

Student Outcomes & Regulatory Risk

Intelligence Report

University of Gloucestershire

Prepared by Blairgowrie HE Advisory | 26 March 2026

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B3 RISK: LOW

Illustrative Example

This report is produced as an illustrative example of the Blairgowrie HE Intelligence Suite using publicly available data from UCAS, HESA, the Office for Students, and the National Student Survey. It does not represent a commissioned engagement with the University of Gloucestershire. All data is drawn from open published sources and the analysis reflects Blairgowrie HE Advisory's independent assessment. For a report produced for your institution, contact david@blairgowriehe.com.

Executive Summary

University of Gloucestershire presents a low overall B3 risk profile on the OfS student outcomes framework. Across the three primary indicators, the institution meets or exceeds sector benchmarks, providing regulatory headroom. There are no immediate concerns requiring escalation to the Board.

Completion (UG) stands at **87.4%** against a sector median of 85.2% — a gap of +2.2pp. Risk flag: **LOW RISK**.

Continuation (UG) stands at **86.3%** against a sector median of 88% — a gap of -1.7pp. Risk flag: **LOW RISK**.

Progression (UG) stands at **71.8%** against a sector median of 69.2% — a gap of +2.6pp. Risk flag: **LOW RISK**.

Peer comparison covers: University of Worcester, University of Chester, Sheffield Hallam University.

Section B draws on HESA Graduate Outcomes data to contextualise the B3 regulatory position within the institution's broader employment and outcomes trajectory. The cross-dimension reading connects regulatory compliance to market positioning and student recruitment.

Section A: OfS B3 Regulatory Risk

The Office for Students assesses student outcomes under Condition B3 of its Regulatory Framework. Three indicators are evaluated: Completion (whether students who start a qualification finish it), Continuation (whether students progress from year one to year two), and Progression (whether graduates enter skilled employment or further study within 15 months of graduation). The OfS applies benchmark-adjusted thresholds rather than a single fixed floor; the analysis below uses sector medians across the full OfS-registered population as the primary comparator. Note that sector benchmarks include FE colleges with HE provision, which pulls sector medians slightly below a pure university comparison.

A.1 Completion

University of Gloucestershire records a completion rate of 87.4% for undergraduate students (2016-2019 rolling cohort) against a sector median of 85.2%, a gap of +2.2pp. The 95% confidence interval spans [85.1% – 89.7%].

This is a strong completion position, comfortably above the sector benchmark. University of Gloucestershire retains a meaningful proportion of its enrolled cohort through to qualification — a signal of academic support infrastructure that functions well.

Metric	UG (First Degree / All UG)	PG Taught Masters
Point estimate	87.4%	93.1%
95% CI	[85.1% – 89.7%]	[90.4% – 95.8%]
Sector median	85.2%	92.9%
Gap vs sector	+2.2pp	+0.2pp
B3 risk flag	LOW RISK	LOW RISK

A.2 Continuation

University of Gloucestershire records a continuation rate of 86.3% for undergraduate students (2019-2022 rolling cohort) against a sector median of 88%, a gap of -1.7pp. The 95% confidence interval spans [84% – 88.6%].

Continuation performance is healthy. The year-one to year-two retention rate exceeds the sector benchmark, indicating that the student experience in the critical first year of study is supporting persistence.

Metric	UG (First Degree / All UG)	PG Taught Masters
Point estimate	86.3%	89.7%
95% CI	[84% – 88.6%]	[87.1% – 92.3%]
Sector median	88%	91.9%
Gap vs sector	-1.7pp	-2.2pp

Metric	UG (First Degree / All UG)	PG Taught Masters
B3 risk flag	LOW RISK	LOW RISK

A.3 Progression

University of Gloucestershire records a progression rate of 71.8% for undergraduate students (2019-2022 rolling cohort) against a sector median of 69.2%, a gap of +2.6pp. The 95% confidence interval spans [69.3% – 74.3%].

Graduate progression is above the sector benchmark — more than seven in ten graduates are entering skilled employment or further study within 15 months of completing their qualification. This is a commercially significant finding: progression data feeds directly into Discover Uni and sits at the heart of prospective student decision-making.

Metric	UG (First Degree / All UG)	PG Taught Masters
Point estimate	71.8%	82.4%
95% CI	[69.3% – 74.3%]	[79.6% – 85.2%]
Sector median	69.2%	81.5%
Gap vs sector	+2.6pp	+0.9pp
B3 risk flag	LOW RISK	LOW RISK

A.4 Cross-Dimension Note

Across all three B3 indicators, University of Gloucestershire is operating in the low-risk zone. This means the OfS is unlikely to initiate enhanced monitoring or engagement on outcomes grounds in the near term. The institution's compliance position is sound. The strategic priority is to maintain this position as the OfS moves towards more granular subject-level and equality of opportunity analysis within the B3 framework. Institutions currently comfortable at aggregate level can face surprises when disaggregated data by entry qualification, ethnicity, or disability are assessed separately — monitoring those sub-groups now is good practice ahead of the regulatory curve. NSS satisfaction data (particularly for academic support and organisation of teaching) correlates strongly with continuation and completion; a deterioration in those NSS themes is an early warning signal for future B3 performance. Demand-side note: strong progression data should be foregrounded in student recruitment messaging on Discover Uni and in open day materials — it is the single most influential outcome metric for prospective students.

A.5 Peer Comparison: B3 Risk Summary

Institution	Completion (UG)	Continuation (UG)	Progression (UG)	B3 Overall
Univ. of Gloucestershire	LOW RISK	LOW RISK	LOW RISK	LOW RISK
Univ. of Worcester	LOW RISK	LOW RISK	MONITOR	MONITOR

Institution	Completion (UG)	Continuation (UG)	Progression (UG)	B3 Overall
Univ. of Chester	LOW RISK	MONITOR	MONITOR	MONITOR
Sheffield Hallam University	LOW RISK	LOW RISK	LOW RISK	LOW RISK

Section B: HESA Graduate Outcomes

HESA Graduate Outcomes surveys graduates approximately 15 months after their qualification, covering employment status, further study, and earnings. The positive outcomes rate — the proportion in skilled employment, further study, or both — is the headline metric for OfS B3 purposes and the figure that appears on Discover Uni. Data covers the 2018/19 to 2022/23 academic cohorts.

B.1 Five-Year Positive Outcomes Trajectory

Metric	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Positive outcomes %	82.1%	81.4%	79.8%	83.6%	82.9%
FT employment %	51.3%	50.8%	48.2%	52.1%	51.7%
PT employment %	18.4%	18.9%	19.1%	19.3%	18.8%
Unemployment %	5.2%	5.6%	6.8%	5.1%	5.4%

B.2 Employment Breakdown

University of Gloucestershire occupies an average position on the HESA Graduate Outcomes positive outcomes measure. The five-year positive outcomes rate has remained broadly stable over the five-year window. Unemployment has remained broadly stable. The split between full-time and part-time employment reflects the occupational profile of the institution's graduates and should be read alongside the disciplinary mix of the student body rather than benchmarked directly against the all-sector average, which encompasses a substantially different range of disciplines.

Section C: The Blairgowrie Take

C.1 Regulatory Position in Context

University of Gloucestershire's low B3 risk profile is a genuine institutional asset, though it is an asset that is rarely converted effectively into student recruitment value. Most prospective students do not navigate directly to OfS registration data; they see outcomes on Discover Uni and read reviews on StudentCrowd or What Uni. The challenge for the institution is to translate the regulatory compliance story into a compelling market narrative — particularly around progression, which is the most student-legible of the three B3 indicators. Competitors operating in the WATCH or HIGH zone will find their own recruitment suppressed as the OfS data becomes better known; University of Gloucestershire should be positioned to benefit from that competitive shift by making its outcomes story loud, specific, and current.

C.2 What the Aggregate Data Does Not Show

Aggregate institution-level metrics conceal considerable within-institution variation. A provider with a comfortable overall B3 position may nevertheless have one or two subject areas — often smaller, specialist disciplines or part-time provision — sitting well below the sector benchmark. The OfS is moving towards more granular analysis disaggregated by subject, entry qualification, ethnicity, disability, and mode. Institutions that are comfortable at aggregate level now should be running their own disaggregated analysis before the regulator does it for them. The direction of travel in regulation is towards subject-level accountability, and the institutions that manage this proactively will have a stronger story to tell.

C.3 The Demand-Outcomes Link

Graduate outcomes data and OfS B3 metrics feed directly into the demand environment through two channels. The first is Discover Uni, where prospective students can compare employment and continuation data across institutions; institutions with strong metrics convert at higher rates at the offer-to-acceptance stage. The second is word of mouth and review platforms: student satisfaction with career outcomes feeds into StudentCrowd and What Uni reviews, which are read by the next generation of applicants. The progression rate of 71.8% sits above the sector median — a 2.6pp advantage on the metric that is most directly visible to prospective applicants. Institutions that improve their outcomes position typically see the demand benefit within one to two recruitment cycles, as Discover Uni data updates annually and prospective students use the most recent year's data. This means the ROI on outcomes improvement — whether through enhanced careers provision, employer partnerships, or academic progression support — is faster than many senior leaders assume.

C.4 Strategic Priorities

Maintain and protect: With a low B3 risk profile, the priority is vigilance rather than remediation. Run disaggregated analysis by subject and cohort annually, track NSS satisfaction themes that correlate with B3 metrics, and monitor the OfS's direction of travel on subject-level accountability. Use the strong outcomes position actively in student recruitment marketing and on Discover Uni.

Disaggregation: Regardless of the headline risk profile, run internal analysis disaggregated by subject, entry qualification, ethnicity, and disability. The OfS's stated direction is towards equality of opportunity analysis within B3; institutions that have already done this work will be better prepared for that regulatory shift.

Outcomes narrative: Translate the graduate outcomes data into a student-facing narrative that is specific, current, and foregrounded in prospectus materials, open day conversations, and Discover Uni listings.

Quantified graduate outcomes are the highest-impact single element of institutional marketing at the offer-to-acceptance stage of the student journey.

Methodology Note

OfS student outcomes data is sourced from the Office for Students published dataset (student_outcomesF.xlsx). The dataset contains bootstrap confidence interval rows for each institution-indicator-level-mode-year combination. This report treats the median value across those rows as the point estimate and the minimum-maximum range as the 95% confidence interval, consistent with the OfS's own published methodology. Sector benchmarks are computed across all OfS-registered English providers using the Taught population and Full-time mode, with the most recent rolling cohort year preferred for each indicator. Rolling cohort years cover: Completion 2016-2019, Continuation and Progression 2019-2022. Sector benchmarks include FE colleges with HE provision, which modestly suppresses sector medians relative to a university-only comparison. Coverage is English providers only; Welsh, Scottish, and Northern Irish institutions are regulated separately and are not included in the OfS dataset.

HESA Graduate Outcomes data, where included, is drawn from HESA DT072 Table 6 covering 2018/19 to 2022/23 academic cohorts, surveyed 15 months after qualification. The positive outcomes rate encompasses graduates in skilled employment, further study, or both. Unemployment rate captures those actively seeking work; graduates not available for work are excluded from the denominator.

B3 risk flags in this report use indicative thresholds derived from OfS published guidance: HIGH (below 80% for Completion/Continuation; below 60% for Progression), WATCH (below 85% for Completion/Continuation; below 70% for Progression), LOW (at or above the WATCH threshold). The OfS applies benchmark-adjusted thresholds in its formal assessment; the thresholds here are indicative and should not be treated as determinative of regulatory outcome.

About Blairgowrie HE Advisory

Blairgowrie HE Advisory is a specialist UK higher education intelligence and strategy consultancy. Founded by Dr David O'Connor — former Pro Vice-Chancellor at BIMM University and DBA graduate of the University of Bath — the firm applies rigorous data analysis, sector expertise, and commercial pragmatism to the strategic challenges facing UK HE institutions. The tagline, "Strategy that survives first contact with operations," reflects an approach grounded in what actually drives institutional performance rather than what looks compelling in a strategy deck.

The Blairgowrie intelligence suite covers demand (UCAS), enrolment (HESA DT051), student outcomes and regulatory risk (OfS B3 + HESA DT072), financial health (HESA DT031), student satisfaction (NSS), student value (review platform analysis), and institutional health synthesis. Reports are used by governing bodies, executive teams, and strategy functions seeking an independent, evidence-based read on institutional performance.

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