

To interested parties

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Open letter consultation: proposed new name for City, University of London

City, University of London has applied to the Office for Students (OfS) to change its name to ‘City St George’s, University of London’ upon completion of its proposed merger with St George’s, University of London. It is proposed that this merger will take place on 1 August 2024. This open letter invites views on whether the proposed new name is, or has the potential to be, confusing or misleading.

The OfS has the power to approve the use of the word ‘university’ in a registered higher education provider’s name under section 77 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 and section 39 of the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998.¹

The OfS has published guidance for registered higher education providers that wish to use either ‘university’ or ‘university college’ as part of their name (‘university title’ or ‘university college title’).² In that guidance, the OfS states that it will consult on a provider’s proposed new name and assess the extent to which the proposed name is confusing or misleading.

City, University of London (<https://www.city.ac.uk/>) is an OfS-registered higher education provider.³ In 1966, City, University of London was created by Royal Charter and received the power to award its own degrees. In 2016, it joined the University of London federation as a constituent member and changed its name to ‘City, University of London’. It now proposes to change its name to ‘City

¹ See: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/13/section/77> and <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/30/section/39>.

² ‘Regulatory advice 13: How to apply for university college and university title’ (OfS 2019.08). Available at: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/regulatory-advice-13-how-to-apply-for-university-college-and-university-title/.

³ See: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/.

St George's, University of London' upon completion of its proposed merger with St George's, University of London.

Professor Sir Anthony Finkelstein, President, City, University of London, has provided the following statement, which is not verified by the OfS, in relation to the proposed new name:

'City, University of London (City) and St George's, University of London (SGUL) will merge on 1st August 2024. We will create one single, combined institution which will span London from North to South and is projected to educate more than 26,000 students. The proposed name, City St George's, University of London, is chosen to reflect the proud and long histories and positives of our two legacy institutions, and the mutually beneficial and exciting opportunity the merger offers both institutions, while conveying a strong single identity. The name reflects our continued membership of the University of London. Feedback on the name has been gathered from internal and external stakeholder groups, including staff, current students and alumni at each institution, plus prospective applicants. This feedback has reflected the importance of retaining both names while signalling partnership.'

The purpose of this open letter is to consult on whether City, University of London's proposed name 'City St George's, University of London' is, or may be, confusing or misleading.

We are inviting views on the following questions:

1. Considering City, University of London's proposed new name of 'City St George's, University of London' in your view is it, or does it have the potential to be, confusing or misleading?
2. Please explain why you think this and provide any evidence to support your view.

Who should respond to this consultation?

We welcome responses from anyone with an interest in the proposed new name for City, University of London.

We are particularly (but not only) interested in hearing from:

- existing or potential future students at both City, University of London and St George's, University of London
- graduates and alumni of both universities mentioned above
- employees or former employees of both universities
- other providers of education with a similar geography or based in the same geographic area
- professional organisations and local employer groups that work with the universities
- local, regional, or other bodies with similar names to the proposed name 'City St George's, University of London'

- emergency services local to both universities
- higher education membership groups.

How to respond

The consultation closes at **midday on Friday 24 May**.

Please submit your response by completing the **online form** at:
<https://survey.officeforstudents.org.uk/s/city-university-of-london-name/>

If you require this document or the online form in an alternative format, need assistance with the online form, or have questions about this consultation, please contact us on 0117 931 7305 or at regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk.

How we will treat your response

The OfS will process any personal data received in accordance with all applicable data protection laws (see our full privacy policy).⁴ Further information is provided within the survey.

In performing our functions, we may need to disclose or publish information about you, or provide or disclose it to other organisations for the purposes of their functions. Information (including personal data) may also need to be disclosed in accordance with UK legislation (such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Data Protection Act 2018, and Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

Yours sincerely

Jean Arnold

Deputy Director of Quality

⁴ See: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/ofs-privacy/.