

Student Protection Plan

Edge Hill University

UKPRN: 10007823

Legal address:

Edge Hill University, St Helens Road, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 4PQ

Contact point for enquiries about this student protection plan:

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1 Purpose of the Student Protection Plan

The purpose of the Student Protection Plan is to preserve the continuation and quality of study for all our students.

In the highly unlikely event that it is not possible to preserve the continuity of your studies, we have a 'Refund and Compensation Policy' which provides for refund of tuition fees, other relevant costs, and payment of compensation, as appropriate, to affected students.

Throughout this document we use the word 'course' to mean a programme of study leading to the award of a qualification.

2 Overall risk to continuity of your studies

The University has assessed the overall risk that we will be unable to preserve continuity of your studies as **LOW**.

3 How we have assessed the risks

The University has assessed the risks to continuation of your studies by using a common method of risk assessment which takes into account:

- the likelihood that a risk we have identified will occur; and
- the severity of the impact on students if it does occur.

We assess the overall level of a particular risk on the following scale:

LOW MODERATE HIGH EXTREME

If the University assesses any of the risks as *reasonably likely to occur*, then this Plan will include the steps we will take to reduce that risk and preserve the continuity of your studies.

None of the identified risks to which this Plan applies have been assessed as reasonably likely to occur aside from one exception to this which relates to the **MSci Nurse Paramedic Course**. As at 4 September 2025, there is an increased risk profile due to a very specific set of circumstances unique to this programme.

All potentially affected students have been contacted directly and appraised of the position and offered advice and support. The University will continue to keep students updated on developments, our response and the options available. A final decision on the matter will be confirmed by the relevant external regulator in the week commencing 8 September 2025. Further

information on this risk and the University's mitigating actions are included in section 4.7.

For any queries, MSci Nurse Paramedic students should contact:

AskNursingMidwifery@edgehill.ac.uk

This does not impact on the risk profile of any other course, all of which remain at low risk. The remainder of this Plan relate to all courses within the University with the exception of the MSci Nurse Paramedic Course.

4 The range of risks we have assessed.

We have assessed a range of possible risks to the continuation of your studies. We have taken into consideration how those risks may differ based on the individual needs of our students.

We acknowledge that the same risk, if it were to occur, could have a different impact on individual students depending on their needs, characteristics and personal circumstances.

For example, the risk of being unable to continue to deliver a course part-time might have a bigger impact on students with caring responsibilities as they may be unable to study full-time.

4.1 University closure

The risk we have assessed is whether the University, as a whole, is no longer able to operate, or will decide to cease to operate.

The risk that your University, as a whole, will no longer operate is **LOW**. It is **NOT AT ALL LIKELY** that your University will no longer operate. The reasons for our assessment are:

- The University's primary strategic aim is to remain a highly valued and financially sustainable organisation that provides an exceptional student learning and living experience.
- The University's core focus is to deliver an excellent student experience.
- We have Business Continuity Plans in place across the University to manage any risks to our normal operations and to manage any disruption in the event of an incident or emergency so we can resume teaching and assessment quickly.
- The University makes an annual financial return to the Office for Students (OfS) as part of the conditions of registration. The OfS have had no cause to raise concerns about the University's financial health.

This risk is not sufficiently likely to occur to require specific steps to be taken to reduce the risk, or to have a plan in place to protect continuity of your studies.

4.2 Awarding qualifications

The risk we have assessed is whether the University will lose its power to award degrees or that it will no longer be validated to run one or more of its degree courses.

We have assessed this risk as **LOW**.

It is **NOT AT ALL LIKELY** that your University will be unable to award degrees.

The reasons for our assessment are:

- The University has robust processes in place for approving, developing and assuring the quality of its courses.
- These processes are in our Quality Management Handbook and are aligned with the Office for Students' Conditions of Registration for Quality, Reliable Standards and Positive Outcomes, the national benchmark for academic standards.
- New academic staff receive an induction to the University's approach to, and systems for, academic quality and enhancement.
- In January 2023 the University was awarded a Silver rating in the Teaching Excellence Framework with a Gold rating for Student Experience and a Silver rating for Student Outcomes.
- The University's Governing Body endorsed the University's continued excellent academic quality and standards in receiving the annual report prepared by the Director of Governance and Assurance; and
- The University does not offer any courses which are subject to validation by an external organisation.

This risk is not sufficiently likely to occur to require specific steps to be taken to reduce the risk, or to have a plan in place to protect continuity of your studies.

4.3 Professionally accredited courses

General Provision (excluding Initial Teacher Education provision and the MSci Nurse Paramedic)

The risk under consideration is whether the University may lose accreditation for any of its programmes accredited by professional, statutory or regulatory bodies. For context, the University delivers programmes leading to professional recognition across a range of areas such as Qualified Teacher Status, Registered Nurse Status, and Social Work registration.

With the exception of the specific areas listed below (and those noted above as excluded), the University has assessed the current risk of losing professional accreditation across its portfolio of professionally accredited programmes as **low**.

It is **NOT REASONABLY LIKELY** that the University will lose professional accreditation.

The reasons for our assessment are as follows:

- The University has a strong track record of designing and delivering degree programmes that integrate academic study with professional competencies, leading to registered practitioner status.
- We ensure that sufficient numbers of appropriately qualified and specialist staff are in place.
- Robust academic quality assurance measures are embedded to ensure the University continues to meet all requirements for accreditation.
- The University undergoes regular external assessments by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies regarding the suitability of its provision. Other than the specific case relating to the MSci Nurse Paramedic programme, no issues have been raised. In other words, there are no known concerns regarding any of the University's other professionally accredited provision.
- The University maintains close and active relationships with professional bodies, monitoring required standards and adapting programmes of study to ensure ongoing compliance. The University can therefore confirm that there are no issues with any of its professionally accredited provision beyond the specific case of the MSci Nurse Paramedic programme, as any such concerns would be known to us.

Ofsted Initial Teacher Education Inspection Reports

We have assessed the risk to continuity of studies of an adverse Ofsted judgement.

If any part (or Phase) of the University's Initial Teacher Education provision were judged by Ofsted to be 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate', the Faculty of Education would have a defined period of time (usually a year) to address the identified issues and would then undergo re-inspection. Should such a situation occur, current students MAY be adversely affected by the risk to reputation, though this could be managed. Should the Faculty be unable to achieve an improved judgement in a subsequent inspection, there would be a period of teach-out of affected courses.

We have assessed the risk of this as **LOW/MODERATE** at the present time, which reflects the challenges presented by the implementation of a new Ofsted Framework, which requires (of all providers) significant changes to the curriculum offer, and development of the already demanding QA/compliance and partnership arrangements.

The reasons for our assessment are:

- Our Initial Teacher Education was judged by Ofsted to be Outstanding across all age phases in January 2024. The faculty has implemented, and continues to review and develop, a robust range of measures and strategies to ensure that the state of readiness for inspection is maintained to as high a level as possible. Edge Hill was successful in the DfE accreditation process which required all ITE providers to apply to continue delivering ITE from 2024 onwards.

MSci Nurse Paramedic

Based on the current set of circumstances (outlined on page 2) as at 4 September 2025 we have assessed the risk of being unable to preserve continuity of study on this course as **EXTREME**. We are working with individual students and have the following mitigations in place:

Risk	Mitigation
<p>Failure to maintain Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) approval and support for the MSci Nurse Paramedic course leading to risk that students will not be able to register with PSRB.</p>	<p>The University has sought to mitigate the risk of losing professional accreditation for the MSci Nurse Paramedic programme by engaging extensively and constructively with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), robustly presenting our case for the continuation of the dual award and seeking to address all identified areas of regulatory concern. Despite these efforts, the risk is now crystallising, and we have worked closely with both regulators to develop detailed contingency plans to ensure that every affected student has a clear, supported option to continue on an accredited programme in Nursing or Paramedic Practice.</p> <p>Options have now been confirmed by the NMC and HCPC for all students seeking a Nursing or Paramedic route.</p> <p>Given that the risk is materialising, even though a final decision has not yet been made, we are offering these contingency options to students now so that they can make informed plans for September. In the event that accreditation is not lost (to be confirmed in the week commencing 8 September), students will retain the option to revert to their original MSci Nurse Paramedic programme.</p> <p>As part of these measures, the University will meet individually with every affected student to understand their personal circumstances, preferred professional pathway, and any potential barriers, enabling us to tailor progression options and support accordingly. We will support students to progress to a suitable pathway either at Edge Hill University or, where preferred, at another provider offering Nursing or Paramedic programmes. We are not able to facilitate external</p>

	<p>transfers to the dual award, as Edge Hill was the sole provider of this qualification.</p> <p>Our approach combines individualised academic progression planning to secure the most appropriate route to qualification for each student; transparent and ongoing communication to explain available options; and tailored academic, pastoral, and wellbeing support provided through personal tutors, programme leaders, professional services, and the Edge Hill Students' Union.</p> <p>Where appropriate, financial redress will be provided in line with the University's Refund and Compensation Policy, ensuring that compensation is fair, proportionate, and reflective of the extent of individual impact. All actions will take full account of the diversity of our student body and will be responsive to the specific needs, characteristics, and personal circumstances of each student, with adjustments made where necessary to comply with our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and to ensure that mitigation measures are equitable, reasonable, and in the best interests of our students.</p>
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General Approach

Whilst the University has assessed the risk of loss of PSRB accreditation as *low* (aside from the specific areas listed above), we consider it appropriate to set out here our general approach to protecting students should the risk of accreditation loss begin to crystallise.

In the event that the risk of losing professional accreditation for any programme begins to crystallise, the University will:

- **Engage directly and constructively with the relevant professional, statutory or regulatory body:** presenting a robust case for the continuation of accreditation, responding promptly to concerns raised, and working to address all identified regulatory issues.
- **Develop detailed contingency plans in partnership with the regulator(s) as appropriate:** ensuring that every affected student has a clear, supported, and recognised progression route.
- **Confirm and communicate options at the earliest possible stage:** providing students with clarity to make informed decisions about their professional pathway, while retaining flexibility should accreditation ultimately be preserved.

- **Offer individual student consultations:** meeting with each affected student to understand personal circumstances, preferred professional routes, and potential barriers, and tailoring progression and support options accordingly.
- **Support internal and external progression:** enabling continuation at Edge Hill University wherever possible, or facilitating transfer to another provider where preferred, ensuring that all students can access a viable route to professional registration where practicable.
- **Maintain transparent and continuous communication:** keeping students fully informed of developments, options, and implications through regular updates, meetings and written guidance.
- **Provide tailored academic, pastoral, and wellbeing support:** drawing on personal tutors, programme leaders, professional services, and the Students' Union to ensure students are fully supported throughout the transition.
- **Ensure fair and proportionate financial redress:** applying the University's Refund and Compensation Policy where appropriate, with compensation reflective of individual impact.
- **Safeguard equity and inclusivity in all actions:** taking full account of the diversity of our student body, making adjustments where required under the Equality Act 2010, and ensuring that mitigation measures are reasonable, equitable, and in the best interests of students.

4.4 Availability of locations

The University delivers over 90% of its courses at its main campus in Ormskirk. We deliver a small number of courses in other places such as NHS Trusts and at our leased premises in Manchester and Alder Hey Hospital.

The risk we have assessed is whether any of the locations from which we deliver will no longer be available, will close, or will change.

We have assessed this risk as **LOW**.

This risk is **NOT REASONABLY LIKELY** to occur.

Our reasons for this assessment are:

- We have no plans to change or close locations.
- We either own or lease premises on a long-term lease.
- All our partner organisations are subject to legal agreements with the University to deliver courses at the specified location.

This risk is not sufficiently likely to occur to require specific steps to be taken to reduce the risk, or to have a plan in place to protect continuity of your studies.

4.5 Subject or department closure

The risk we have assessed is whether the University will no longer be able to deliver courses to students in any of our subject areas or departments.

We have assessed this risk as **LOW** because there are no plans to close any subjects or departments.

It is **NOT AT ALL LIKELY** that we will close a department or subject area.

This risk is not sufficiently likely to occur to require specific steps to be taken to reduce the risk, or to have a plan in place to protect continuity of your studies.

4.6 Course Closure

The risk we have assessed is whether the University is no longer able to deliver any of its courses to students. In particular, the University has considered whether there is a risk of course closures in the next three years.

We have assessed the risk of course closure impacting on the continuation of your studies as **LOW**, with the exception of the ***MSci Nurse Paramedic*** course, as above.

It is **NOT AT ALL LIKELY** that your course will be closed without you being able to complete your studies.

The reasons for our assessment are:

- When we make a decision to close a course the first step we take is to stop recruiting to it.
- We guarantee to teach you to the end of your course; this is sometimes called 'teach-out'; and
- Our robust quality assurance procedures ensure the quality of all our courses throughout the period of study, including any that are in 'teach-out.

The University has assessed that this risk is not sufficiently likely to occur to require specific steps to be taken to reduce the risk, or to have a plan in place to protect continuity of your studies.

4.7 Rare or niche courses

The University has considered whether it is the sole or a rare supplier of any of its courses. We have identified the following:

MSci Nurse Paramedic (sole regional supply)

As outlined in Section 4.3, we have assessed the risk of failure to preserve continuity of study for this programme as **Extreme**. The associated risks and mitigating actions are

set out in detail in Section 4.3.

4.8 Course Components

We have assessed the risk that the University is unable to deliver material components in one or more courses.

We have assessed this risk as **LOW**.

This risk is **NOT REASONABLY LIKELY** to occur.

The reasons for our assessment are:

- we incorporate assessment of sustainability and resilience of modules in our approval, monitoring and review processes; and
- we have an established bank of Associate Tutors and Visiting Lecturers who can provide additional support in the event of an unanticipated absence.

This risk is not sufficiently likely to occur to require specific steps to be taken to reduce the risk, or to have a plan in place to protect continuity of your studies.

4.9 Modes of Study

The risk we have assessed is whether the University will be unable to continue to deliver one or more modes of study to students.

We have assessed this risk as **LOW**.

This risk is **NOT AT ALL LIKELY** to occur.

The University offers full-time and part-time modes of delivery and has no plans to withdraw or change its mode of delivery.

This risk is not sufficiently likely to occur to require specific steps to be taken to reduce the risk, or to have a plan in place to protect continuity of your studies.

4.10 Recruiting or teaching a particular type of student

The risk we have assessed is whether the University will no longer be able to recruit or teach a particular type of student.

The University has assessed this risk as **LOW**.

This risk is **NOT REASONABLY LIKELY** to occur.

International Students

In order to enrol international students from outside the United Kingdom and Ireland, the University must have a licence from the UK government. This is called a Student Sponsor Licence. The University has had a Student Sponsor Licence since 2009. If the University were to lose this licence it would mean it could no longer recruit, enrol or teach students from outside the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The University has assessed the risk of it losing its Student Sponsor Licence as **LOW**.

The reasons for this assessment are:

- The University's incremental approach to the recruitment of international students from low risk locations.
- Recruiting international students from a pool of applicants with strong academic profiles and with high standards of English Language.
- Having a dedicated Compliance & Immigration Manager with specialist knowledge of UKVI requirements and staff who undertake regular specialist training from the Home Office to ensure their knowledge is up to date.
- The University's active engagement with UKVI Premium Account Services; providing staff resources dedicated to responsibility for UKVI compliance; and our data thresholds being comfortably within UKVI parameters.

This risk is not sufficiently likely to occur to require specific steps to be taken to reduce the risk, or to have a plan in place to protect continuity of your studies.

Apprenticeships

There are also specific considerations in relation to apprenticeship provision. The University's apprenticeship portfolio is linked mainly to its core healthcare training provision and is supported by well-developed infrastructure ensuring the quality of its apprenticeships. It therefore has a high level of confidence in its ability to meet the requirements for remaining on the Apprenticeship Provider and Assessment Register (APAR).

In the highly unlikely event that the University were removed from the APAR, it would ensure that existing apprentices were able to complete their programmes either within the University or at other institutions. Each apprenticeship programme includes an agreement between the University, the student and their employer. The employer is responsible for work-based learning opportunities and support. The University will proactively engage with employers on their obligations to support apprentices.

However, the University is not responsible if an employer does not fulfil their apprenticeship obligations. Nor is the University responsible if an employer ceases trading, and the apprentice loses their employment. Where a student ceases to be employed as an apprentice, the University will support the student to completion of the degree where possible; including transfer to another degree programme. However, the student will not be permitted to continue as an apprentice unless they secure an alternative sponsoring employer.

The University has assessed the risk of being unable to engage with its apprenticeship provision as **LOW**.

The reasons for this assessment are:

- The University partners with organisations in the health and social care sector who can demonstrate high levels of quality of provision and financial sustainability.
- The University has been assessed by Ofsted and the Education and Skills Funding Agency with both organisations noting high levels of confidence in University provision.
- The University has a dedicated apprenticeship team with specialist knowledge of the requirements of apprentices, employers and the associated regulations.
- The University offers students on its apprenticeship programmes full access to all support services.

4.11 Partnership Arrangements

We have assessed the risk of you being unable to continue your studies because our partnership with another organisation has ended.

We have assessed the risk of you being unable to continue your studies with one of our partners as **LOW**.

This risk is **NOT REASONABLY LIKELY** to occur.

The University has a very small number of collaborative partnerships with other organisations to deliver some modules and courses.

The reasons for our assessment are:

- There are rigorous approval and closure procedures for partnerships with other organisations.
- We require an exit strategy to be in place before a partnership is approved.
- We enter into a contract with our partners which provides legal protection to ensure appropriate teach out arrangements are in place for students
- We have robust quality assurance processes in place to ensure the quality of your studies is preserved throughout your course.

This risk is not sufficiently likely to occur to require specific steps to be taken to reduce the risk, or to have a plan in place to protect continuity of your studies.

5 Measures to support continuation of studies.

5.1 General measures

The University has the following general measures in place to ensure students are fully protected.

Elongated timeline for course approval and modification

The University has an elongated timeline for course approval and modification in order to ensure compliance with guidance on consumer law advice issued to higher education providers by the Competition and Markets Authority. This means modifications to courses are strictly controlled.

Management of course withdrawals and closures

The University's policy and practice is that course or module closures will not affect current students who will be supported to complete their studies.

The withdrawal of a course, or termination of delivery by a third party, for example, a collaborative partner organisation, are managed to ensure that the interests of current students are fully protected. Courses are closed to new applicants and are then taught out to all current students.

During the 'teach-out' period courses continue to undergo the full range of quality monitoring and review procedures, including programme modification, to ensure that the course curriculum and standards remain valid and appropriate as part of a defined exit strategy.

Management of changes to courses

The University's robust processes for making changes to courses and modules requires evidence of consultation with student representatives, typically via a Curriculum Advisory Group and Programme Board or Staff-Student Consultative Forum.

Changes to material components of the course require:

- evidence of student consent before changes are approved; and
- in limited circumstances, individual written consent must be demonstrated.

Minor changes require evidence of consultation with student representatives.

The University also provides a course changes section on its website and informs readers that courses may be subject to change.

6 Refund and Compensation Policy

For all the reasons we have given, we consider it is **not likely** that we will be unable to preserve continuity of your studies, with the exception of the **MSci Nurse Paramedic** where a set of very specific circumstances currently exist (as at 4 September 2025) which have increased the risk profile around this course, as above.

In the unlikely event that we cannot preserve continuity of study, the University's Refunds and Compensation Policy would apply.

Our Refunds and Compensation Policy can be found here:

<https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/document/refund-and-compensation-policy/>

7. Informing staff and students about the Student Protection Plan

7.1 Current and future students

We will share, and explain, our Student Protection Plan to current and future students by:

- Publishing it on the University website.
- Including it with the materials we provide to applicants when we make an offer to study on a course; and
- By drawing it to the attention of our current students at enrolment in each year of study.

7.2 Staff

We will share and explain our Student Protection Plan with staff by:

- Publishing it on our staff intranet pages.
- Ensuring that staff are aware of the implications of the Student Protection Plan when proposing course changes and closure (by including consideration of it in our approval and monitoring processes).
- Including it in staff learning and development activities, including the University induction for new staff.
- Sharing it with the Edge Hill Students' Union.

8 Implementing the Student Protection Plan

8.1 General approach

In the unlikely event that a risk of failure to preserve continuity of study did become reasonably likely to occur, we would

- **Prioritise continuity of study:** deploying all available University resources to secure viable progression or completion routes, with teach-out arrangements implemented wherever possible. Failure to preserve continuity of study would be considered only as a very last resort, and only where factors are wholly outside the University's control. In those circumstances, the University's Refunds and Compensation Policy would still apply.
- **Develop detailed contingency plans at the earliest stage:** ensuring that every affected student has a clear, supported, and academically recognised progression route.
- **Confirm and communicate options without delay:** providing students with clarity to make informed decisions about their academic pathway, while retaining flexibility should continuation ultimately be secured.
- **Offer individual student consultations:** meeting with each affected student to understand their personal circumstances, preferred study route, and potential barriers, and tailoring progression and support options accordingly.
- **Support internal and external progression:** enabling continuation at Edge Hill University wherever possible, or facilitating transfer to another provider where preferred, to ensure that all students can complete an appropriate programme of study.
- **Maintain transparent and continuous communication:** keeping students fully informed of developments, options, and implications through regular updates, meetings, and written guidance.
- **Provide tailored academic, pastoral, and wellbeing support:** drawing on personal tutors, programme leaders, professional services, and the Students' Union to ensure students are fully supported throughout any period of change.
- **Ensure fair and proportionate financial redress:** applying the University's Refund and Compensation Policy where appropriate, with compensation reflective of individual impact.
- **Safeguard equity and inclusivity in all actions:** taking full account of the diversity of our student body, making adjustments where required under the Equality Act 2010, and ensuring that mitigation measures are reasonable, equitable, and in the best interests of students.

8.2 Independent Advice for affected students.

You can obtain independent advice from the Edge Hill Students' Union at
: www.edgehillisu.org.uk/advice.

8.3 Making a complaint

If you want to make a complaint about the way in which we implement the Student Protection Plan, you can make a complaint using the University's Student Complaints Procedure, which you can find [on our website](#). If you have any queries about how to make a complaint you can contact complaints@edgehill.ac.uk. The Edge Hill Students' Union can provide independent advice and support on making a complaint.

9 Development and Review of the Student Protection Plan

The University's existing risk management procedures involve an institutional assessment of risk three times per year. The Student Protection Plan will be included as a standing agenda item at Risk Management Group meetings and the risks to continuity of study will be included in the University's Risk Register which will be updated to reflect any change in levels of risk identified.

Our Student Protection Plan will be reviewed annually and revised, if necessary, to ensure that our assessment of risk remains current and that mitigating measures remain practicable, relevant and effective.

In order to ensure that our students' views, interests and needs are taken into account, our students will be involved in the review of the Student Protection Plan by:

- consultation with the Edge Hill University Students' Union; and
- consideration of the Student Protection Plan through the University's Academic Board Committee structure, at which students are represented by Edge Hill University Students' Union sabbatical officers.

Edge Hill University

This document was reviewed on 4 September 2025. The document is ordinarily reviewed annually, however given the current set of circumstances around the **MSci Nurse Paramedic** course this document will be reviewed on an ongoing basis throughout September 2025 and updated as necessary.