



# Academic Governance & Regulations Framework

S.No.	Section / Provision	BNU	ATHE	Oakwood	Notes	OfS & BNU Compliance Mapping
<b>1</b>	<b>PART 1 — FRAMEWORK FOUNDATIONS</b>					
1.1	Objective and status of this framework	✓	✓	✓		Foundation for compliance with all OfS B conditions (B1–B5)
1.2	Scope of application	✓	✓	✓	All HE provision at Oakwood	Scope aligns with OfS B1.1 requirement: all HE provision in any manner or form
1.3	BNU and Awarding Organisations regulatory model	✓	✓	✓	Defines the dual-stream model	Dual-stream model allows differentiated compliance approaches for validated and AO provision
1.4	Relationship to OfS registration conditions and Qualification Framework	✓	✓	✓	OfS B1–B5; FHEQ; RQF	Direct reference to OfS B1–B5 and E conditions (E1, E6); FHEQ (B5 sector-recognised standards); RQF where applicable
1.5	Relationship to the 2024 UK Quality Code for Higher Education	✓	✓	✓		B1–B5: Quality Code principles underpin all conditions; explicit alignment demonstrates awareness
1.6	Associated documents	✓	✓	✓	Cross-reference to full policy library	Cross-references to policy library support evidencing compliance across all B conditions
<b>2</b>	<b>Governance and Academic Authority</b>					
2.1	Role of the Board of Governors	—	—	✓	OfS E1-3, E7-10	Governance oversight ensures accountability for B1–B5 compliance
2.2	Role of the Chief Executive Officer	—	—	✓	OfS E1-3, E7-11	Executive leadership for regulatory compliance and risk management
2.3	Academic governance body	—	—	✓	Academic Board	Academic governance body responsible for QA, standards (B4, B5) and student experience (B1, B2)
2.4	Delegated authority and decision-making	—	—	✓		Delegated authority structures support timely decision-making for B1–B4
2.5	Compliance monitoring: BNU stream	✓	—	✓	Joint BNU / Oakwood responsibility	BNU monitors compliance with B4 (assessment), B5 (standards); joint responsibility
2.6	Compliance monitoring: Awarding Organisations stream	—	✓	✓	Joint AO / Oakwood responsibility	AO monitors centre compliance with qualification specifications (B4, B5 equivalent)
2.7	Internal QA / Compliance stream	—	—	✓	Oakwood own internal QA mechanisms	Internal mechanisms for ongoing monitoring of B1 (experience), B2 (support), B3 (outcomes)
<b>3a</b>	<b>BNU Partnership — Regulatory Deferral and Delivery Responsibilities (Stream A)</b>					
3a.1	Terms & Conditions of the BNU validation arrangement	✓	—	✓		Partnership agreement defines responsibilities for delivering B1–B5 under BNU authority
3a.2	BNU as the governing regulatory authority for BNU courses	✓	—	—	All regulatory documents supplied by BNU	BNU supplies all regulatory documents governing B4 (assessment), B5 (standards)
3a.3	Delivery responsibilities under the BNU framework	—	—	✓	Operations Manual	Operations Manual details Oakwood delivery obligations for B1 (experience), B2 (resources)
3a.4	Staff access to BNU regulatory documents	✓	—	✓	BNU supplies; Oakwood disseminates	Staff access ensures consistent delivery of B1 (up-to-date, coherent, effectively delivered courses)
3a.5	Student communication of BNU regulatory arrangements	—	—	✓	Oakwood Communicates	B2 requirement: students receive clear information about regulations and support
3a.6	Liaison, reporting and escalation to BNU	✓	—	✓		Reporting mechanisms enable BNU oversight of B1–B5 compliance at partner level
<b>3b</b>	<b>Awarding Organisations — Centre Approval and Qualification Specifications (Stream B)</b>					
3b.1	Terms & Conditions of the Awarding Organisation approved centre	—	✓	✓		Centre approval ensures Oakwood meets AO requirements equivalent to B4, B5
3b.2	Awarding Organisation qualification specifications and their authority	—	✓	—	AO sets and owns specifications	AO specifications define standards (B5 equivalent) and assessment requirements (B4 equivalent)

3b.3	Oakswood obligations as an approved centre	—	✓	✓		Centre obligations include maintaining B1 (experience), B2 (resources, support)
3b.4	Awarding Organisation compliance monitoring and centre review	—	✓	✓		AO external verification monitors B4 (assessment credibility) and B5 (standards)
3b.5	Staff access to Awarding Organisation qualification specifications	—	✓	✓	AO supplies; Oakswood disseminates	Staff access ensures delivery aligns with qualification specifications (B4, B5)
3b.6	Student communication of Awarding Organisation regulatory arran.	—	—	✓	Oakswood Communicates	B2 requirement: students receive clear information about AO regulations and processes
<b>4</b>	<b>PART 2 — STUDENT-FACING OPERATIONS</b>					
4.1	Admissions requirements and process (BNU stream)	✓	—	✓	BNU entry requirements apply	B1, B2: Admissions process ensures students capable of benefiting from course
4.2	Student registration and enrolment (BNU stream)	✓	—	✓		B2, B3: Accurate registration data supports monitoring of student outcomes
4.3	Interruption of study and deferred entry (BNU stream)	✓	—	✓		B2, B3: Flexibility supports continuation and completion (B3 indicators)
4.4	Centre admissions requirements (AO stream)	—	✓	✓	AO centre requirements apply	B1, B2: Centre admissions ensure students appropriately prepared for course demands
4.5	English language assessment (AO stream)	—	✓	✓		B4.2d: Technical proficiency in English language assessed for all students (unless exempt)
4.6	Recognition of prior learning (RPL) (AO stream)	—	—	✓		B1, B2: RPL supports access and progression; must not compromise standards (B5)
<b>5</b>	<b>Programme Design, Approval and Review</b>					
5.1	Programme approval and revalidation (BNU stream)	✓	—	✓	BNU approval process; Oakswood participates via feedback	B1, B5: Programme approval ensures courses up-to-date, coherent, at correct level (FHEQ)
5.2	Annual monitoring obligations (BNU stream)	✓	—	✓		B1: Annual monitoring ensures courses remain current and effectively delivered
5.3	Student involvement in review (both streams)	—	—	✓	Both streams	B1, B2: Student voice in programme review (engagement requirement)
5.4	Delivery within qualification specifications (AO stream)	—	✓	✓	AO sets specification; Oakswood delivers	B1, B5: Delivery within specifications ensures standards appropriately reflect FHEQ/RQF
5.5	Internal review and reporting to Awarding Organisations (AO stream)	—	✓	✓		B1: Internal review monitors currency, coherence, effective delivery
5.6	Suspension and withdrawal of programmes	—	✓	✓	Requires notification to relevant body	B1, B3: Suspension/withdrawal managed to minimise impact on student outcomes
<b>6</b>	<b>Assessment Framework</b>					
6.1	BNU assessment regulations govern in full (BNU stream)	✓	—	—	BNU regulations take precedence	B4: Assessment regulations ensure credible, robust awards at correct threshold standards
6.2	Oakswood operational responsibilities (BNU stream)	—	—	✓	Invigilation, submission, marking, moderation	B4: Operational delivery (invigilation, marking, moderation) maintains assessment integrity
6.3	External examiner arrangements (BNU stream)	✓	—	✓	Appointed by BNU; Oakswood supports	B4, B5: External examiners assure threshold academic standards and credibility of awards
6.4	Oakswood assessment operations (AO stream)	—	✓	✓	Within AO qualification specifications	B4: Assessment operations ensure rigour, validity, reliability and fairness
6.5	Internal verification (AO stream)	—	—	✓	Oakswood own IV process	B4: Internal verification ensures consistent application of standards before external verification
6.6	Awarding Organisation external verification (AO stream)	—	✓	✓		B4, B5: AO external verification confirms threshold standards and award credibility
6.7	Academic language proficiency in assessment (both streams)	—	✓	✓	Both streams	B4.2d: MANDATORY — All students assessed for technical proficiency in English (unless exempt)

6.8	Reassessment and resit provisions	—	✓	✓	Per applicable stream regulations	B4: Reassessment provisions maintain standards whilst enabling student progression
<b>7</b>	<b>Academic Misconduct</b>					
7.1	BNU procedure governs; Oakswood obligations (BNU stream)	✓	—	✓	Oakswood detects, reports; BNU investigates at 3rd stage	B2, B4: BNU procedure governs detection, investigation and penalties for academic misconduct
7.2	Detection and prevention measures (BNU stream)	—	—	✓	Oakswood detects, and deploys intervention strategies	B2, B4: Detection/prevention protect assessment integrity and support student understanding
7.3	Investigation and penalties (BNU stream)	✓	—	✓	Oakswood applies BNU stipulated penalties, BNU quality assures	B4: Penalties proportionate; process protects credibility of awards
7.4	Oakswood academic misconduct procedure (AO stream)	—	—	✓	Within AO centre requirements	B2, B4: Oakswood procedure for AO stream ensures academic integrity and assessment credibility
7.5	Definition of academic misconduct (AO stream)	—	—	✓	Incl. plagiarism, contract cheating, essay mills, approved by AO	B2, B4: Clear definitions (plagiarism, contract cheating, essay mills) support student understanding
7.6	Detection and prevention measures (AO stream)	—	✓	✓		B2, B4: Detection/prevention mandatory under OfS requirements; protects award credibility
7.7	Investigation and penalties (AO stream)	—	✓	✓	Oakswood investigates; AO reviews	B4: Investigation and penalties maintain standards and assessment integrity
<b>8</b>	<b>Extenuating Circumstances</b>					
8.1	BNU procedure governs; Oakswood obligations (BNU stream)	✓	—	✓	Oakswood facilitates student submissions and paperwork	B2, B4: BNU procedure ensures fair treatment of students facing extenuating circumstances
8.2	Oakswood extenuating circumstances procedure (AO stream)	—	✓	✓		B2, B4: EC process balances compassion with maintenance of academic standards
8.3	Eligible and ineligible circumstances (AO stream)	—	✓	✓		B2: Clear criteria support fair, consistent decision-making
8.4	Submission process, deadlines and evidence (AO stream)	—	—	✓		B2: Accessible process with clear deadlines; evidential requirements balance rigour with sensitivity
8.5	Outcomes and interface with reasonable adjustments (both stream)	—	✓	✓	Equality Act 2010	B2: Reasonable adjustments under Equality Act 2010; interface with EC process; supports student success
<b>9</b>	<b>Student Progression and Awards</b>					
9.1	BNU progression and award regulations govern in full (BNU stream)	✓	—	—	BNU regulations take precedence	B4, B5: BNU progression/award regulations ensure awards credible and at correct threshold standards
9.2	BNU awards the degree; Oakswood record-keeping obligations (BNU stream)	✓	—	✓	Degree certificate issued by BNU	B4, B5: Record-keeping supports award integrity and student outcome monitoring
9.3	Awarding Organisation qualification rules govern credit and progression (AO stream)	—	✓	—	AO qualification specifications apply	B4, B5: AO qualification rules define credit, progression aligned to RQF/FHEQ where applicable
9.4	Awarding Organisation awards the certificate; Oakswood record-keeping obligations (AO stream)	—	✓	✓	Certificate issued by AO	B4, B5: Award certification by AO; records support outcome tracking (B3)
9.5	Exit awards and partial completion	—	✓	✓	Per applicable stream regulations	B4, B5: Exit awards maintain threshold standards and provide credit for partial achievement
<b>10</b>	<b>Complaints and Appeals</b>					
10.1	BNU academic appeals procedure governs (BNU stream)	✓	—	—	BNU procedure takes precedence	B2: BNU appeals process ensures fair treatment and procedural integrity
10.2	Oakswood role in supporting students through BNU process (BNU stream)	—	—	✓		B2: Oakswood support ensures students understand rights and process; access to independent review
10.3	Oakswood first-stage appeals process (AO stream)	—	—	✓		B2: First-stage process internal to Oakswood; procedural fairness and natural justice
10.4	Grounds, procedure and timescales (AO stream)	—	—	✓		B2: Clear grounds (procedure, evidence, ECs) and timescales ensure accessible, fair process
10.5	Escalation route (AO stream)	—	✓	✓		B2: Escalation to AO provides independent oversight; OIA access for registered providers

10.6	Relationship between academic appeals and the Student Complaints Policy	—	—	✓	Academic appeals and student complaints are distinct processes; students must be directed to the correct procedure at point of contact	B2: Academic appeals address academic judgement and procedural irregularity only; all other concerns including complaints about services, support, staff conduct or facilities are handled exclusively under the Student Complaints Policy
10.7	Student Complaints Policy: standalone policy reference	—	—	✓	Full procedure set out in Student Complaints Policy; this framework cross references that policy only and does not replicate its provisions	B2: Student Complaints Policy governs all stages of complaint, informal resolution, formal investigation, review and OIA escalation; Completion of Procedures letter issued at closure of internal process. Validating/Awarding Body involvement at Stage 3 (Review) of Procedure as requisite.
10.8	Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) access	—	—	✓	External independent review	B2: Completion of Procedures letter issued at exhaustion of internal process; students have 12 months from date of letter to submit complaint to OIA; OIA membership mandatory for OfS-registered providers
<b>11</b>	<b>PART 3 — FRAMEWORK GOVERNANCE</b>					
11.1	Annual review cycle and approval	—	—	✓	Board of Governors approval	B1–B5: Annual review ensures framework remains current and compliant with regulatory changes
11.2	Monitoring BNU regulatory updates and communicating changes	✓	—	✓		B1, B4, B5: Monitoring BNU updates ensures continued compliance with partner obligations
11.3	Monitoring Awarding Organisation specification updates and compliance	—	✓	✓		B1, B4, B5: Monitoring AO updates ensures continued centre compliance
11.4	Version control and document history	—	—	✓		Good practice: version control supports audit trail, transparency and accountability
11.5	Freedom of Speech obligations (Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023)			✓	OfS condition E1; applies to all HE provision	E1: Oakswood must take reasonably practicable steps to secure freedom of speech; policy and governance arrangements maintained and reviewed annually
<b>12</b>	<b>Student Support, Resources and Engagement</b>					
12.1	Physical and digital learning resources	✓	✓	✓	BNU/AO may specify minimum resource standards	B2.3a: Learning resources (library, equipment, digital) sufficient for high-quality experience
12.1.1	Library resources and study materials	—	—	✓		B2.3a: Physical resources support effective learning; BNU Partner Quality Framework standards
12.1.2	Laboratory, workshop and specialist facilities	—	—	✓		B2.3a: Specialist facilities appropriate to subject and level; safe, fit for purpose
12.1.3	Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and digital infrastructure	—	—	✓		B2.3a: VLE accessible, reliable, up-to-date; supports blended and distance learning
12.1.4	Technical support and IT services	—	—	✓		B2.3a: Technical support available; responsive to student needs; digital skills development
12.1.5	Study spaces and learning environment	—	—	✓		B2.3a: Adequate study spaces; conducive to learning; accessible; safe
12.2	Academic, personal and wellbeing support provision	✓	✓	✓	Personal Tutoring Policy operational from September 2026	B2.3b: CORE PROVISION — Academic, personal and wellbeing support for ALL students
12.2.1	Personal Tutoring system and universal allocation	—	—	✓	All students allocated Personal Tutor annually	B2.3b: Universal Personal Tutor allocation supports retention, progression and student success (BNU Partner requirement)
12.2.2	Student engagement monitoring framework (4 key metrics)	—	—	✓	Attendance, VLE, Classroom, Assessment metrics	B2.3b + B3: Four-metric monitoring (Attendance, VLE, Classroom, Assessment) enables early identification of at-risk students
12.2.3	Risk identification and RAG rating system	—	—	✓	Red/Amber/Green ratings; risk tracker maintained by Registry	B2.3b + B3: RAG system (Red/Amber/Green) provides systematic risk identification; prioritises intervention resources
12.2.4	Intervention strategy and commitment meetings	—	—	✓	Formal commitment meetings for at-risk students	B2.3b + B3: Commitment meetings = formal intervention for at-risk students; documented action plans; review cycles
12.2.5	Academic skills and learning development support	—	—	✓		B2.3b: Academic skills support available; study skills, writing, numeracy, research skills

12.2.6	Wellbeing, counselling and mental health services	—	—	✓		B2.3b: Wellbeing services accessible; counselling available; mental health awareness; signposting
12.2.7	Disability support and reasonable adjustments	—	—	✓	Interface with ECs and reasonable adjustments	B2.3b: Disability support; reasonable adjustments under Equality Act 2010; inclusive practice
12.3	Student engagement mechanisms and student voice	✓	✓	✓		B2.3c: Student engagement mechanisms embed student voice in quality assurance
12.3.1	Student representation and course committees	—	—	✓	Student rep on Academic Board and programme committees	B2.3c: Student representation on governance bodies; course committees; programme review
12.3.2	Student feedback mechanisms (surveys, evaluations)	—	—	✓		B2.3c: Regular feedback collected via module evaluations and institutional surveys; NSS participation where OfS student number thresholds are met
12.3.3	Student involvement in quality assurance and enhancement	—	—	✓		B2.3c: Student involvement in QA processes demonstrates commitment to partnership in learning
12.4	Staffing adequacy and development	✓	✓	✓		B2.3a: Adequate staffing; appropriately qualified; subject expertise; pedagogic competence
12.4.1	Staff-student ratios and teaching quality	—	—	✓	Monitored through programme review and student feedback	B2.3a: Staff-student ratios enable effective teaching, personal tutoring and academic support
12.4.2	Staff development and continuing professional development	—	—	✓		B2.3a: Staff development supports teaching quality; reflective practice; innovation
12.5	Digital infrastructure and accessibility	✓	✓	✓		B2.3a + Equality Act: Digital accessibility mandatory; WCAG 2.1 AA standards
12.5.1	Accessible digital platforms and assistive technologies	—	—	✓	VLE accessibility; assistive tech available	B2.3a: Assistive technologies available; screen readers, voice recognition, alternative formats
12.5.2	Online learning resources and remote access	—	—	✓		B2.3a: Remote access ensures equitable experience for distance, part-time and WBL students
<b>13</b>	<b>Student Outcomes Monitoring and Enhancement</b>					
13.1	Continuation, completion and progression data monitoring	✓	✓	✓	OfS B3 numerical thresholds monitored	B3.1: Continuation data monitored against OfS numerical thresholds; disaggregated by protected characteristics
13.2	Employment and further study outcomes tracking	✓	✓	✓	Graduate Outcomes survey	B3.2: Completion data tracked; employment/further study outcomes via Graduate Outcomes survey
13.3	Disaggregated data analysis by student characteristics	✓	✓	✓	APP targets and monitoring	B3.3: Disaggregated analysis identifies gaps for students from underrepresented groups; APP targets
13.3a	Access and Participation Plan (APP) — targets and monitoring	✓	✓	✓	OfS-approved APP; targets aligned to B3 indicators	B3, E: APP sets institutional targets for underrepresented groups; progress monitored annually; reported to Board of Governors
13.4	Intervention and enhancement plans	✓	✓	✓	Action plans where outcomes below threshold	B3.4: Evidence-based interventions where outcomes fall below thresholds; credible action plans; regular review
<b>14</b>	<b>Information for Students and Accessibility</b>					
14.1	Clear, accurate and timely information for students	✓	✓	✓	Handbooks, website, VLE, induction	B2.3c: Clear, accurate, accessible information provided to prospective and enrolled students
14.2	Publication of key regulations, policies and procedures	✓	✓	✓	Regulations published on website and VLE	B2.3c, E6: Regulations, policies, procedures published on website and VLE; student handbooks; induction; publication of key information forms part of OfS E6 Single Comprehensive Source of Information (SCSI) obligation
14.3	Inclusive practice and accessibility requirements	✓	✓	✓	Accessible course design; reasonable adjustments	B1, B2: Inclusive course design; accessible assessment; Universal Design for Learning principles; Equality Act 2010