



offa

office for fair access

Office For Fair Access Guidance for Institutions

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Why OFFA

- Risk that potential students will
 - Be concerned about debt
 - Perceive that higher education is not affordable
- Something needed to safeguard and promote access
- An expectation that some variable fees will be invested in financial support for students

What is OFFA for

- Regulate the charging of higher tuition fees (but only FT UG)
- Promote and safeguard fair access to HE
- Identify good practice in the promotion of equality of access to higher education
- But mustn't interfere with academic freedom

Perceptions and reality

- Monstrous intrusive bureaucracy
- Ineffectual political fix
- Institutional Autonomy
- Collaborative
- Rigorous but flexible

OFFA's levers

- Access agreement –
 - Bursaries
 - Outreach
 - Financial Information
 - Objectives
 - Public documents
- Advice
- Publicity
- Nuclear Deterrent

Issues for OFFA

- Expect more from those with furthest to go
- Additionality
- Unambitious milestones
- Impact on collaborative outreach
- Monitoring
- Communication
- Timetable

Timetable

- A flexible timetable to accommodate institutions internal procedures
- Applications by 4 January - guaranteed decision by 11 March
- Early and varied feedback
- Not an absolute deadline - at institutions risk
- Some institutions may wish to wait
- Changing the agreement

Issues for Institutions

- Prospectuses
- Bursaries
 - Targeting
- Additionality
- Underrepresented Groups
- Information for Students
- Milestones
- Collaboration

But that's not all

- Other changes
 - Schools
 - PQA
 - Student information
 - Student Support
- Methods of funding
- Levels of funding

Conclusion

- We are open for business
- We will work with institutions
- We will be rigorous but flexible
- This is a new process
- We are reasonable



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