

Enhancing graduate employment outcomes in the face of a global pandemic

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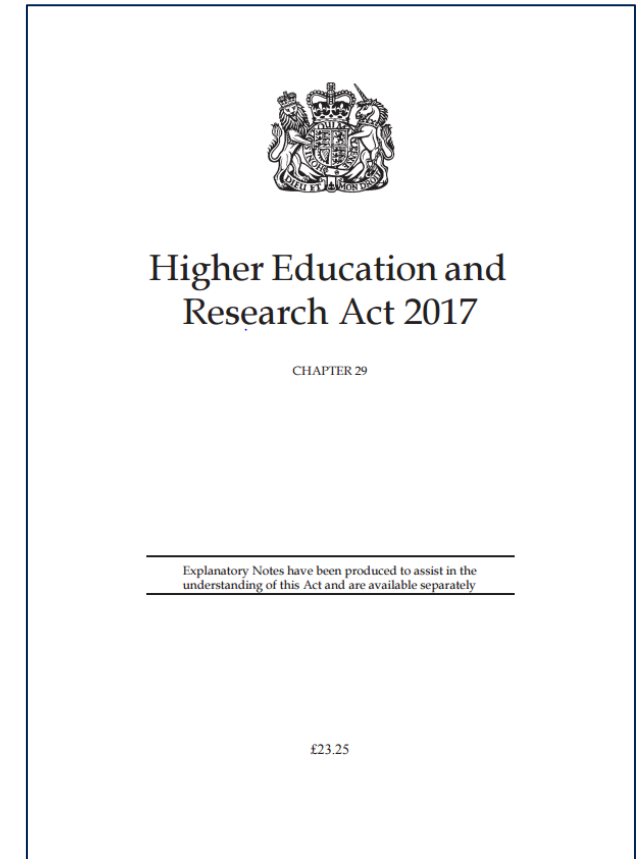
Office for
Students



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OfS duties in HERA 2017

- (a) protect the institutional autonomy of English HE providers
- (b) promote quality, and greater choice and opportunities for students, in the provision of HE
- (c) encourage competition between English HE providers in connection with the provision of HE where that competition is in the interests of students and employers, while also having regard to the benefits for students and employers resulting from collaboration between such providers
- (d) promote value for money in the provision of HE
- (e) promote equality of opportunity in connection with access to and participation in HE
- (f) use the OfS's resources in an efficient, effective and economic way
- (g) regulatory activities should be—
 - (i) transparent, accountable, proportionate and consistent, and
 - (ii) targeted only at cases in which action is needed.



OfS Objectives

Every student, whatever their background, has a fulfilling experience of higher education that enriches their lives and careers.

Participation

Objective 1

All students, from all backgrounds, with the ability and desire to undertake higher education, are supported to access, succeed in, and progress from higher education.

Experience

Objective 2

All students, from all backgrounds, receive a high quality academic experience, and their interests are protected while they study or in the event of provider, campus or course closure.

Outcomes

Objective 3

All students, from all backgrounds, are able to **progress into employment, further study,** and fulfilling lives, and their qualifications hold their value over time.

Value for money

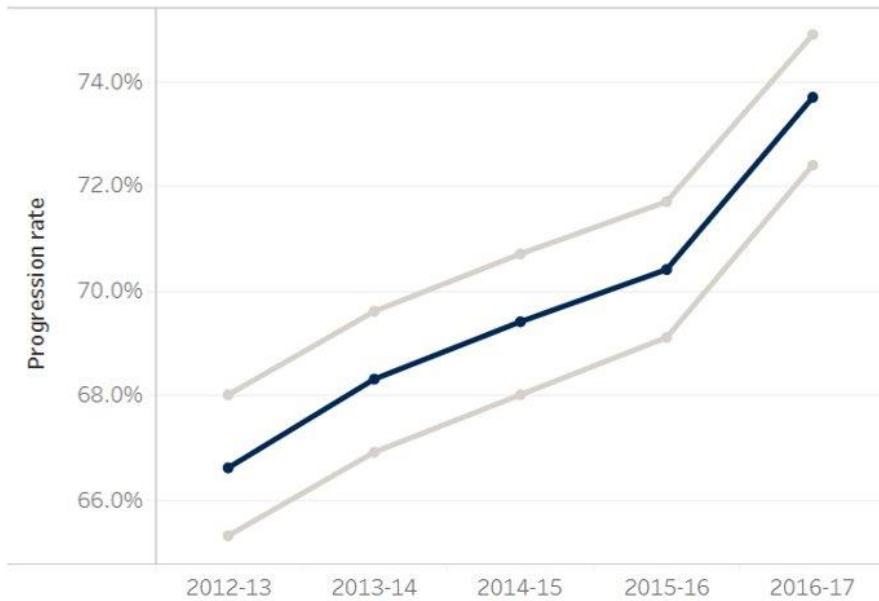
Objective 4

All students, from all backgrounds, receive value for money.

Progression into employment/further study

Full time

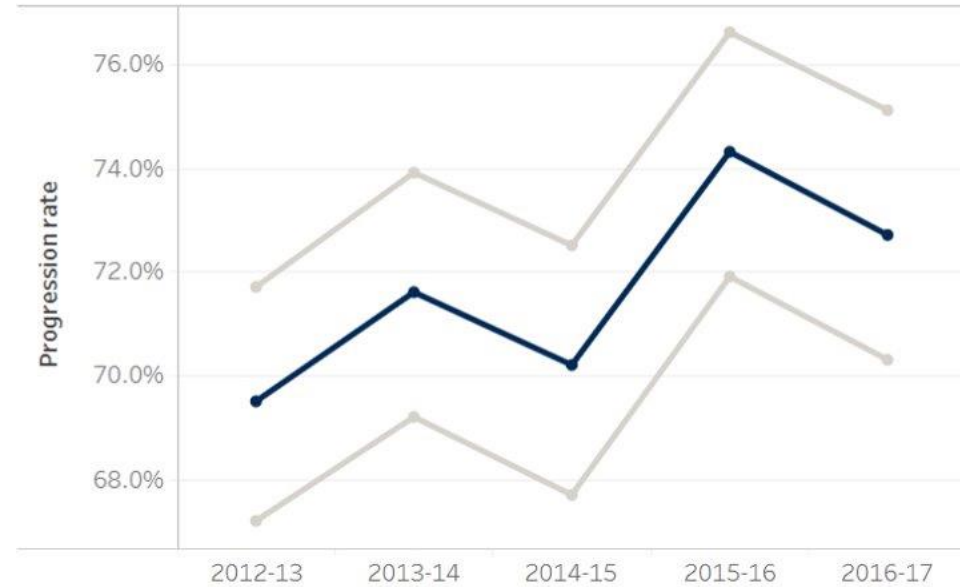
All English higher education providers



Change in rate from 2012-13 to 2016-17: **7.1**
Change in rate from 2015-16 to 2016-17: **3.3**

Part time

All English higher education providers



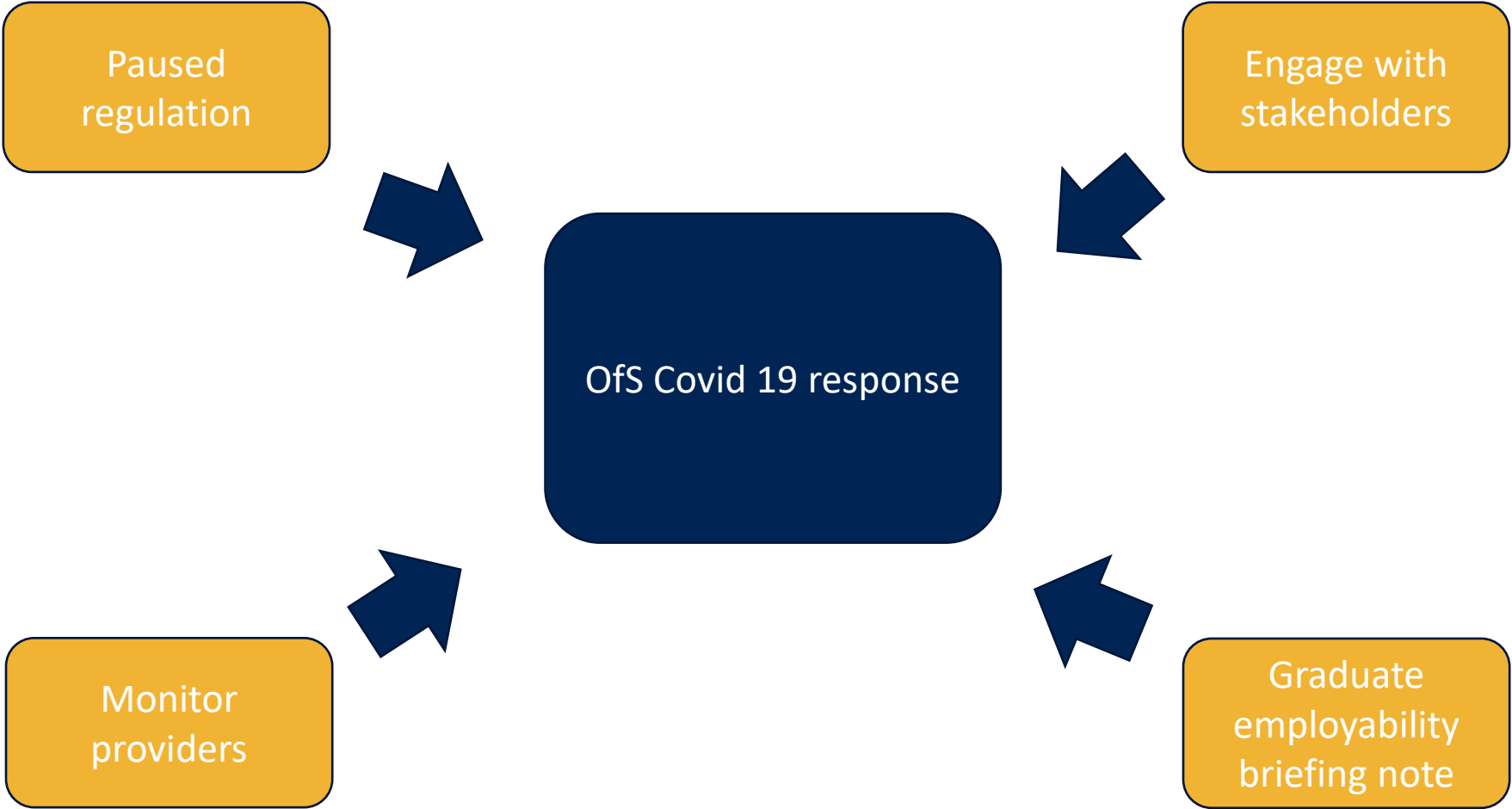
Change in rate from 2012-13 to 2016-17: **3.2**
Change in rate from 2015-16 to 2016-17: **-1.6**

OfS approach to regulation and Skills



- Principles-based regulator operating against a Regulatory Framework comprised of ongoing conditions of registration that each provider must meet to ensure a high-quality HE system
- Founding legislation (HERA 2017) envisioned a 'higher education market' and OfS as its market regulator
- The market cannot always deliver desired outcomes (i.e. market failures):
 - Local graduates experience disproportionately low outcomes
 - HE system failing to produce enough AI specialists or nurses for expansion
 - Flexible provision

Covid-19 - OfS response



Covid-19 impacts on economy/employment



- Pandemic has exacerbated changes we were already facing: technological change, ageing populations, climate change—all driving need for new skills and retraining
- Office for Budget Responsibility estimates unemployment rising by 6% points (twice as large as increase following 2008 financial crisis)
- Drop in part-time employment across all sectors and full-time employment in retail/hospitality
- Employer recruitment – graduates not hit as hard as non-graduates



Covid-19 impacts on higher education

- Record applications to higher education for academic year 2021-22
- Apprenticeships numbers down dramatically, though some growth in mature learners
- Student placements affected

Innovative solutions

- University of Portsmouth introduced a phone campaign, an opportunities bulletin, and an opportunities week
- University of Winchester provided week-long themed webinars around job seeking
- Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts established online showcases
- Employers shifted to virtual internships and remote working for placement students
- University of Liverpool has extended support for apprentices working in the NHS through online learning and conference tools

Challenges and opportunities up ahead

- HE is central to ambitions and expectations of young people
- Upheaval may make it harder to reach goals
- Education interventions need to be joined up with jobs, housing, transport, health, etc.
- Students and graduates are key to the contributions HE makes to local communities, businesses and public services



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The logo for the Office for Students, featuring a dark blue square with a yellow square in the top right corner containing the letters 'OfS' in white.

OfS

Thank you for listening

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