

Summary of the legal status of Oxford Brookes University

The following is a summary of the legal status of Oxford Brookes University:

Formerly known as Oxford Polytechnic and existing as an integral part of the Oxfordshire County Council being the relevant local education authority, the University (still as Oxford Polytechnic) was originally established as a higher education corporation with separate corporate status by the Education (Higher Education Corporations) Order 1988 (Statutory Instrument 1988/No 1799) by the then Secretary of State pursuant to a power set out in the Education Reform Act 1988 (the “Act”). The powers of such higher education corporations are set out in section 124 of the Act and are principally higher/further education and research.

SI 1988/1799 provided for the assets, rights and liabilities of the polytechnic operation to transfer to the new independent corporation on 1st April 1989.

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 76 and 77 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, the Privy Council by Order dated 4 June 1992 declared Oxford Polytechnic competent to award its own degrees, certificates and diplomas at undergraduate and postgraduate level and later approved the change of name from Oxford Polytechnic to Oxford Brookes University, confirming this change on 16 November 1992 by a letter from the Clerk of the Privy Council.

The Privy Council approved in 1993 the University’s Instrument of Government and subsequently in 1995 the Articles of Government of the University, which were then adopted by the University’s Board of Governors. The Articles of Government were subject to minor amendment with the approval of the Privy Council in 1998.

The University has charitable status but is not required to be registered by virtue of being an exempt charity under schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011. Consequently, the University has no charity registration number and is regulated principally by the Office for Students (previously, until 1 April 2018, by the Higher Education Funding Council for England).

Under the Higher Education and Research Act 2017, the Office for Students (OfS) operates a registration system to regulate and authorize UK higher education providers (known as Learning Providers). Oxford Brookes University is registered with the OfS under UKPRN 10004930:

<https://www.ukrlp.co.uk/ukrlp/ukrlp.first>

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