

Office for  
Students

OfS

# HESES23 training

## Introduction to OfS funding and HESES23

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Funding Officer

September 2023

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# HESES23 training

- For those already familiar with HESES
  - **Essential updates for experienced staff**
    - Webinar: Tuesday 12 September 2023
- For those new to HESES
  - **Introduction to OfS funding and HESES23** (this presentation)
  - **Categorising your students using HESES23 definitions**
    - Webinar: Tuesday 19 September 2023
  - **Identifying and counting students to be included in HESES23**
    - Webinar: Thursday 21 September 2023
  - **Submitting and verifying your HESES23 workbook**
    - Video presentation: released with the recording of the preceding webinar.

More information and recordings: [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/events](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/events)



# Supporting materials

- Overview of OfS funding
  - **Guide to funding 2023-24**
    - [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/guide-to-funding-2023-24/](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/guide-to-funding-2023-24/)
- For HESES resources
  - [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses)
- Email alerts
  - [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/sign-up-for-email-alerts](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/sign-up-for-email-alerts)



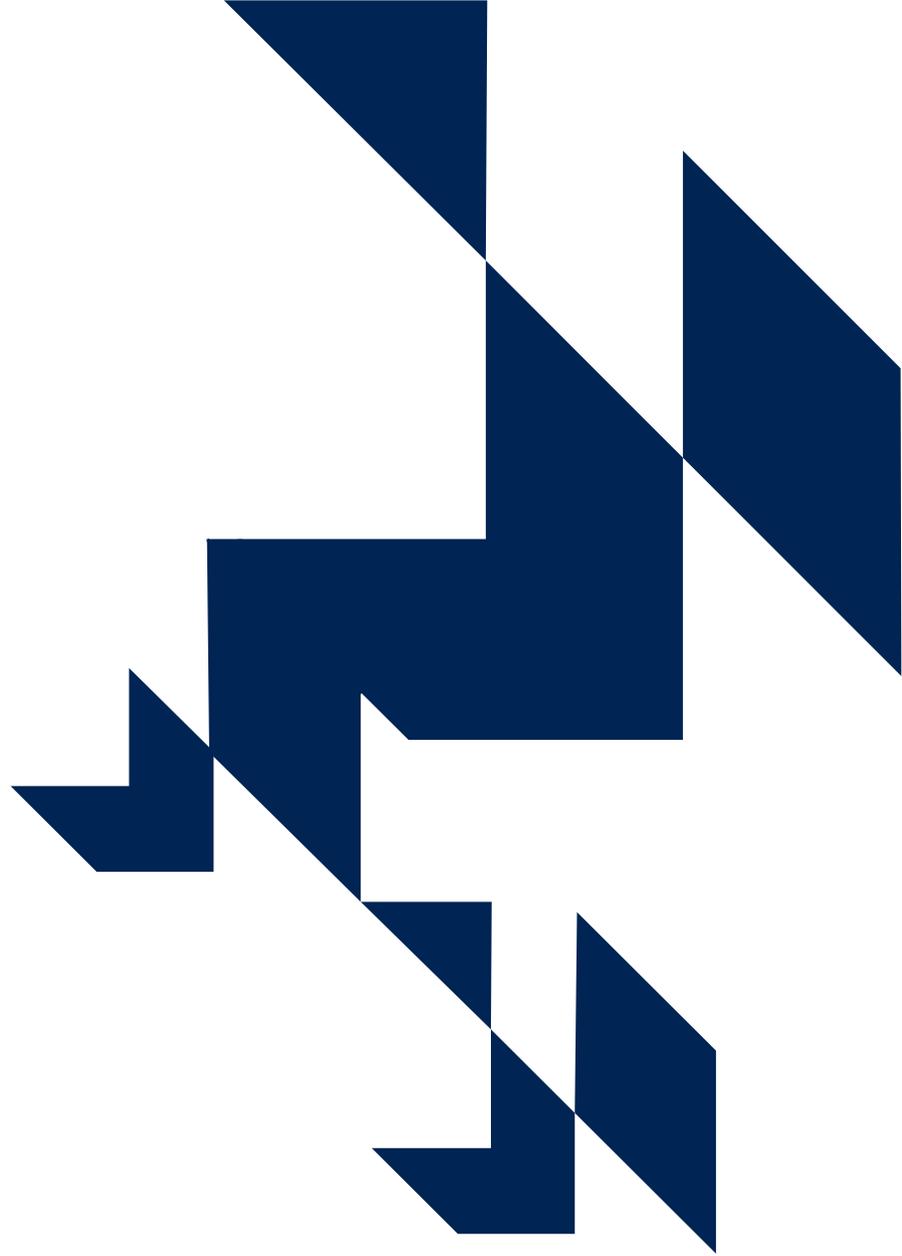
# What we will cover today



- Introduction to OfS funding
- Student data and funding
- The Higher Education Students Early Statistics survey 2023-24 (HESES23)



# Introduction to OfS funding



# Who we are

- The OfS was established by the Higher Education and Research Act of 2017 (HERA) as the independent **regulator of higher education in England**
- We aim to ensure that every student, whatever their background, has a fulfilling experience of higher education that enriches their lives and careers
- Our work covers all students:
  - undergraduate or postgraduate
  - young or mature
  - full-time or part-time
  - studying on a campus or by distance learning
  - regardless of nationality.



# OfS funding powers

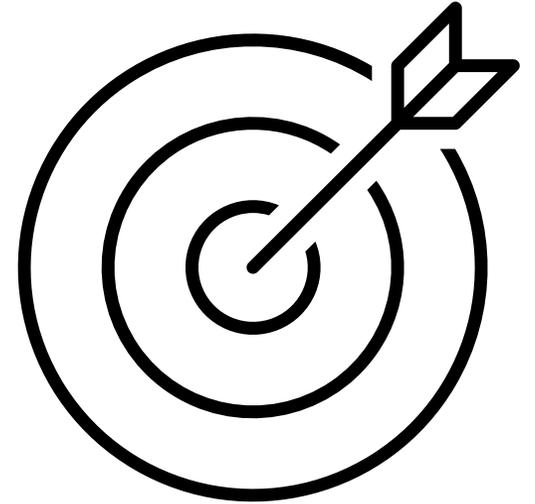
- We distribute government funding to providers:
  - used to support teaching activity, we do not fund students
  - we fund higher education activity at providers registered in the **Approved (fee cap)** category of the OfS Register
  - we will be funding about 340 providers in the academic year 2023-24
  - our allocations supplement the funds providers receive from student tuition fees.
- Various criteria apply e.g. courses must meet our definition of higher education
- **Recurrent funding:** about £1.4 billion
- **Capital funding:** £450 million for financial years 2022-23 to 2024-25



# OfS funding objectives

‘Our funding helps to ensure the availability of high-quality, cost-effective higher education across the country. We promote quality of provision, and greater choice and opportunities for students, by investing in:

- high-cost subjects at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including medicine, science, engineering and agriculture, and other strategically important subjects
- world-leading specialist providers
- part-time provision and other flexible modes of delivery.’



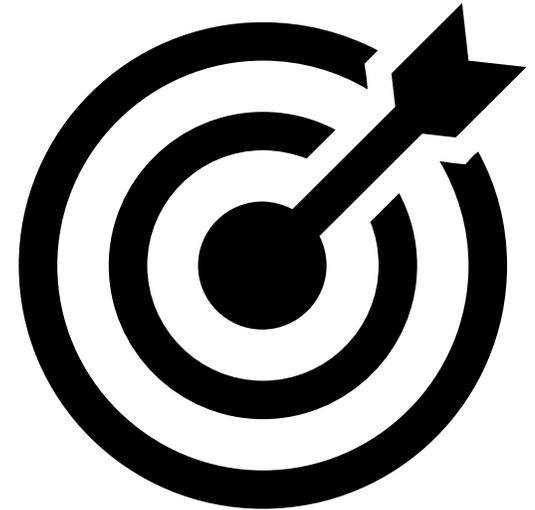
‘OfS Guide to funding’



# OfS funding objectives

‘We want students from disadvantaged backgrounds, underrepresented groups and those with disabilities not only to access higher education, but also to achieve successful outcomes, including progression to postgraduate study.’

‘OfS Guide to funding’



# Four key documents



The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP  
Secretary of State for Education

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
Tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfs

30 March 2023

Dear Lord Wharton,

**Guidance to the Office for Students on the Higher Education Strategic Priorities Grant for the 2023-24 Financial Year**

I want to thank the Office for Students (OfS) for implementing the reforms for the 2022-23 financial year proposed in last year's Strategic Priorities Grant (SPG) guidance to ensure funding represents value for money, supports Government's priorities across the sector, including subjects vital for the economy and labour markets, and provides continued support for disadvantaged students and under-represented groups.

Additionally, I would like to congratulate the OfS on running a successful competition to allocate almost £400m in capital funding for the 2022-23 to 2024-25 period, and for completing its review of world-leading specialist providers. This work will benefit students by allowing them to access world-class facilities across England, and will enable universities and colleges to offer more high-quality training opportunities that enhance the career prospects of their students.

As announced last year, we are investing an additional £750m in SPG funding across the 2022-23 to 2024-25 financial years to support high quality teaching and facilities - including in science and engineering, in subjects that support the NHS, and in degree apprenticeships. This represents the largest increase in Government funding for the HE sector to support students and teaching in over a decade.

I am writing to set out the Higher Education Strategic Priorities Grant budget for the 2023-24 financial year with my funding priorities. This letter provides guidance from me to the OfS under section 2(3) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017.

Your Strategic Priorities Grant budget for the 2023-24 financial year is set out in Annex 1. The guidance set out below is for the 2023-24 financial year. We will continue to communicate Strategic Priorities Grant funding for future years on an annual basis.

Guidance on the Government's broader priorities for the OfS will be communicated separately.

Office for Students 

## Funding for academic year 2023-24

OfS decisions

Reference Ofs 2023.26  
Enquiries to [recurrentgrant@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:recurrentgrant@officeforstudents.org.uk)  
Publication date 22 June 2023

Office for Students 

## Terms and conditions of funding for 2023-24

Reference Ofs 2023.30  
Enquiries to [recurrentgrant@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:recurrentgrant@officeforstudents.org.uk)  
Publication date 7 July 2023

Office for Students 

## Guide to funding 2023-24

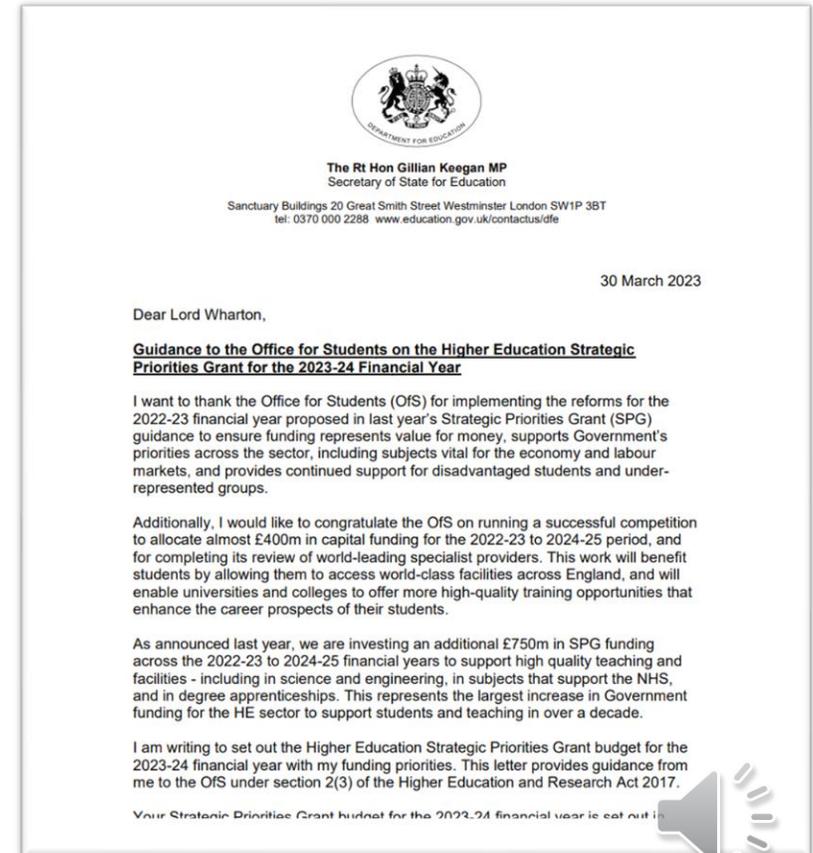
How the Office for Students allocates money to higher education providers

Reference Ofs 2023.32  
Enquiries to [recurrentgrant@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:recurrentgrant@officeforstudents.org.uk)  
Publication date 7 July 2023



# OfS funds & government guidance

- Allocated annually in a **statutory guidance letter** from the Secretary of State for Education:
  - usually sent in the first quarter of the **calendar** year
  - search 'Guidance from government' on our website.
- Contains details of:
  - budgets for recurrent and capital funding
  - any **guidance** which the OfS must have regard to.
- The Department for Education (DfE) can apply statutory conditions on our use of funding



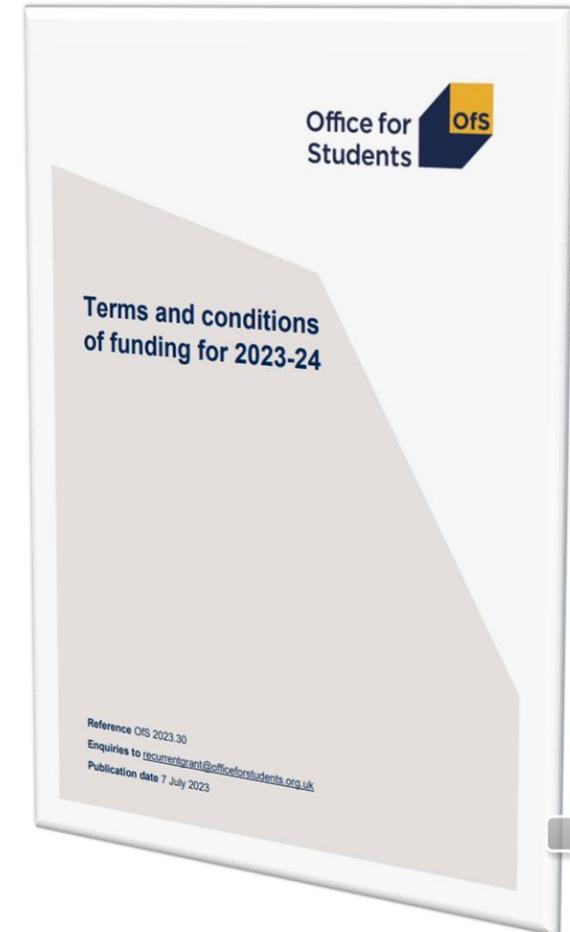
# OfS decisions on funding

- We may need to consult on any substantial changes to our funding methods
- **‘Funding for academic year 2023-24’** document
- Decisions are taken in the light of
  - the budgets available to us
  - government guidance we receive
  - any statutory conditions imposed by the Department for Education on our use of their funding
  - our general duties as set out in the Higher Education and Research Act 2017
  - our public sector equality duties, as set out in the Equality Act 2010.



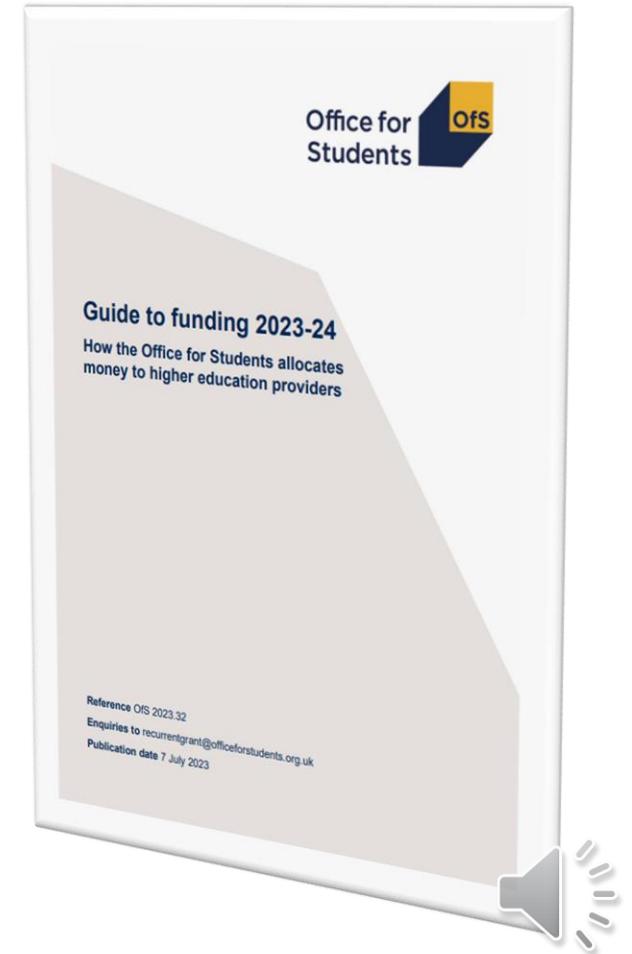
# OfS funding terms and conditions

- Terms and conditions apply:
  - see OfS 2023.30 published on our website.
- Providers largely have autonomy on how they spend allocations (in terms of scope under HERA)
  - providers are ‘free to distribute internally, at their own discretion, all funding from the OfS which is not earmarked or provided for a specific purpose’.
- Earmarked funds e.g:
  - capital funding
  - student premium funding
  - very high-cost STEM subjects
  - funds allocated via Challenge Competitions.



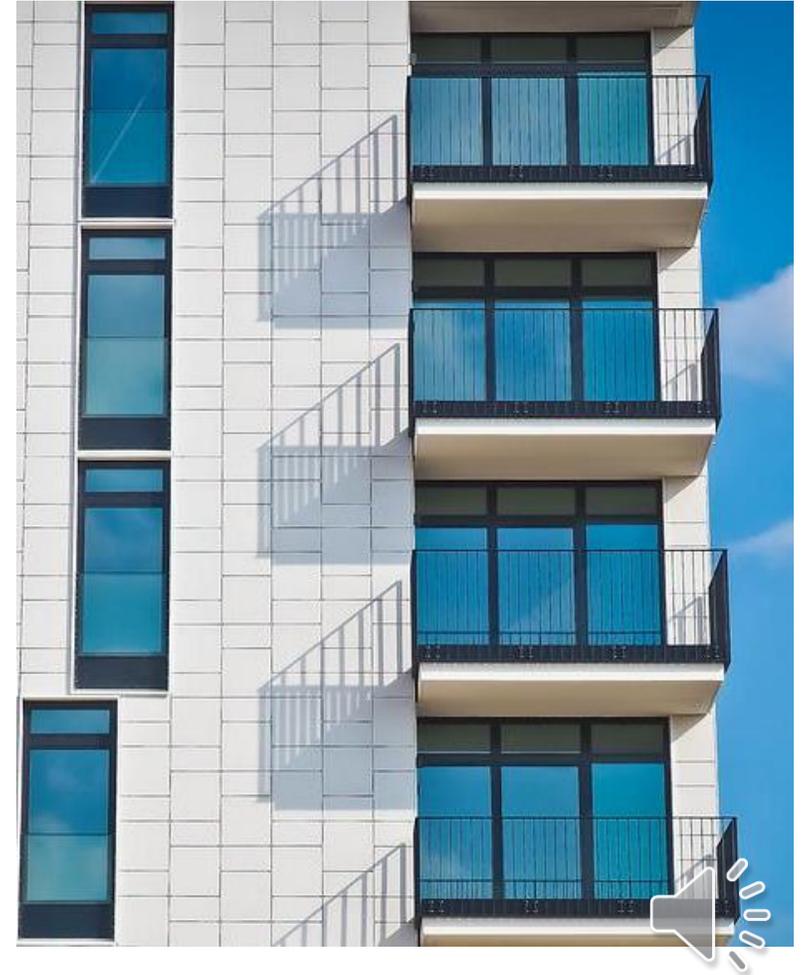
# OfS funding model

- **Guide to funding** - available from our website:
  - search for 'guide to funding'.
- **Recurrent funding** - mostly allocated by formula
- **Capital funding**
  - Small formula-based allocation in 2023-24.
  - Bidding exercise covering 2022-23 to 2024-25.
- **Funding for national facilities and regulatory initiatives**
  - Includes funding to support:
    - Challenge Competitions
    - The National Student Survey
    - Jisc.



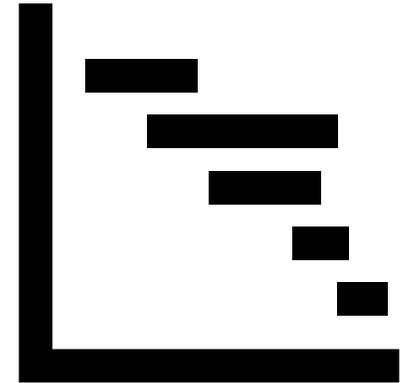
# Capital funding

- Capital funding is allocated on a financial-year basis i.e. April – March.
- £450 million for the three financial years of 2022-23 to 2024-25:
  - bulk distributed via a bidding exercise (£399 million)
  - formula allocation to most providers (a minimum threshold applies), totalling £11 million per year
  - support for capital expenditure by Jisc.



# Recurrent funding

- Recurrent funding is allocated on an academic year basis
- Has a number of funding streams
- Primarily made through formula calculations
  - HESES data from the current academic year informs the calculation of funding allocations for the next academic year:
    - this allows the calculation of grant allocations using **the most recent** student numbers
    - example: HESES23 data will inform recurrent funding for academic year 2024-25.
- Funding allocations are announced in late spring/early summer prior to the start of the academic year

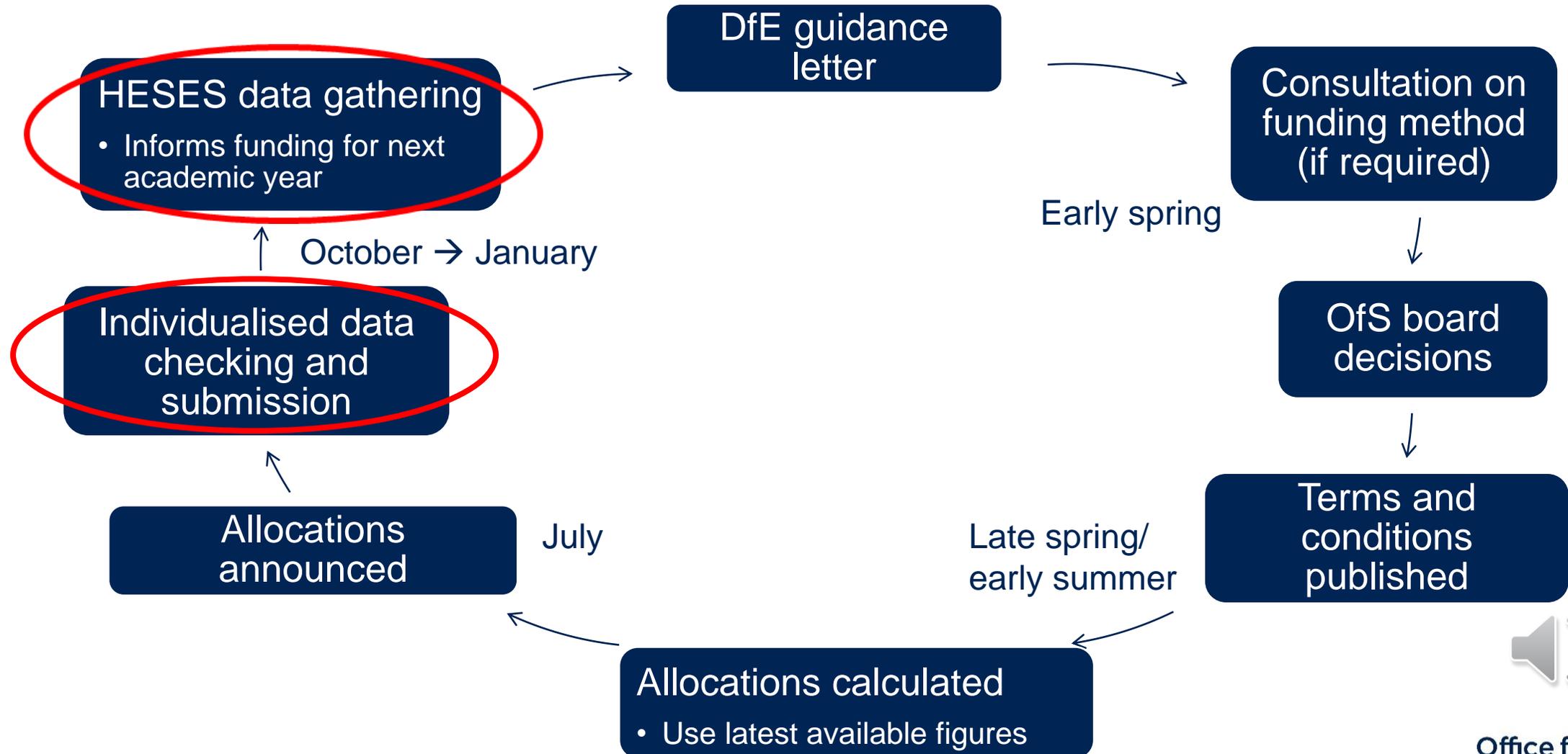


# Elements of recurrent grant for 2023-24

Elements of recurrent grant	Amount (£ million)
Funding for high-cost courses	1,038
Funding for student access and success	306
Funding for specialist providers	58
Emerging priorities	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,407</b>

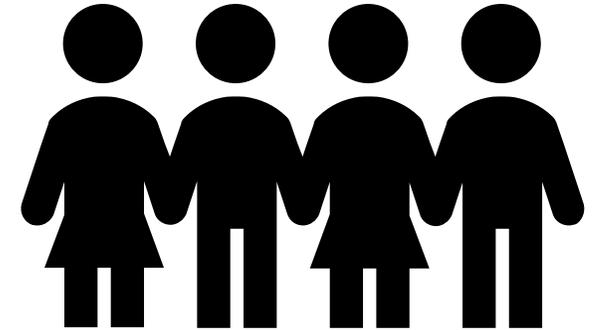


# Recurrent funding cycle – where we are now



# OfS people – the funding team

- Administer the funding round – more on this in a moment
- Advise OfS senior management and directors on formulation of funding policy
- Liaise with our counterparts at
  - Department for Education (DfE)
  - Other bodies with funding interests e.g:
    - NHS England (formerly Health Education England)
    - Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
    - Medical and dental councils
  - Jisc
  - Research England.



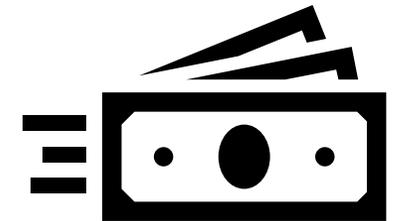
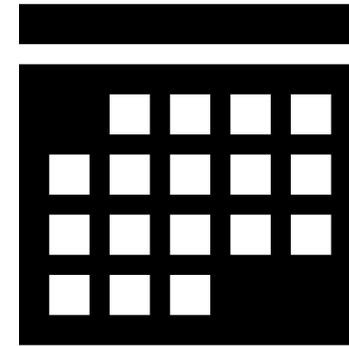
# OfS funding team – administering the funding round

- **Regulation** directorate – determine amounts to be allocated to providers
  - Recurrent funding:
    - count students studying at higher education providers (HESES)
    - apply formulae to allocate funds to those providers based on this and other data.
  - Capital funding:
    - calculate formula-based allocations
    - evaluate capital bids, allocate and monitor usage of capital funding.
  - Other funding streams e.g:
    - Challenge Competitions – usually bidding exercises for themed projects
    - specialist providers.
- **Data Foresight and Analysis** directorate – calculation and analysis



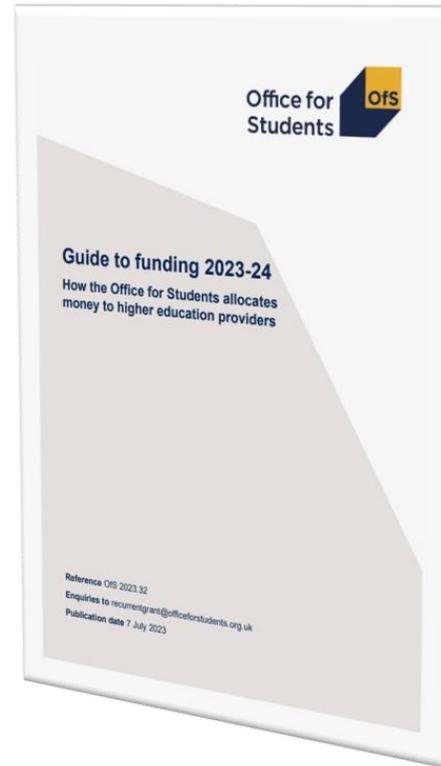
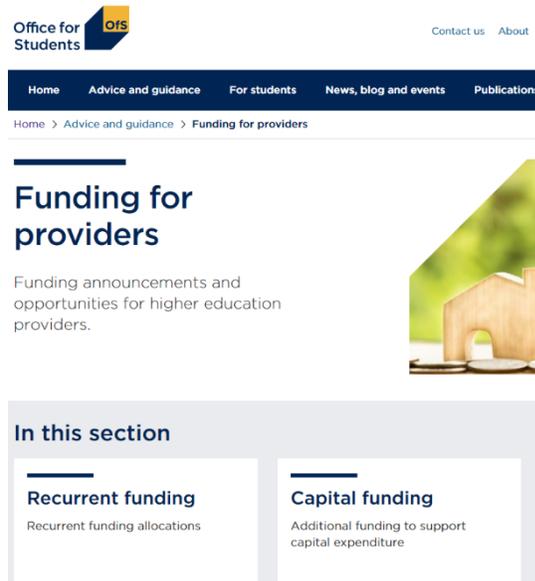
# OfS people – the finance team

- Administering the scheduling and payment of funds to providers
- Do a lot of their work through the OfS portal:
  - <https://extranet.officeforstudents.org.uk/grantreport>
- Contact the finance team:
  - [generalfinancequeries@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:generalfinancequeries@officeforstudents.org.uk)



# OfS funding – further reading

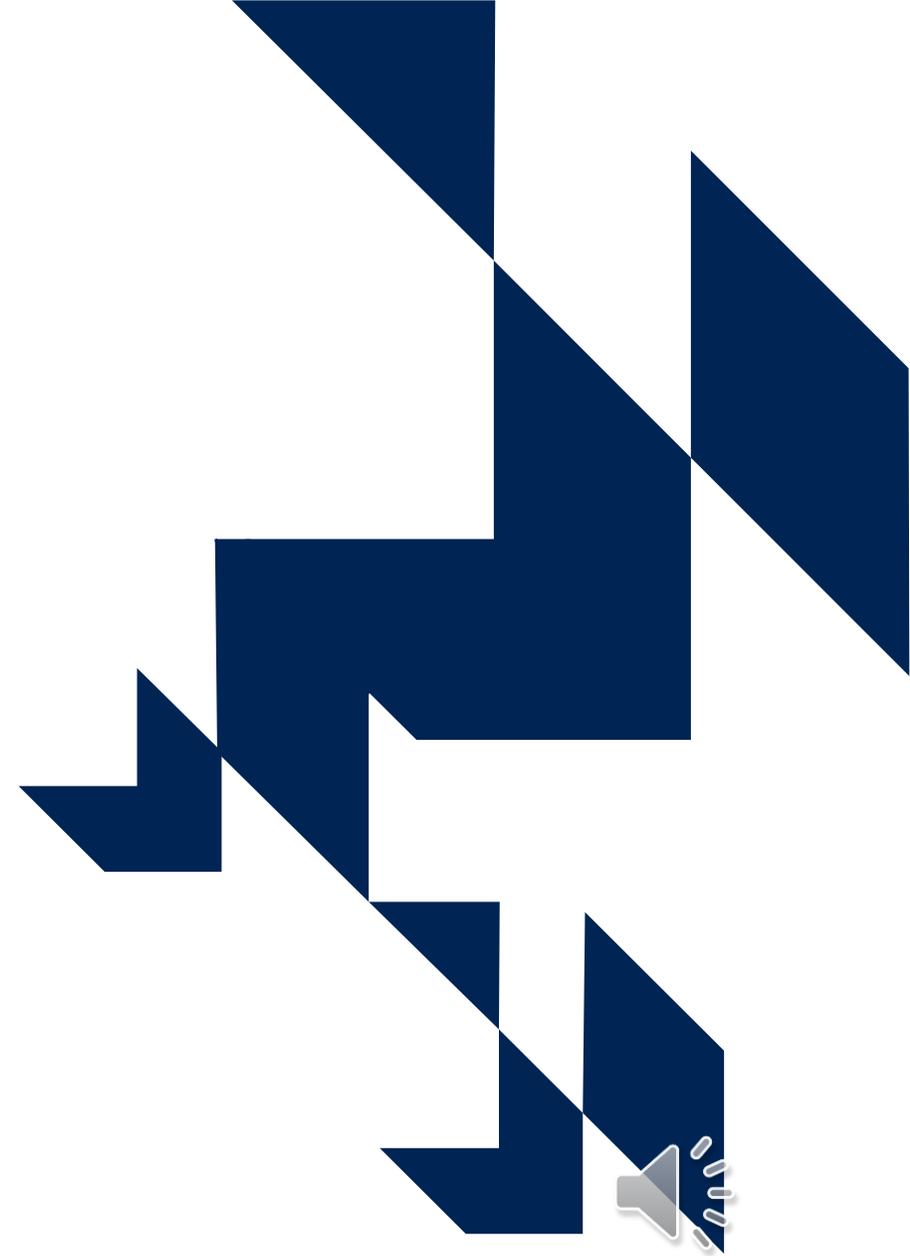
- The funding section of the OfS website
  - [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/funding-for-providers/](https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/funding-for-providers/)



- Our 'Guide to Funding 2023-24'



# HESES23 student data and funding



# Student data and funding – setting the scene

- Most of our funding is formulaic and informed by student data
- HESSES is the source of **aggregate student data**:
  - used for both recurrent and capital funding
  - we fund **teaching activity** by using student data as a proxy measure
  - accurate data → accurate and fair funding
  - published as an official statistic, available to the sector and the public at large.
  - categorised in various ways e.g. full or part-time, undergraduate and postgraduate.
- We also use the latest available **individualised student data**:
  - provides information on student characteristics used in calculations for ...
  - ... our ‘Funding for student access and success’ allocations
  - **further education colleges (FECs)** – reported to the ESFA
  - **others** – reported to the Designated Data Body (DDB i.e. HESA/Jisc).



# Who completes what?

- **HESES** - Higher Education Students Early Statistics survey:
  - Completed by higher education providers:
    - **on the OfS Register** in the **Approved (fee cap)** category
    - have students registered with them for the **current academic year** (2023-24)
    - on courses that meet our definition of recognised higher education.
- **HESF** - Higher Education Students Forecast survey:
  - Same criteria as for HESES except for those that:
    - have no students in the current academic year
    - expect to teach students in the **following** academic year (2024-25).
- Providers only complete one of these surveys for any one academic year.



# The HESES survey

- **HESES**: Higher Education Students Early Statistics
  - Annual data return submitted to the OfS
- Gives us an early indication of higher education students at a provider in the **current** academic year (2023-24)
- Used to inform allocation of funds for the **following** academic year (2024-25)
- Is used to report all your higher education students in aggregate, categorised in particular ways.



# The HESES workbook and how to get it



## Welcome to the OfS portal

To access the portal, you will need an account. If you were previously a user of the HEFCE extranet, you will already have an account and can use your existing login details. If you were not, you will need to [create an account](#) using the access key which was sent to you by post or email.

For more information about how we treat the information provided to OfS, and to view the terms and conditions of use, please see our [privacy policy](#).

This site uses cookies, please see our [privacy policy](#) for more information.

### Login

Email

Password

Login

[Forgotten password?](#)

Have an access key but don't have an account? [Create an account](#)

Having problems? Contact [portal@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:portal@officeforstudents.org.uk) providing details.

- The HESES survey is a Microsoft Excel workbook
- **Available late October** from the OfS portal
  - we email **student data contacts** when it's ready
  - to add to or update student data contact names, email us at [HESES@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:HESES@officeforstudents.org.uk)
- **Check portal access** with your local user administrator
  - see our documentation and video about the portal at [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses-training](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses-training).
- See our **Submitting and verifying your HESES23 workbook** video for more details.



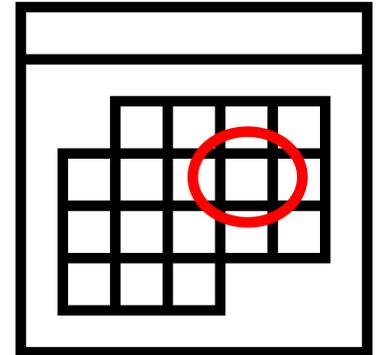
# Completing HESES23

- What you need:
  - have an understanding of the data you are being asked for i.e. HESES definitions
  - to identify and count students in these categories
  - to submit your workbook, get it verified and then signed off.
- Reflected in our training:
  - 19 September: Categorising your students using HESES23 definitions
  - 21 September: Identifying and counting students to be included in HESES23
  - Video presentation: Submitting and verifying your HESES23 workbook.



# HESES23 important dates

- **Vary according to type of provider**
  - further education and sixth form colleges and academies (FECs):
  - all others
- **Census date**
  - **FECs:** 1 November 2023
  - **all others:** 1 December 2023
- **Submission deadline - noon** on the submission deadline:
  - **FECs:** 13 November 2023
  - **all others:** 11 December 2023
- **Sign-off deadline – 31 January 2024** for all providers



# HESES23 - data verification and sign-off

- **Data verification**

- Runs from submission deadline to sign-off deadline
- Dialogue to ensure that we have the best possible picture of your provision:
  - this ensures accurate funding
- Any changes needed to your return can be made in this time
- Please see pre-recorded video that covers this in more detail

- **Sign-off deadline** (all providers)

- 31 January 2024



# HESES – further information and reading

- [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses)
  - **HESES guidance** document
  - **Completing the HESES23 workbook** document
  - model workbooks
- [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses-training](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses-training)
  - details and recordings of and slides from HESES webinars
  - links to our YouTube videos
- Email alerts service
  - [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/sign-up-for-email-alerts](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/sign-up-for-email-alerts)
- You can always contact the HESES team at the OfS:
  - [heses@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:heses@officeforstudents.org.uk)



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