Student Protection Plan

Provider's name: ARU London

Provider's UKPRN: 10004011

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1) An assessment of the range of risks to the continuation of study for your students, how those risks may differ based on your students' needs, characteristics and circumstances, and the likelihood that those risks will crystallise

It is our analysis that our current financial position and performance means that none of the situations detailed below are likely to crystallise in the foreseeable future.

Risks may affect different groups of students differently. In particular: international students (whose continuation depends on sponsor licence and visa arrangements, so closure or loss of licence carries immediate immigration consequences); students receiving tuition fee loans or other financial support (for whom refund and fee-liability arrangements matter); disabled students and those with reasonable adjustments in place (who may need individual transition support if provision moves); and students nearer the start of a course (for whom transfer is generally more feasible than for those close to completion). Where a risk crystallises, we will assess the impact on each group and tailor our support accordingly.

At the point of registration dents are informed of, and asked to agree to, various terms and conditions of which a subset relate to any changes to the course they have joined that may be deemed necessary during their time as a student. These types of changes are governed by a range of quality assurance approaches and involve student consultation. It is important to note that these relate to provision that is on-going and that they apply to applicants who have accepted an offer as well as registered students. Therefore, such circumstances do not fall within the remit of this plan as they do not constitute a risk to the continuation of study.

Based on our current situation, the range of risks relating to continuation of study for our students which could occur are detailed below. In all the scenarios detailed below, we will ensure the construction of exit strategies for each and every course in terms of numbers of students; modular implications and the fulfilling of re-assessment obligations in line with our regulatory framework. On occasion this may result in a reduction in optional module choice as numbers diminish. Consultation with the affected

students underpins all related activity and we would consider the particular needs of different types of students.

a) Course Closure – Risk: Low
This is the most likely cause of discontinuation and is likely to occur when either (i) a course is deemed to have reached the end of its natural life due to a trend of falling recruitment and/or satisfaction or (ii) is replaced by a new course. In either case, ARU London commits itself to 'teach out' the appropriate curriculum to all students registered for the course

b) Temporary disruption – Risk: Low
Short-term disruption (for example industrial action, staff illness, fire or flood, or public health restrictions) is more likely than the scenarios above. Our mitigation measures are set out in section 2.

c) Termination of partnership with Anglia Ruskin University – Risk: Very Low
Our partnership with Anglia Ruskin University was established in 2007 and the long-standing relationship remains very strong. On-going monitoring by Anglia Ruskin University of ARU London's financial health indicates we're in a strong position to continue.

In the unlikely circumstance that the partnership was terminated or ended by mutual agreement, ARU London would implement a 'teach out' of the curriculum in accordance with the existing formal legally binding partnership agreement. Depending on the circumstances, Anglia Ruskin University staff may take over direct responsibility for delivery, supported by short-term contracted staff and, where possible, ARU London staff.

In the exceptional circumstance that a 'teach out' proves not to be possible, ARU London would explore the transfer of affected students (particularly those nearer the beginning of their course) to an Anglia Ruskin University campus, a collaborative partner, an alternative provider, or another awarding body where appropriate provision exists. Transfer would be pursued only after all teach-out options have been exhausted. The precise detail of any transfer plan would be determined by the individual circumstances surrounding the end of the partnership and the needs of affected students.

d) Subject area/discipline closure – Risk: Very Low
This is likely to be a long-term strategic decision and is therefore likely to occur less frequently but would always follow the principle of 'teach out'.

e) Campus closure – Risk: Very Low
Given our current financial viability, the unplanned required or forced closure of the campus is unlikely. Campus closure is more likely as part of strategic considerations in which case the process would be carefully planned, especially as ARU London currently has a single campus. We would pursue a 'teach out' strategy wherever possible and transfer provision to an alternative location in London or, in agreement with Anglia Ruskin University, to another Anglia Ruskin University campus.. Where the premises become unavailable for a period (for example through fire, flood or loss of the lease), we

would seek suitable temporary premises so that teaching can continue, and would consult affected students on the arrangements.

f) Loss of Degree Awarding Powers – Risk: Very Low
ARU London's courses are validated by Anglia Ruskin University, which holds degree awarding powers. Given Anglia Ruskin University's stable financial position and successful performance in QAA and other audit and review methodologies, loss of degree awarding powers is extremely unlikely to crystallise. In the event that it did, ARU London would seek to identify an alternative awarding body to allow students to continue and complete their studies.

g) Loss of Right to Recruit International Students (loss of sponsor licence) – Risk: Very Low
Anglia Ruskin University's basic compliance assessment shows that they are performing consistently within the expected thresholds on the key metrics to maintain their Student route sponsor licence for recruiting international students and, therefore, we have no reason to believe that this scenario is likely to crystallise. However, if the situation were to occur, we would consider the implications that no international student recruitment may have on the continued viability of certain courses but, moreover, look to secure alternative providers for international students to allow them to complete their higher education. Where a student's immigration permission is affected, we would give affected students timely immigration advice and support, working with Anglia Ruskin University.

h) Institutional closure – Risk: Very Low
Given our current financial viability this is extremely unlikely to crystallise. As such an eventuality is likely to be due to unforeseen circumstances, appropriate consideration would be given to all options following the principle of the best interests of the students. Because ARU London's students are studying for Anglia Ruskin University awards, we would work with Anglia Ruskin University to agree teach-out or transfer arrangements for all affected students.

2) The measures that you have put in place to mitigate those risks that you consider to be reasonably likely to crystallise

Temporary Disruption (e.g. lockdown measures, industrial action, staff illness, fire/flood. etc.)
Where a situation that causes temporary disruption occurs, we always attempt to maintain a service including the teaching of courses to all students. On occasions where this does not prove possible, we will make alternative timetabled arrangements to replace any scheduled teaching that is missed.

In the event that ARU London is unable to deliver face to face teaching, where possible we will deliver an online teaching provision to students, with equivalent learning opportunities. This would apply only where ARU London is unable to deliver face to face teaching as a result of government requirements. In other circumstances, such as loss of

access to our premises through fire or flood, we will seek alternative premises and, where appropriate, short-term online delivery.

Where disruption caused is prolonged and could cause significant disadvantage to students, we would consider the use of appropriate refunds and/or compensation. We also consider appropriate amendments to the assessment process to take any disruption into account so as not to disadvantage students but still maintaining the academic integrity of the process.

3) Information about the policy you have in place to refund tuition fees and other relevant costs to your students and to provide compensation where necessary in the event that you are no longer able to preserve continuation of study

Our Rules, Regulations & Procedures for Students, to which students agree at the annual (re)registration point, details the situations in which a tuition fee refund is available (e.g. the time limit by which a student has to have withdrawn from a course for a refund on tuition fees to be liable). A copy can be found here.

Our Refund and Compensation Policy runs separately to the Tuition Fee policy. This applies in relation to tuition fees, other relevant costs and miscellaneous payments where ARU London is no longer able to preserve continuation of study for students on either a permanent or temporary basis.

The policy is available here: Refund and Compensation Policy

If our measures to mitigate and manage these risks proved insufficient, we would, as a last resort, draw on contingency and other funds. Our financial strategy includes retaining cash reserves that we consider sufficient to refund tuition fees and pay compensation where it proves impossible to preserve continuation of study.

4) Information about how you will communicate with students about your student protection plan

We will publicise our student protection plan to current and future students via our website and reference it within the Offer Letter and Student Charter.

We will ensure that staff are aware of the implications of our student protection plan when they propose course changes through the appropriate quality assurance processes (Course (Re) Approval, Curriculum Revisions and Periodic Review).

We will review our student protection plan on an annual basis.

Students (including through the Students' Union) will be consulted on this plan and on each annual review, and their feedback will be taken into account.

If this protection plan needs to be engaged in any way we would aim to provide all students with a minimum 6 months' notice of closures/withdrawal although excepting that in emergency situations or events beyond our control, this may not be possible. Where shorter notice is unavoidable, we will tell affected students as soon as we reasonably can and explain what support is available.

This plan has been approved by Anglia Ruskin University in line with its partnership requirements.