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18 September 2018

Dear Mr Bateman

### **Application to register with the Office for Students**

In accordance with section 4(5) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA), I am pleased to confirm that the Office for Students (OfS) has decided to register the University of Worcester in the register of English higher education providers (the Register).

On the basis of its assessment, the OfS has decided that your application complies with the requirements put in place pursuant to section 3(5) of HERA and that the initial conditions of registration are satisfied. The OfS has therefore registered the University of Worcester in the Register in accordance with its duty under section 3(3) of HERA.

The following annexes to this letter contain important information about the registration process and set out the requirements in place for registered providers:

- Annex A: Information about this registration decision
- Annex B: Your entry in the Register
- Annex C: Approval of information and documents submitted as part of the registration process
- Annex D: Notice specifying the date of entry in the Register and the ongoing conditions of registration
- Annex E: Notice specifying a requirement to report to the OfS reportable events
- Annex F: Notice setting out issues that the OfS wishes to draw to your attention

It is the responsibility of a provider's governing body to ensure that the provider continues to satisfy all of its ongoing conditions of registration and I would therefore be grateful if you

would ensure that your governing body receives and is able to discuss this letter and its annexes.

If you have any questions about this letter please contact a member of the Registration team at [registration@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:registration@officeforstudents.org.uk) or 0117 931 7488.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicola Dandridge". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Nicola Dandridge  
Chief Executive

## **Annex A**

### **Information about this registration decision**

#### The status of the registration decision

1. The decisions that the OfS has reached during the initial registration and assessment process, and its assessment that the initial conditions of registration are satisfied, are not intended to have any enduring status and should not be relied on in connection with your future compliance with the ongoing conditions of registration. This is because the decisions reached were based on the judgment made at a particular point in time and in the context of the limited factual and contextual information available at that point in time (the original judgment). You should therefore note that the OfS reserves the right to reach a different view on matters relating to compliance with the ongoing conditions of registration at any future point of time (for forward looking purposes). For example, a different view may be reached on the basis of new information, any changes in relevant circumstances (including market conditions), or more in-depth analysis of information which existed at the time of the original judgment.

#### Communication of this registration decision

2. You may refer to your registered status on your website or in other promotional material. You may remove any caveats you have previously included in advertising material about access to the student support system for students beginning courses in 2019-20. However, registration with the OfS is not an award and you should not use your registration status for competitive advantage, for example, while the initial registration process is ongoing by claiming that it is a mark of excellence that other providers do not yet hold. Making misleading or unauthorised claims about the status and effect of being registered could breach the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

#### Maintaining your registration

3. The OfS's regulatory framework will be fully in force from 1 August 2019. Further information about ongoing monitoring arrangements will be published during 2018-19.
4. In the meantime, the requirements previously set out for the transition period will apply. For the University of Worcester these are set out in Regulatory Notice 2: Regulation up to 31 July 2019 of providers that were previously funded by HEFCE<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/regulatory-notice-2-regulation-up-to-31-july-2019-of-providers-that-were-previously-funded-by-hefce/>

## Annex B

### Your entry in the Register

1. In accordance sections 3(6) and 3(9) of HERA<sup>2</sup>, the OfS is required to include specified information in a provider's entry in the Register and make this publicly available. The information the OfS plans to include in your entry is set out in the table below.
2. If you consider any of the information set out below to be incorrect you must notify the OfS by email at [regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk).

Provider's legal name	University of Worcester
Provider's trading name	
Provider's UKPRN	10007139
Provider's contact address	University of Worcester Henwick Grove Worcester WR2 6AJ
Provider's email address	vc@worc.ac.uk
Provider's website	www.worcester.ac.uk
Provider's telephone number	01905 855000
Is the provider an exempt or registered charity?	Exempt
Category in which the provider is registered	Approved (fee cap)
General ongoing conditions of registration that have been disapplied	Not applicable
Is an access and participation plan in place?	Yes
Period for which the access and participation plan is in place	2019-20
Link to the access and participation plan	To be completed when the provider submits the link to the OfS
Link to the access and participation statement	Not applicable
Fee limits that apply to the provider	Higher

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<sup>2</sup> See The Office for Students (Register of English Higher Education Providers) Regulations 2017 (S.I. 2017/1196) and Part III of the OfS's regulatory framework at <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/securing-student-success-regulatory-framework-for-higher-education-in-england/>

Current TEF rating	Silver
Type of degree awarding power held	Research
Date of award of degree awarding powers	2010
Does the provider deliver validated provision on behalf of another provider?	No
Does the provider deliver sub-contracted provision on behalf of another provider?	No
Does the provider have the right to use 'university' in its title?	Yes
Date that use of 'university' was granted	2005
How did the provider gain the right to use 'university' in its title?	Privy Council

3. Any specific ongoing conditions of registration that have been attached to the provider's registration are set out in Annex D of this letter and these will also be listed in the Register.
4. The OfS will publish further information about each provider in the Register in due course as set out in paragraph 72 of the regulatory framework.

## Annex C

### Approval of information and documents submitted as part of the registration process

#### Approval of your accountable officer

1. In your application you nominated a senior officer as your accountable officer. As part of the initial registration and assessment process the OfS considered the suitability of this nomination and has decided that the following individual is an acceptable accountable officer:

Name:	Professor David Green
Post:	Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive

2. This individual is required to meet the responsibilities of an accountable officer as set out in OfS 2018.29<sup>3</sup>. You must notify the OfS if there is any change in the identity of your accountable officer by email to [regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk). A likely prolonged absence from work, or a sudden departure, on the part of a current accountable officer will require the identification and notification of an interim accountable officer.

#### Approval of submitted documents

3. In reaching its registration decision, the OfS has decided to approve the documents listed below that were submitted as part of the registration process. The approval of these documents is made on the following basis:
  - a) It is without prejudice to the application of provisions of consumer protection law, including but not limited to the Consumer Rights Act 2015, and under no circumstances is the approval to be relied upon by the provider as constituting a mandatory statutory or regulatory provision for the purposes section 73 of the Consumer Rights Act 2015.
  - b) The provider acknowledges and accepts that the approval is based on the judgment of the OfS at a particular point in time and in the context of information available to the OfS, and the prevailing market conditions, at that point of time (original judgment).
  - c) The provider acknowledges and accepts that the OfS may reach a different view at any future point of time (for forward looking purposes) based on new information, more in-depth analysis of information which existed at the time of the original judgment, or other contextual factors including market conditions.
  - d) The provider does not in any way refer to the approval as:
    - i. constituting any form of positive endorsement or authorisation

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/regulatory-advice-10-accountable-officers-guidance-for-providers-on-the-responsibilities-of-accountable-officers/>

- ii. having any form of enduring status
- iii. being given for any purposes beyond the OfS's conditions of registration and applicable provisions of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017, including but not limited to laws or legislation relating to consumer protection.

#### Student protection plan

4. During the initial registration and assessment process the OfS approved your student protection plan as it considered the plan to provide adequate mitigation for the risks to continuity of study for your students.
5. You are required to publish the approved plan on your website.
6. Further guidance about the OfS's expectations for student protection plans will be published during 2018-19 to address a number of common weaknesses that were found during the registration process. For example, a significant number of plans did not:
  - focus on students as the audience for the plan, meaning that they were often not clear about the specific risks faced by a provider's students and the protection that would be offered if these risks crystallised;
  - consider and address the particular circumstances of different groups of students;
  - provide clarity about provision for refund and compensation, particularly in the event that a provider is unable to preserve continuation of study for its students.
7. **You are required to revise and resubmit your student protection plan after further guidance has been published.** The guidance will contain information about the process and deadlines for resubmission.

#### Access and participation plan

8. During the initial registration and assessment process the Director for Fair Access and Participation approved your access and participation plan. He will write separately to you about any action you are required to take as a result of this approval.
9. Attached to this letter is your approved access and participation plan. You must publish this on your website by 2 October 2018 and send the url to:  
registration@officeforstudents.org.uk.

## Annex D

### Notice specifying date of entry in the Register and ongoing conditions of registration

1. In accordance with sections 4(5) and 4(6) of HERA, the OfS notifies the University of Worcester that:
  - (a) its registration with the OfS takes effect on and from 18 September 2018 and **this is the date of entry in the Register of English higher education providers and**
  - (b) its ongoing conditions of registration are those specified in the table below.
2. It is the responsibility of a provider's governing body to ensure that the provider continues to satisfy all of its ongoing conditions of registration. Guidance for registered higher education providers on the general ongoing conditions of registration is set out in Part V of the OfS's regulatory framework.<sup>4</sup> Guidance on the general ongoing condition of registration Z1 is set out in Regulatory Notice 2: Regulation up to 31 July 2019 of providers that were previously funded by HEFCE<sup>5</sup>.
3. Section 6(1) of HERA permits the OfS to impose specific conditions of registration for an individual provider. The OfS's regulatory framework states that such conditions may be imposed where the OfS considers it necessary to mitigate an increased risk that a provider may breach an ongoing condition of registration. During the initial registration and assessment process **no specific ongoing conditions have been imposed.**

<b>General ongoing conditions of registration</b>	
<u>Condition reference number and name</u>	<u>Date from which condition is in effect</u>
A1: Access and participation plan	from 1 August 2019
B1: Quality and standards	from 1 August 2019
B2: Quality and standards	from 1 August 2019
B3: Quality and standards	from 1 August 2019
B4: Quality and standards	from 1 August 2019
B5: Quality and standards	from 1 August 2019
B6: Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework participation	from 1 August 2019

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<sup>4</sup> See Part V of the OfS's regulatory framework at <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/securing-student-success-regulatory-framework-for-higher-education-in-england/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/regulatory-notice-2-regulation-up-to-31-july-2019-of-providers-that-were-previously-funded-by-hefce/>



C1: Guidance on consumer protection law	from date of registration
C2: Student complaints scheme	from 1 August 2019
C3: Student protection plan	from date of registration
D: Financial viability and sustainability	from 1 August 2019
E1: Public interest governance	from 1 August 2019
E2: Management and governance	from 1 August 2019
E3: Accountability	from date of registration
E4: Notification of changes to the Register	from date of registration
E5: Facilitation of electoral registration	from 1 August 2019
F1: Transparency information	from 1 August 2019
F2: Student transfer arrangements	from 1 August 2019
F3: Provision of information to the OfS	from date of registration
F4: Provision of information to the designated data body	from date of registration
G1: Mandatory fee limit	from 1 August 2019
G2: Compliance with terms and conditions of financial support	from 1 August 2019
G3: Payment of OfS and designated body fees	from 1 August 2019
Z1: Transition condition of registration	from date of registration to 31 July 2019

<b>Specific ongoing conditions of registration</b>
No specific ongoing conditions of registration have been imposed at this time