



**University of
Nottingham**

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Student Protection Plan 2022/23

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 institution 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 2021, we had an income of around £696M, an operating surplus of £41M and over 3,000 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. The situation has gradually returned to normal, nonetheless, we remain vigilant and ready to respond if required.

The university has procedures in place 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 students be affected if the university wanted to close or suspend a programme of study?

Usually, a programme of study would not be closed or suspended until all students studying that programme had graduated. In these circumstances we will continue to provide them 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 seek to offer them a place on a similar programme at the university, provided one exists and the quality of their learning experience is not affected.

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

If students affected by the closure or suspension did not want to take up any of these opportunities and wished to continue and complete their programme at the University of Nottingham, then they 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 students get any compensation?

Students who are expected to complete their studies at the University of Nottingham would be unable to apply for compensation as they would continue to be working towards completion of a programme of study with the university.

If we arrange for students to complete a programme at another university, we will provide compensation for any tuition or maintenance costs at the new university, but only if these costs higher than the amounts the student would have paid to the University of Nottingham. We would also provide compensation for any reasonable costs relating to moving to live at the new university.

If we are forced to close or suspend a programme before students enrolled on the programme have completed it, and if we have not been able to arrange for them to complete their studies elsewhere, then we will consider claims for compensation which could include:

- refunds of tuition fees that have already paid to us for the programme of study for which the student has not and will not receive a qualification,
- travel costs for extra travel,
- continuing to pay any bursaries we have agreed to provide,
- living and other expenses which a student has had to pay and which are directly linked to their enrolment in a programme of study at the university (we would not usually pay compensation for general living expenses such as food and accommodation, which would have to be paid whether a student was studying or not),
- 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 students' consent, we may offer a payment as an incentive to agree to the closure. This payment could

include some of the elements listed above. However, students would still have the right to complete their 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 table 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

Complaints about the student protection plan may be raised via the University's [complaints procedure](#).