

Office for  
Students



OfS

# HESES21 training

## Introduction to OfS funding and HESES21

Roger Lear  
Funding Officer

20 September 2021

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# Webinar housekeeping

- Presenters
  - Host: Roger Lear (backup – Ross Lawlor)
  - Q&A: Ross Lawlor
- Closed captions are available – click the CC icon
- A recording of this session will be available on the OfS website
- Intended audience: those new to HESES and those needing a refresher
- How to ask a question:
  - Please use Q&A rather than “chat” box
  - Use “chat” box to speak with our events team
- Please let us have your feedback.

# HESES21 webinars

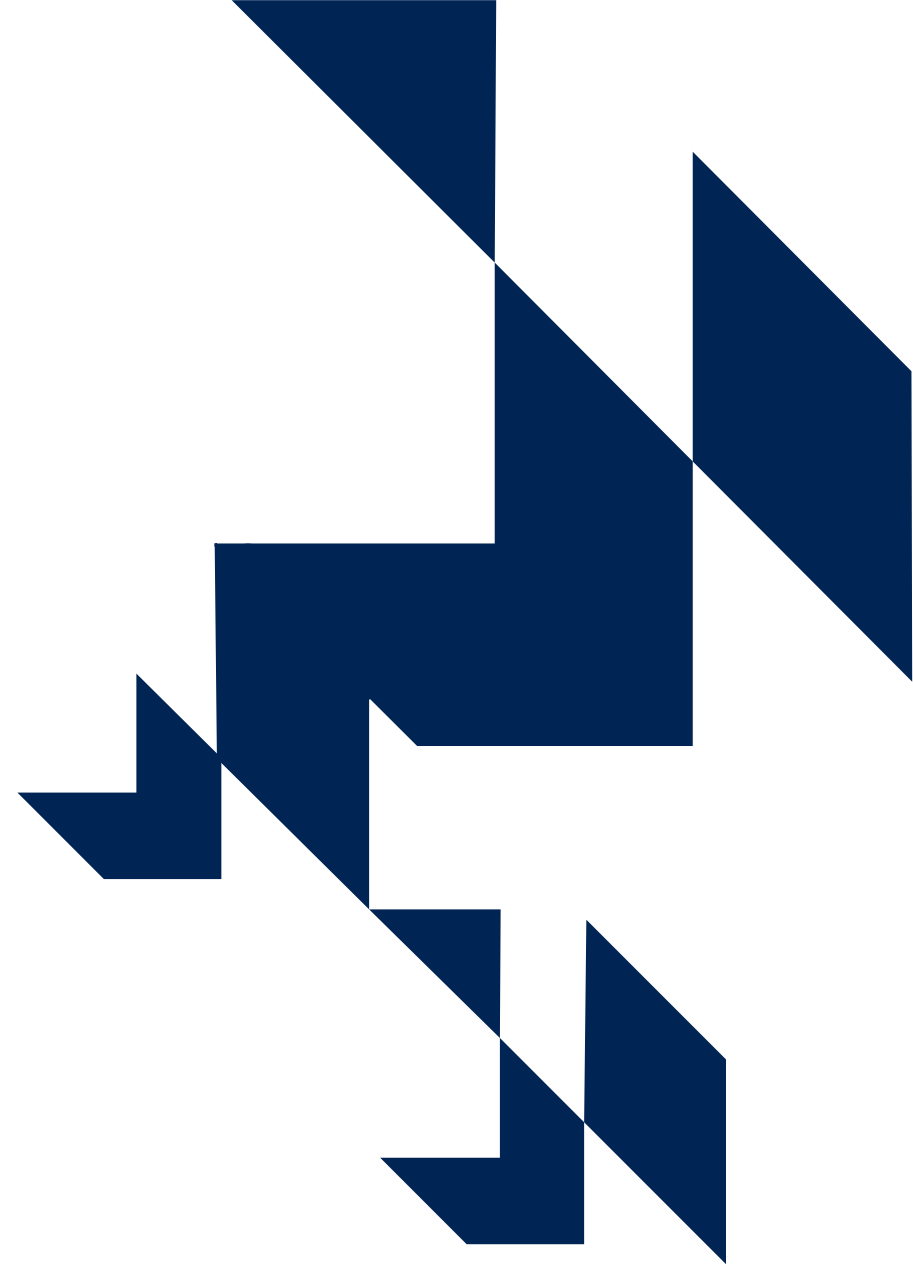
- **Introduction to OfS funding and HESES21:  
1330 on Monday 20 September 2021**
- **Categorising your students and important definitions:  
1330 on Wednesday 22 September 2021**
- **Identifying and counting students to be included in HESES21:  
1330 on Monday 27 September 2021**
- **Submission and verification of HESES21 data return:  
1330 on Wednesday 29 September 2021**
- **Hands-on workbook exercises and breakout groups:  
1330 on Tuesday 5 October 2021 and 1330 on Thursday 7 October 2021.**
- **More information available at [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/events](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/events)**

# Supporting materials

- A recording of this event and today's slides will be available from the OfS website at [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/events](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/events)
- Providers should also refer to [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses)
  - 'HESES21 – Higher Education Students Early Statistics survey 2021-22' publication
    - [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/heses21](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/heses21)
  - 'How to complete the HESES21 workbook' publication
  - HESES videos on the OfS YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/officeforstudents>.
- Overview of OfS funding
  - 'Guide to funding 2021-22' publication
- Sign up for email alerts
  - [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/sign-up-for-email-alerts](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/sign-up-for-email-alerts)



# Introduction to OfS funding



# Who we are

- The OfS was established by the Higher Education and Research Act of 2017 (HERA) as the independent **regulator of higher education in England**
- We aim to ensure that every student, whatever their background, has a fulfilling experience of higher education that enriches their lives and careers
- Our work covers all students:
  - undergraduate or postgraduate
  - young or mature
  - full-time or part-time
  - studying on a campus or by distance learning
  - regardless of nationality.

# OfS funding powers

- We distribute government funding to providers
  - we do not fund students
  - we fund higher education activity at providers registered in the **Approved (fee cap)** category of the OfS Register
  - our allocations supplement the funds providers receive from student tuition fees
- Various criteria apply e.g. courses must meet our definition of higher education
- Financial year 2021-22:
  - total funding amounts to almost £1.5 billion
  - distributed to more than 300 providers in England.



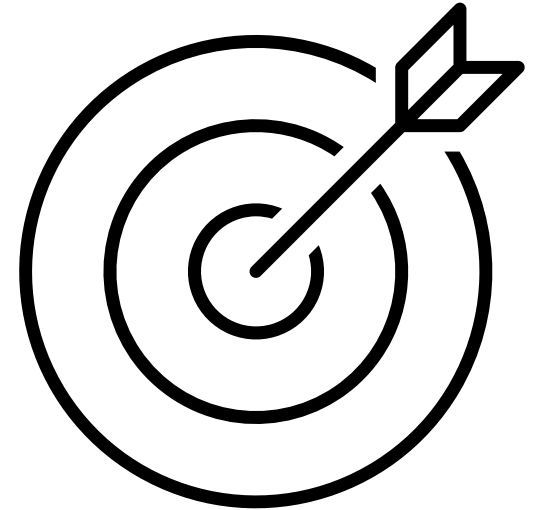


# OfS funding objectives

“Our funding helps to ensure the availability of high-quality, cost-effective higher education across the country. We promote quality of provision, and greater choice and opportunities for students, by investing in:

- high-cost subjects at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including medicine, science, engineering and agriculture, and strategically important and vulnerable subjects
- world-leading specialist providers
- part-time provision and other flexible modes of delivery.”

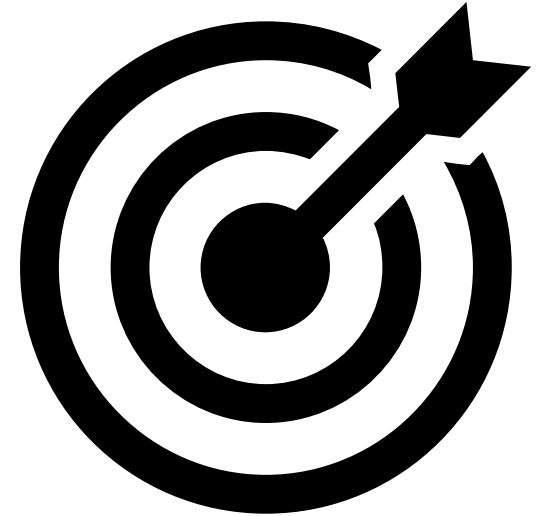
‘Guide to funding 2021-22’



# OfS funding objectives

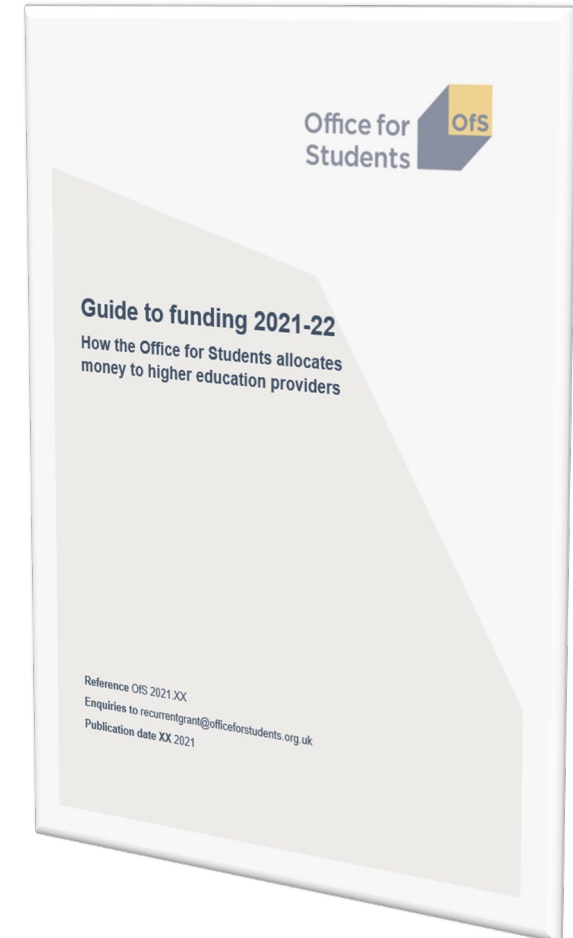
“We want students from underrepresented groups and those with disabilities not only to access higher education, but also to achieve successful outcomes, including progression to postgraduate study.”

‘Guide to funding 2021-22’



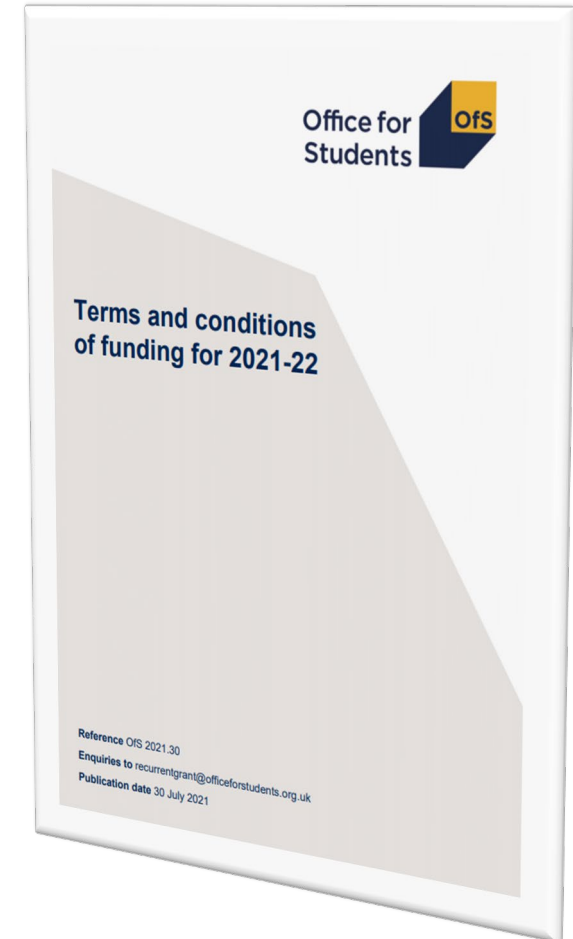
# OfS funding model

- Mostly allocated by formula
- Main exceptions being:
  - Capital funding – different in 2021-22
    - small formula-based allocation
    - remainder via bidding exercise
  - Challenge competitions
  - Specialist funding – consultation pending
- Provider autonomy
  - terms and conditions apply (more on this in a moment)
- Guide to funding - available from our website:
  - search for 'guide to funding'.



# OfS funding terms and conditions

- Providers largely have autonomy on how they spend allocations (in terms of scope under HERA)
- But terms and conditions apply:
  - see OfS 2021.30 published on our website
- Some funds are earmarked for particular purposes e.g.:
  - capital funding
  - student premium funding
  - hardship funding
  - very high-cost STEM subjects
  - funds allocated via Challenge competitions.



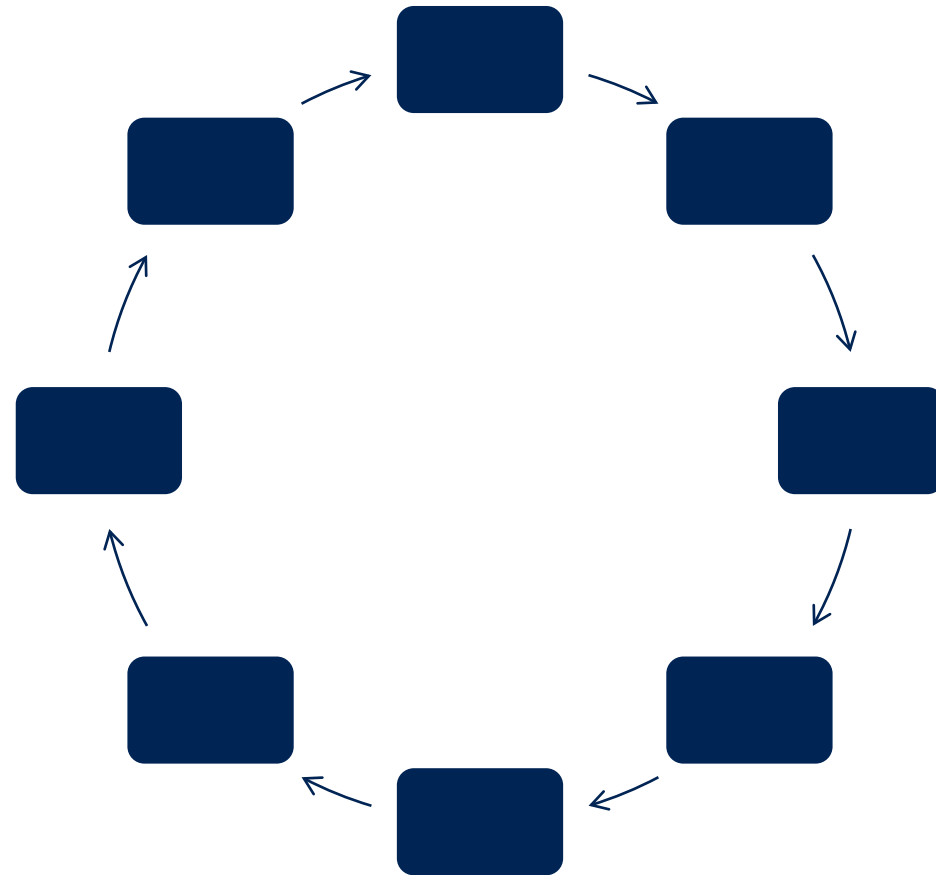
# Any questions?

Please use the Q&A box



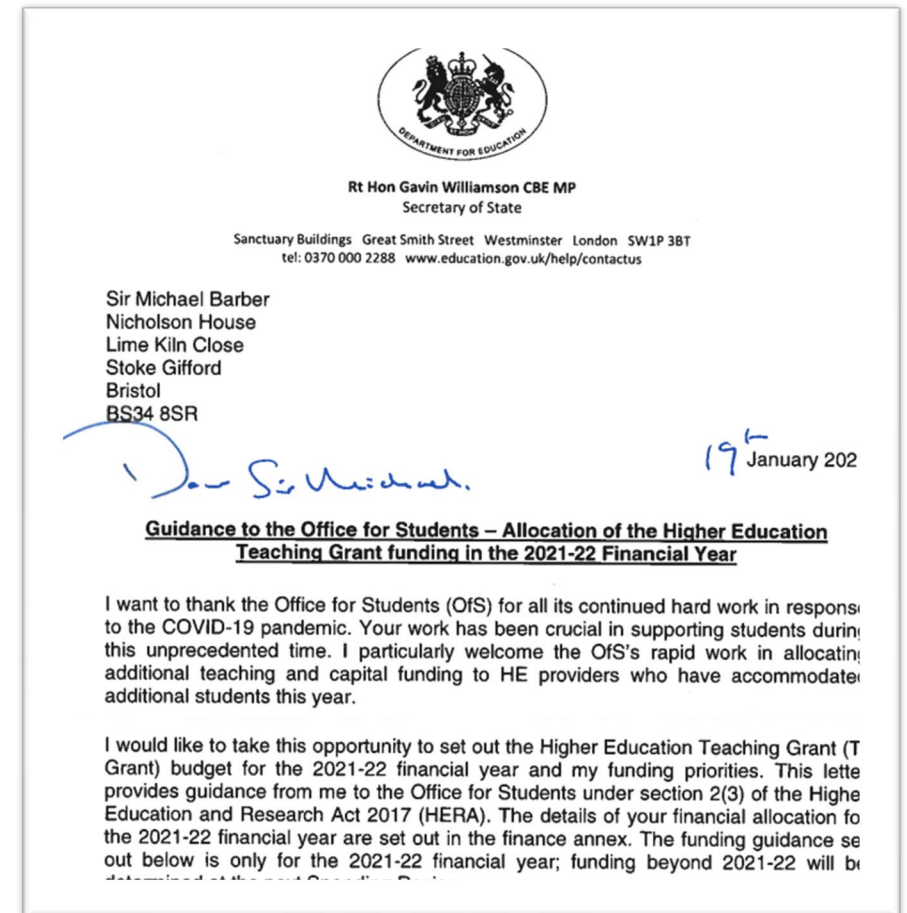
# The funding cycle

- Where do you start?



# OfS funds

- Allocated annually in a **statutory guidance letter** from the Secretary of State for Education
  - [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/regulation/guidance-from-government/](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/regulation/guidance-from-government/)
- This details allocations for
  - recurrent funding
  - capital funding
- Contains **guidance** which the OfS must have regard to
- Nowadays, usually sent to the OfS at the start of the **calendar** year.



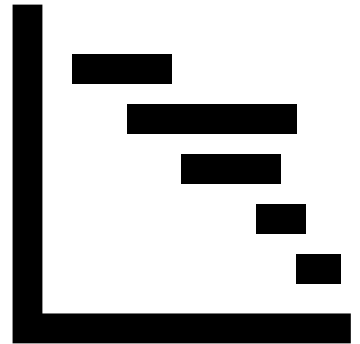
# Capital funding

- In the past, determined formulaically
- For 2021-22, DfE guidance letter specified a bidding exercise
- Spring 2021: consultation with the sector on changes to capital funding method
- Method approved by the OfS board:
  - small formula-based allocation for eligible providers
  - bidding process – autumn 2021
- Note:
  - Capital funding is allocated on a financial year basis i.e. April - March

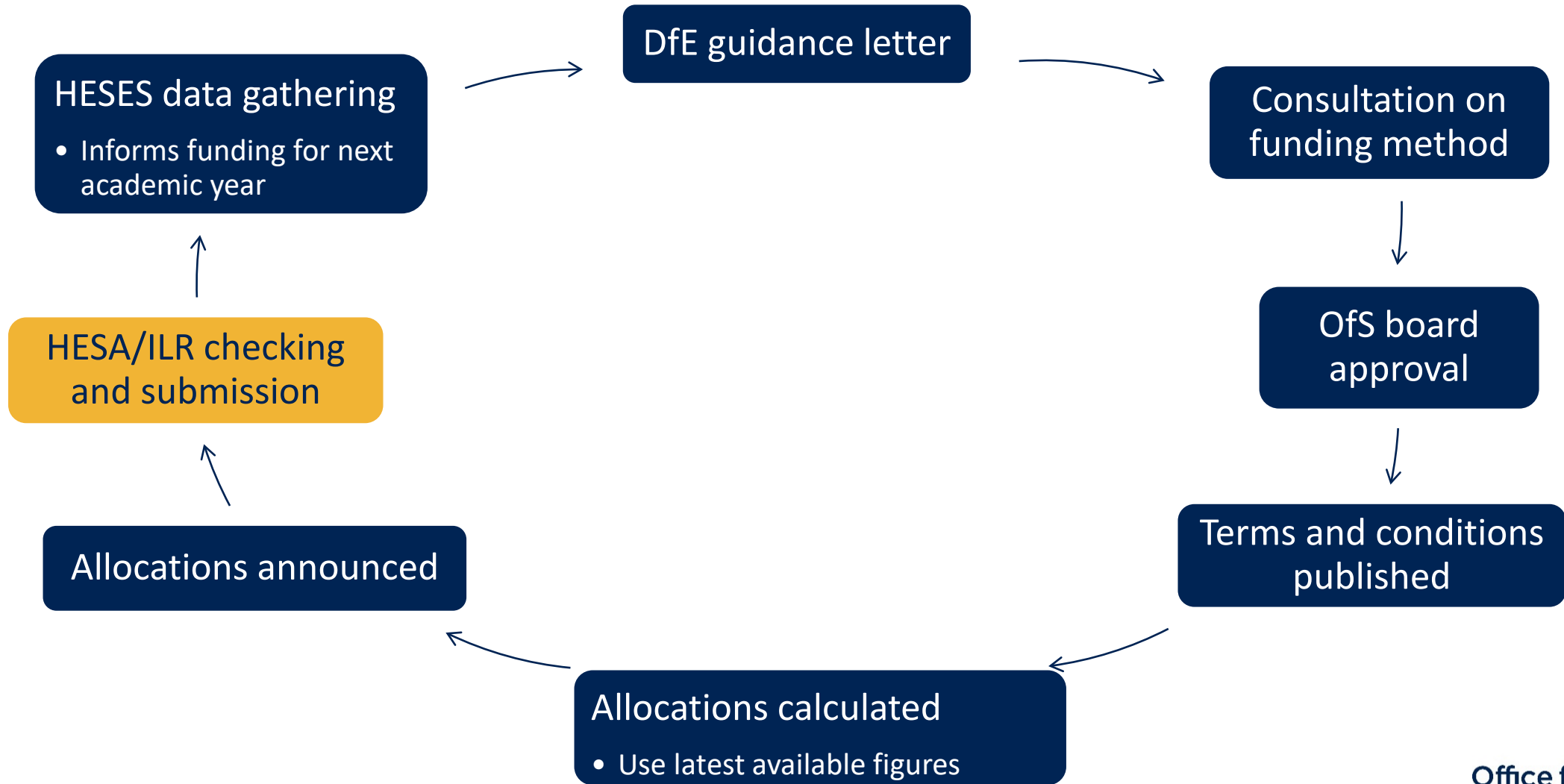


# Recurrent funding

- Secretary of State's letter:
  - details funds available
  - may have guidance on policy which the OfS must have regard to
- Consultation on proposed changes to funding method
- The OfS board takes decision on funding method
  - 2021-22: DfE made certain statutory conditions of grant under HERA
- Terms and conditions published
- Calculation of grant allocations using **latest available** student numbers
- Initial recurrent allocations for 2021-22 academic year announced.

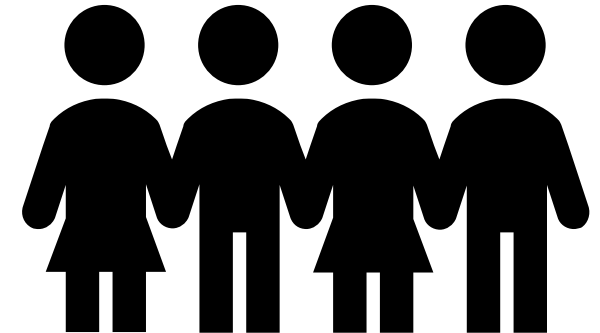


# Recurrent funding cycle – where we are now



# OfS people – the funding team

- Administer the funding round – more on this in a moment
- Advise OfS senior management and directors on formulation of funding policy
- Liaise with our counterparts at
  - Department for Education (DfE)
  - Other bodies with funding interests e.g:
    - Health Education England
    - Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
    - Medical and dental councils
  - JISC
  - Research England.

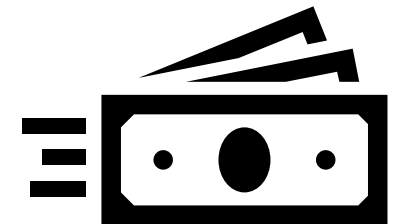
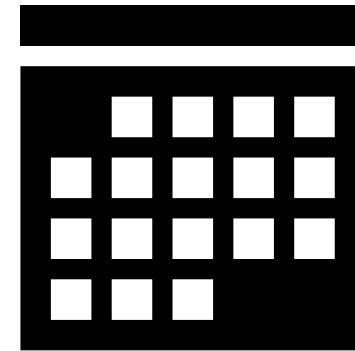


# OfS funding team – administering the funding round

- Administer the funding round – determine amounts to be allocated to providers
  - Recurrent funding
    - count students studying at higher education providers (HESES)
    - apply formulae to allocate funds to those providers based on the count
  - Capital funding
    - calculate formula-based allocations
    - evaluate capital bids and allocate funds
  - Other funding streams e.g:
    - Challenge competitions – usually bidding exercises for themed projects
    - Specialist institutions.

# OfS people – the finance team

- Administering the scheduling and payment of funds to providers
- Do a lot of their work through the OfS portal:
  - <https://extranet.officeforstudents.org.uk/grantreport>
- Contact the finance team:
  - [generalfinancequeries@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:generalfinancequeries@officeforstudents.org.uk)



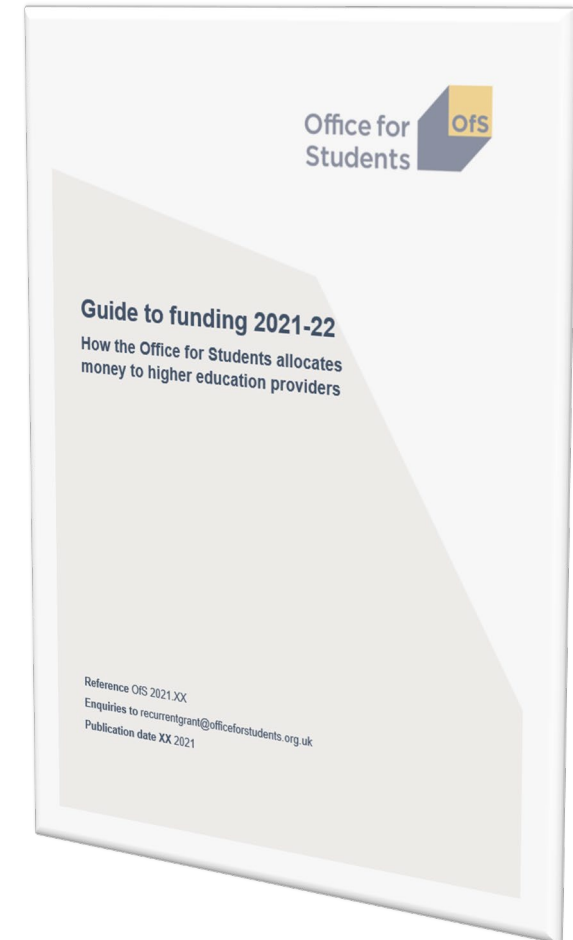
# OfS funding – further reading

[www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/funding-for-providers/](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/funding-for-providers/)

The screenshot shows the Office for Students website. At the top left is the logo 'Office for Students ofS'. To the right are links for 'Contact us', 'About', and 'Deadlines', along with a search bar labeled 'Search site'. A dark blue navigation bar contains links for 'Home', 'Advice and guidance', 'For students', 'News, blog and events', 'Publications', 'Data and analysis', and 'Get involved'. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Advice and guidance > Funding for providers'. The main content area features a large heading 'Funding for providers' with a sub-heading 'Funding announcements and opportunities for higher education providers.' To the right is an image of a wooden house, stacks of coins, and small green plants growing from the coins. Below this is a section titled 'In this section' with three white boxes: 'Annual funding' (Annual grant funding allocations), 'Health education funding' (Funding for health higher education courses), and 'OfS funding competitions' (Information on current and previous funding competitions, including Challenge Competitions).

# OfS funding – best overview

- Guide to funding - available from our website:
  - search for 'Guide to funding'



# Any questions?

Please use the Q&A box



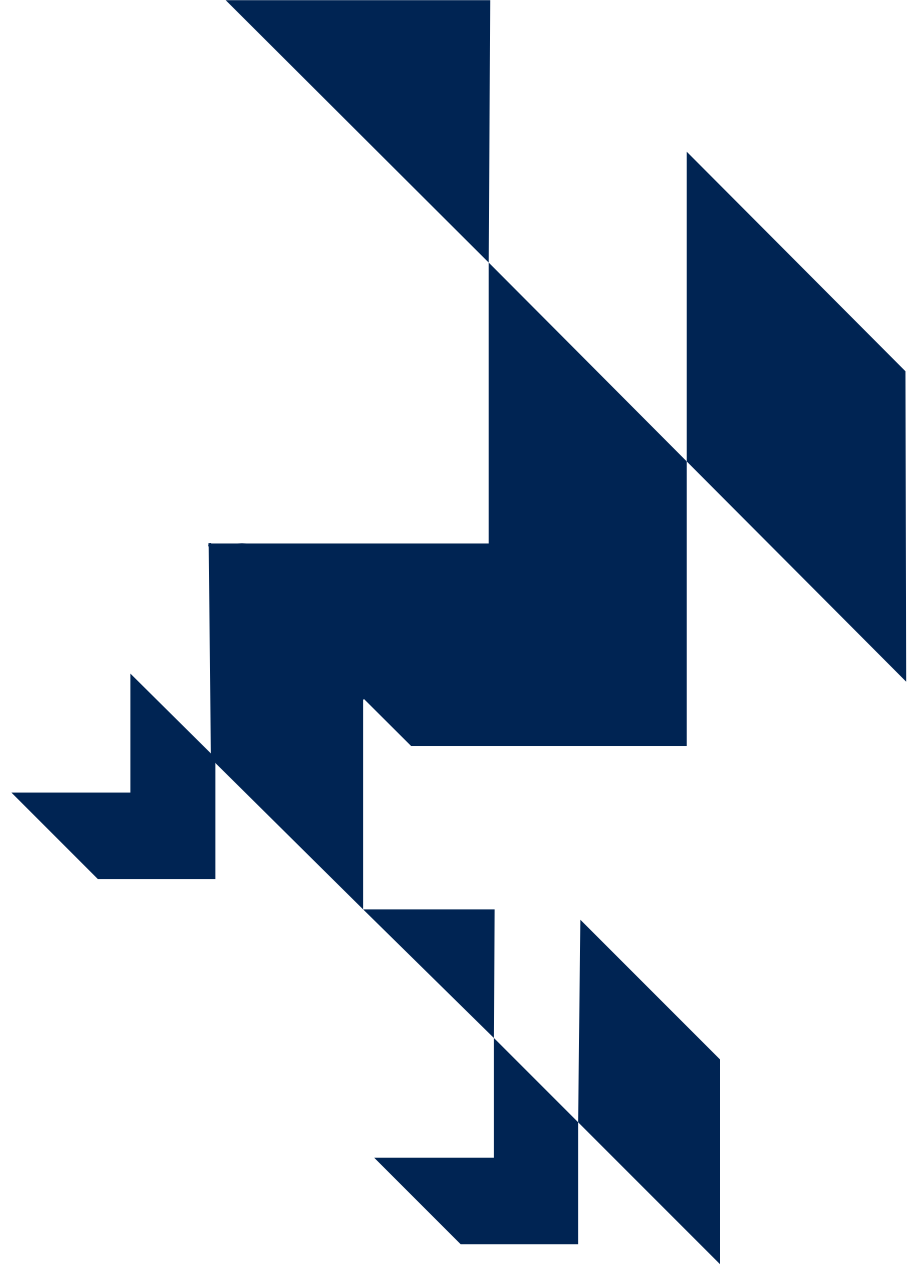


# Recap

- Who the OfS are
- What we do and why
- Funding
  - purpose
  - types
    - recurrent
    - capital
  - how we do it: funding cycle
  - OfS people
  - where to find more information.



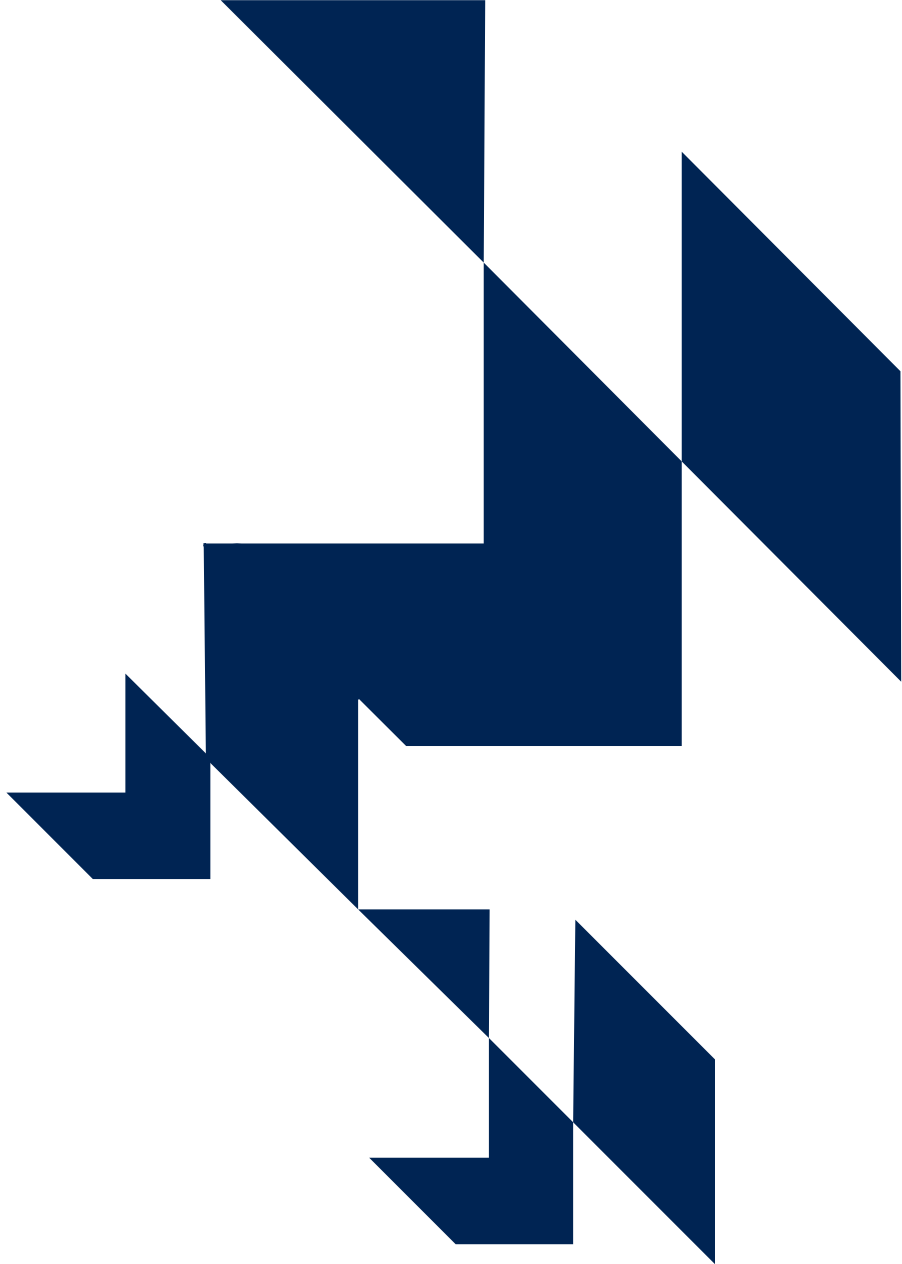
# **Student data and funding**



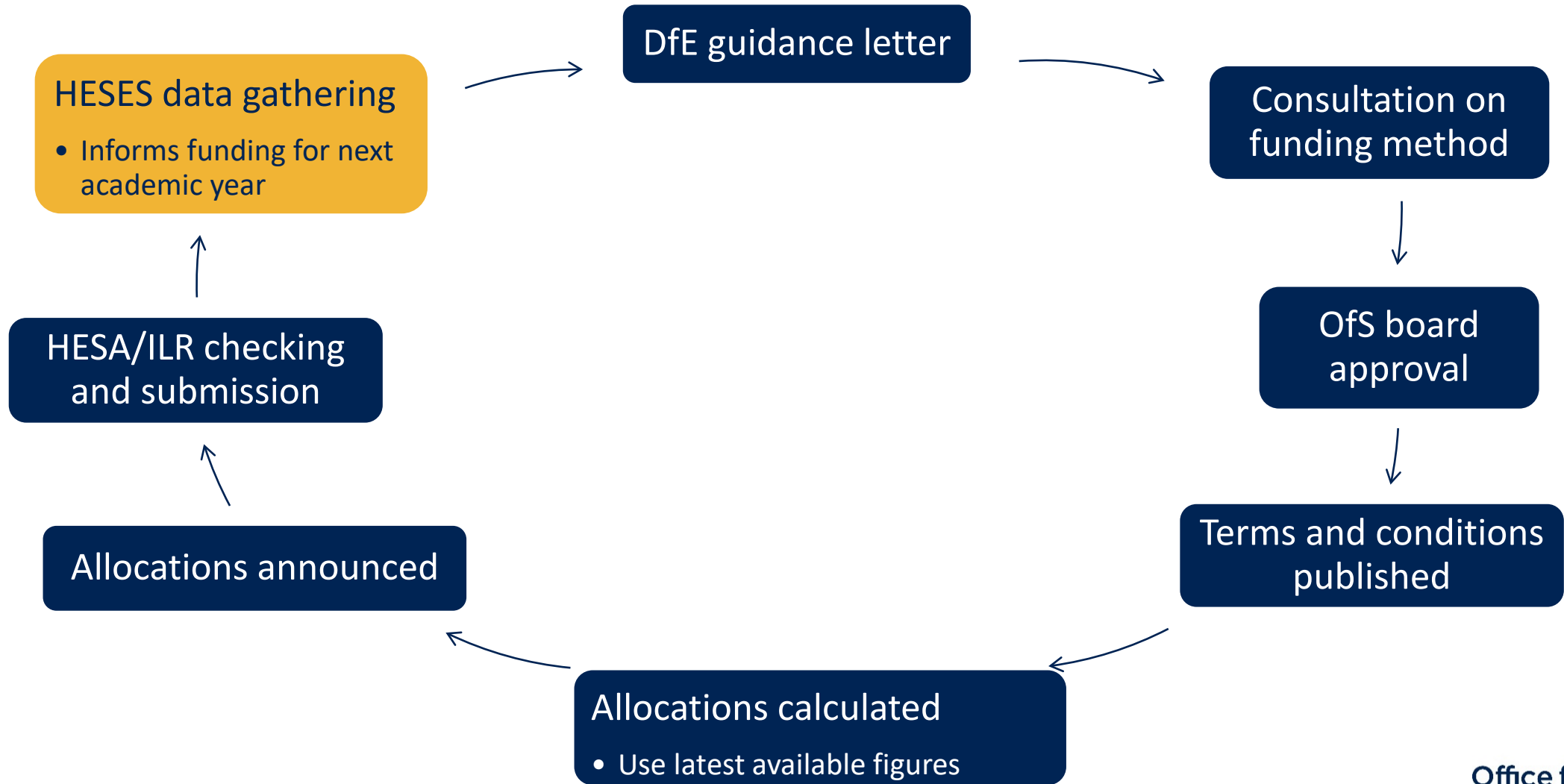
# Student data and funding – setting the scene

- Grants are formulaic and informed by student data
  - Important to get the most accurate picture of your provision
- We fund teaching activity by using student data as a proxy measure
- Student data used to inform funding allocations:
  - **Aggregate** – HESES data returns (also HESF in some cases)
  - **Individualised** – ILR or HESA student records  
(ILR: Individualised Learner Record    HESA: Higher Education Statistics Agency)
- This student data is then used in our formula funding allocations for the next academic year (in this case, 2022-23)
- Further detail and figures in the **OfS Guide to funding**

**HESES21**



# Recurrent funding cycle



# Who completes what?

- **HESES** - Higher Education Students Early Statistics survey:
  - Completed by higher education providers:
    - **on the OfS Register** (or applying to be registered)
    - in the **Approved (fee cap)** category
    - have students registered with them for the **current academic year** (2021-22)
- **HESF** - Higher Education Students Forecast survey:
  - Same criteria as for HESES except for those that:
    - have no students in the current academic year
    - expect to teach students in the **following** academic year (2022-23)
- Providers only complete one of these surveys for any one academic year.

# HEIFES

- Higher Education in Further Education Students (HEIFES)
  - Old return previously completed by further education and sixth form colleges and academies – now merged in to HESES.

# HESES recap

- **HESES**: Higher Education Students Early Statistics - an annual data return to the OfS
- Gives us an early indication of higher education students at a provider in the **current** academic year (2021-22)
- Used to inform allocation of funds for the **following** academic year (2022-23).





# The HESES workbook and how to get it



## Welcome to the OfS portal

To access the portal, you will need an account. If you were previously a user of the HEFCE extranet, you will already have an account and can use your existing login details. If you were not, you will need to [create an account](#) using the access key which was sent to you by post or email.

For more information about how we treat the information provided to OfS, and to view the terms and conditions of use, please see our [privacy policy](#).

This site uses cookies, please see our [privacy policy](#) for more information.

### Login

Email

Password

Login

[Forgotten password?](#)

Have an access key but don't have an account? [Create an account](#)

Having problems? Contact [portal@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:portal@officeforstudents.org.uk) providing details.

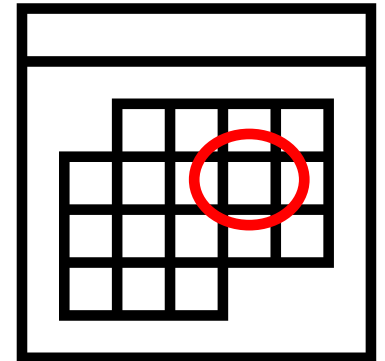
- The HESES survey is a Microsoft Excel Workbook
- **Available late October** from the OfS portal - we will email providers when it's ready
- **Check your portal access** with your local portal administrator
  - See our video about the portal at [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses)
- See our later webinar on submission, verification and sign-off of HESES21.

# Completing HESES21

- What you need:
  - an understanding of the data you are being asked for i.e. HESES definitions
  - to identify and count students in these categories
  - how to submit your workbook, get it verified and then signed off
- Reflected in the forthcoming webinars:
  - 22 September: Categorising your students and understanding important definitions
  - 27 September: Identifying and counting students to be included in HESES21
  - 29 September: Submitting and verifying your HESES21 return.

# HESES21 important dates

- Different for each type of provider:
  - further education and sixth form colleges and academies (FECs)
  - all other providers
- **Census date**
  - FECs: 1 November 2021
  - all others: 1 December 2021
- **Submission deadline** - a valid HESES21 workbook must be submitted through the OfS portal by **1200** on the submission deadline:
  - FECs: 11 November 2021
  - all others: 9 December 2021.



# HESES21 - data verification and sign-off

- Data verification - webinar about this on 29 September
  - runs from submission deadline to sign-off deadline
  - dialogue to ensure that we have the best possible picture of your provision
  - any changes to your submission needed can be made in this time
- **Sign-off deadline** (all providers)
  - 1 February 2022

# Where can I find more information?

- **[www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses)** for information and resources:
  - **HESES guidance** document: [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/heses21](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/heses21)
  - **Completing the HESES21 workbook** document
  - links to our YouTube videos
  - details and recordings of HESES webinars
  - training materials e.g. model workbook, webinar slides
  - frequently asked questions
- You can always contact the HESES team at the OfS:
  - **[heses@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:heses@officeforstudents.org.uk)**.



# Any questions?

Please use the Q&A box



Office for  
Students

The logo for the Office for Students, featuring a dark blue square with a yellow square in the top right corner containing the letters 'OfS' in white.

OfS

# Thank you for listening

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