

# Expression of interest

# Title: Post-Qualification Admissions Reform - Consultation analysis

**Project reference number: DFERPPU/20-21/039**

**Deadline for expressions of interest: Wednesday 17th February 2021 at 5pm**

## Summary

Commencing in January 2021 The Department for Education are running a 16 week consultation to seek views on whether to change the current system of higher education admissions and move to a system of Post-Qualification Admissions (PQA). PQA could see students receive and accept university offers after they have received their A level (or Level 3 equivalent) grades, as opposed to the current system in which students apply up to a year before starting and offers are made on the basis of predicted grades.

The Department requires thematic analysis of the responses, guided by topics in the consultation document. It will also require analysing the data from the student questionnaire into the final report of the consultation.

## Background

The launch of this consultation follows the commitment from Government to level up the university admissions system and supports the wide-ranging further and higher education reforms as part of a unified strategy for post-16 education reform. While the current admissions system has evolved and reformed over the last 20 years, to respond to changes in the student demographic and wider changes to the HE system, there are still aspects of the current HE admissions system that fall short of this commitment. This is why we are now consulting on more fundamental reform, such as PQA.

Please find the consultation document and also the online survey on Citizens Space here [Post-Qualification Admissions Reform Consultation - Department for Education - Citizen Space](https://consult.education.gov.uk/he-access-and-admissions/higher-education-admissions-reform/)

## Methodology

**Consultation Document**

The Department requires thematic analysis of the consultation responses to be conducted, guided by the topics in the consultation document. Where appropriate, any themes differentiated by respondent type should be included in the full report.

Consultation participants are encouraged to respond online through Citizen Space, however they also have the option to respond via email or post if they are unable to use the online system. The data will be provided to contractors in .xlsx format. Due to the open nature of the consultation we are uncertain of the exact number of responses we will receive. An early estimation puts it in the region of around 500.

The successful contractor will be given access to the full responses to the open questions, which may contain personal data.

**Student Questionnaire**

The student questionnaire has been split into two sets of questions: a set for students currently studying A level (and equivalent) qualifications, and a set for 2nd and 3rd year university students. The questionnaire will be hosted on Qualtrics, The majority of the data will be presented in by Qualtrics, however, three questions included in the questionnaire require thematic analysis. We require the results from the questionnaire to be referenced in the findings report from the consultation, comparing commons themes and results guided by topics in the consultation document.

## Timing

* Deadline for EOIs **– 5pm 17th February 2021**
* Deadline for ITT – 12th March 2021
* Contract awarded – End March 2021
* Consultation period – 16 weeks from 21st January to 13th May 2021
* Final report – June 2021

## Assessment criteria

* Experience of research topics for example, the HE education system, HE reform and the university admissions system
* Experience of research with higher education students and providers
* Experience of analysing qualitative and quantitative research and consultations
* Capacity and capability to deliver the project in the timescales indicated

Each of these assessment criteria are equally weighted.

Expressions of interests submitted must be no more than 1500 words overall; this includes any website links. Anything longer will be disregarded.

| **Closing date for EOIs: 5pm - 17th February 2021**  **Send your EOI form to:** [**Katharine.wingfield@education.gov.uk**](mailto:Katharine.wingfield@education.gov.uk) **AND** [**Jane3carr@education.gov.uk**](mailto:Jane3carr@education.gov.uk) |
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## How to submit an expressions of interest

You must submit an expression of interest (EOI) in order to be considered to be invited to tender. To do so, please complete the NEW EOI Form which can be found under attachments. A submission of an EOI does not guarantee an invitation to tender and the Department does not routinely advise organisations that they have not been successful in being invited to tender. Feedback is however available on request.

All contracts are let on the basis of the Department's Terms & Conditions, a copy is available attached to the Contracts Finder listing. You are encouraged to check these before submitting your expression of interest, as these form part of your contractual obligations.

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