Office for Students requirements

The Office for Students has set out their regulatory views concerning blended learning, based on research conducted by a panel of experts in 2022. Their report lists a series of circumstances under which OfS may have regulatory concerns based on two conditions, called B1 and B2:

B1: The provider must ensure that the students registered on each higher education course receive a high quality academic experience.

B2: The provider must take all reasonable steps to ensure:

1. students registered on a higher education course receive resources and support to ensure:
   a. a high quality academic experience for those students; and
   b. those students succeeding in and beyond higher education; and
2. effective engagement with students to ensure:
   a. a high quality academic experience for those students; and
   b. those students succeed in and beyond higher education.

Several of these circumstances are directly relevant to curriculum design, and these are summarised here for convenience.

Circumstances impacting Condition B1:

Concerns may be raised if your course

- Uses out of date lecture recordings
- Does not provide appropriate feedback to students
- Does not foster collaborative learning
- Does not consider changing expectations for digital skills
- Does not require students to develop practical skills
- Has an arbitrary blend rather than a designed one
- Has a blend driven by limited physical resources
- Is delivered in a way that results in low attendance and engagement
- Has a blend that is confusing or difficult to manage because of poor coordination between units
- Has too much online content for students to engage with effectively
- Has a blend that is not communicated clearly to current and prospective students

Circumstances impacting Condition B2:

Concerns may be raised if your students

- Do not get adequate access to appropriate physical space
- Do not get adequate access to hardware, software, and IT infrastructure
- Do not receive support to develop appropriate study skills (digital and in-person)
- Receive poor quality online lectures
- Receive out of date online lectures
- Do not have appropriately qualified teaching staff
- Do not receive timely and quality feedback
- Are not supported in managing their timetables
- Do not receive resources and support appropriate to their needs