



STUDENT PROTECTION PLAN 2026

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Introduction & Background

This Student Protection Plan sets out how Harper Adams University (the University, “we”, HAU), protects students’ continuation of study in the event that changes occur to courses, services, or the wider University environment.

This plan reflects current expectations of the Office for Students (OfS) and has been updated to ensure it remains current. It is intended as an interim document pending the implementation of OfS Condition C6 (Student Protection), after which the University’s Student Protection Policy will provide the primary framework for managing student protection.

This plan should be read alongside:

- The Student Protection Policy
- The Student Contract and Terms and Conditions
- The Refund and Compensation Policy

Assessment of Risks to Continuation of Study

The University has assessed the range of risks that could affect students’ ability to continue their studies. These risks are regularly reviewed through institutional risk management academic governance, and financial planning processes.

Table 1. Summary of Risk Assessment

Risk Area	Likelihood	Summary
Course change or closure	Low	Courses are subject to regular review to ensure academic quality, viability, visibility and alignment with student demand
Placement disruption	Low/Medium	Placement provision depends on external providers and may be affected by changes in employer capacity or regulatory requirements.
Partner provider failure	Low	Collaborative provision is subject to due diligence, contractual arrangements and ongoing monitoring.
External disruption (e.g. public health, infrastructure, security)	Low/Medium	External events may disrupt teaching, facilities, or access to campus and services.

Risk Area	Likelihood	Summary
Regulatory or Visa changes	Medium	Changes to immigration or regulatory requirements may affect the ability of some students to study as planned.
Institutional financial sustainability	Low	The University undertakes regular financial monitoring and long-term planning to maintain sustainability.

In assessing these risks, the University recognises that impacts may vary depending on students' individual circumstances, including mode of study, stage of study, and personal or protected characteristics.

Measures to Mitigate Risks

The University has a range of measures in place to reduce the likelihood of these risks occurring and to minimise the impact should they arise. These include:

- Academic governance arrangements, including oversight by the Academic Board.
- Regular course monitoring, review and student feedback processes.
- Due diligence and ongoing monitoring of partner organisations.
- Structured management of placements, including approval and review processes.
- Financial planning and management to support sustainability.
- Business continuity and emergency response arrangements.

Where risks materialise, the University will take reasonable and proportionate steps to support students in continuing their studies. These may include:

- Teaching students through to completion ("teach-out").
- Providing options to transfer to other courses or providers.
- Adjusting delivery methods or locations.
- Offering academic, pastoral, and wellbeing support.

Further details on how the University manages change and protects students, including the specific measures that may be put in place in different scenarios, is set out in the Student Protection Policy.

Refunds and Compensation

Where the University is unable to preserve continuation of study, students may be eligible for refunds and/or compensation. The University's approach is set out in its [Refunds and Compensation Policy](#), which explains:

- Circumstances in which refunds may be provided.
- Compensation arrangements where students incur additional costs or losses.
- How claims are considered.

This includes situations where students may need to transfer to a different provider or where a course cannot be delivered as intended.

Information and Communication

The University is committed to communicating clearly, transparently, and in a timely manner with students where changes occur that may affect their studies.

Communication will normally:

- Explain what is changing and why.
- Set out what the change may mean for students.



- Provide information about available support and next steps.

Communication methods may include:

- University email.
- The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).
- Course or programme-level communications.
- University web-pages and guidance.

Where changes affect specific groups of students, communication will be targeted wherever reasonably possible. Students will be consulted where appropriate, particularly where changes are likely to have a material impact on their studies, consistent with established University processes.

Review

This Student Protection Plan will be reviewed periodically to ensure that it remains accurate and up to date. Given the evolving regulatory framework, this plan may be suspended or replaced by policies developed in line with OfS Condition C6.