



Student Protection Plan 2021/22

The aim of this plan

A [student protection plan](#) is required by the [Office for Students](#) (OfS). The OfS requires that this sets out what students can expect to happen should a programme of study, campus, or institution close. The purpose of a plan is to ensure that students can continue and complete their studies, or can be compensated if this is not possible. The University of Nottingham is a higher education provider that is registered with the OfS and, consequently, must have a student protection plan in place. The University is expected to collaborate with students to review and refresh the plan on a regular basis.

Assessment of the risk of closure or suspension of a programme of study

The University is a large and well-established institution. In 2020, we had an income of around £710M, an operating surplus of £9M and over 3000 teaching and research staff. Consequently, it is very unlikely the University would have to close or suspend a programme of study on financial grounds alone, unless this was a decision the University chose to make for strategic or other reasons.

At the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the University implemented a detailed plan to manage its operations, including its ability to deliver teaching to, and support students as a result of the impact of the pandemic. The plan has continued to evolve, reflecting the changing nature of the pandemic and will continue to do so. The situation is gradually returning to normal, nonetheless, we remain vigilant and ready to respond to the changing demands of the situation. The University has a number of procedures in place to monitor the situation and to identify any changes to the delivery of teaching and support to students, in particular those that might be considered material changes. Where any change is identified, the University has an agreed procedure for the communication of such changes to students including via its website, app (MyNottingham), student portals such as Moodle and email. Both Schools and student support services have defined roles in ensuring such communications are comprehensive, timely and accurate.

The rights of students in relation to any material change are outlined below. Should the University identify a material change that does not fall under any of the categories listed, it will inform students accordingly.

How would I be affected if the University wanted to close or suspend my programme of study?

Usually, a programme of study would not be closed or suspended until all students studying that programme had graduated. We will continue to provide you with the same level and quality of teaching until graduation.

In the unlikely event the University wanted to close or suspend a programme before all its students have graduated, we will only do so if all students on the programme agree. We would offer you a place on a similar programme at the University provided one exists and the quality of your learning experience is not affected.

If there is no alternative programme at the University of Nottingham, we may work with other universities to offer you a place on a comparable programme at another institution.

If you did not want to take up any of these opportunities and wished to continue and complete your programme at the University of Nottingham, then you would be able to do so.

Our website provides full details of the [Policy for Closing or Suspending a Programme of Study](#).

What about fees and costs? Would I get any compensation?

If you complete your studies at the University of Nottingham then you would be unable to apply for compensation as you would have completed a programme of study.

If we arrange for you to complete a programme at another university, we will only compensate you for any tuition or maintenance costs at your new university that are higher than the amounts you would have paid to the University of Nottingham, plus any reasonable costs relating to moving to live at your new university.

- If we are forced to close or suspend a programme before you have completed it, and we have not been able to arrange for you to complete your studies elsewhere, then we will consider claims for compensation which could include: refunds of tuition fees that you have already paid to us for your programme of study and for which you have not received a qualification
- travel costs if you have to undertake extra travel
- continuing to pay any bursaries we have agreed to pay to you
- any extra living costs due to you studying at Nottingham which you would not have paid if you had not started your course with us
- payments on an individual basis to recognise the time spent on a programme which will no longer lead to a qualification

If the University of Nottingham wishes to close or suspend a programme of study and is seeking your consent, we may offer you a payment as an incentive to agree to the closure. This payment could include some of the elements listed above. However, you would still have the right to complete your studies instead of accepting the payment.

How do students know about the student protection plan?

- The student protection plan is published on our website
- All new students are made aware of the student protection plan when they accept their offer to study at the University of Nottingham
- All current students are made aware of the plan when they re-register at the University each year

How do students and the University make sure the student protection plan is followed and kept up to date?

- The student protection plan is reviewed annually by the Quality and Standards Committee (which includes student representation)
- The Students' Union is invited to take any recommendations for changes to the student protection plan at the Quality and Standards Committee
- Committees and staff involved in any proposals to close or suspend programmes use the student protection plan in their work
- If we need to use the student protection plan because of a decision to close or suspend a programme of study, we will notify students who are affected individually. Additionally, consultation may take place through the relevant [learning community forum](#). The Students' Union and its Student Advice Centre will be fully involved so that they can provide independent advice and support to affected students.

Complaints about the student protection plan

If you have a complaint regarding the student protection plan then you can raise it through the University's [complaints procedure](#).