

Office for Students
Finlaison House
15 – 17 Furnival Street
LONDON
EC4A 1AB

Response submitted online
<https://bit.ly/2lQofFp>

3 September 2019

Dear Office for Students,

Please find below our response to the survey: 'How should the Office for Students engage students in its work?'

EAUC – The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education:

Response on behalf of our Members (United Kingdom and Ireland)

About the EAUC

Our passion is to create a world with sustainability at its heart. That's our vision. We exist to lead and empower the post-16 education sector to make sustainability 'just good business'.

The membership of the EAUC comprises higher and further educational institutions, with a combined budget of some £25 billion, responsible for educating over 2 million students supported by half a million staff.

We have regional and country chapters, with member institutions connected deeply with business, industry, health and civic bodies at local levels, with reach internationally via their research, innovation and student mobility.

We believe

- That UK and Irish education should be a global leader in sustainability
- That educational institutions have a responsibility as anchors in their communities to be agents of change
- That education has a unique opportunity to transform lives and communities
- That education is at the heart of global sustainability
- That every student should have access to sustainability education
- That education should reflect best practice in operational sustainability
- In being flexible and adaptable to find solutions for a resilient future
- In the value of international collaboration

Our values

- Pioneering - driving sustainability through innovation
- Independence - our own unique voice
- Collaboration - together we go further
- Role Model - leading by example
- Empowering - supporting and inspiring our members

Response to the survey:

Q. Of the following statements, which best represents your views?

A. All students should know about the OfS.

Q. How should the OfS involve students in how it regulates? Please rank the options.

A.

1. Talking to students on the ground while visiting universities/colleges.
2. By collecting data on student opinions e.g. through surveying, polling, online webinars, social media, to inform work happening across the OfS.
3. By giving briefings to student representatives across key policy areas.
4. By hiring students/recent graduates to work on student facing policy areas.
5. The OfS should engage students directly

Q. Why did you rank the engagement activities in question 8 the way you did? Knowing why you ranked the way you did will help the OfS to decide what type of engagement it should prioritise in its approach to student engagement.

A. Talking to students on the ground is the very best engagement activity as it guarantees direct conversations with a broad range of students, but we recognise realistically this will be difficult at scale, and therefore engagement through surveys and Students' Unions is probably the most accessible route. Every effort should be made to prioritise direct conversation though.

Q. Is there anything else that the OfS should do to engage students?

A. OfS should ensure it is reaching a more diverse and wider breadth of students than it currently does. It is easy to engage with the engaged, but more needs to be done to reach the disengaged. Those that have mental health struggles at university, those at risk of dropping out, those from disadvantaged backgrounds, and those that are put off going to university for various reasons.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Patton, CEO, EAUC