monitoring of providers, we may contact you to discuss this matter further in the future.

Provider impact report

Please find attached along with this letter your provider's impact report, which we have generated from your provider monitoring return. We expect you will publish the information contained in your impact report and our intention has been to reduce the burden by providing a standard report. However, you may choose to present the information in a different format if you wish. You are required to either email the URL of the location where your impact report is published to regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk, or notify us in writing at the same address if you have not published this information, within 15 working days of the date of this email. If provided, this link will be published on the OfS website.

If you have any queries, please contact regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Pinder', written in a cursive style.

Catherine Pinder

Compliance and Student Protection Manager

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