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Pipeline

Online Distance Learning

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX(THE)

UK1: Pipeline notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-026420

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0522d3

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Scope

Reference

US_25021

Description

The university will be seeking a partner to support the provision of Online Distance Learning.

In 2017 the University tendered, via a Competitive Dialogue process (under PCR 2015), for a partner to deliver a portfolio of Masters level degree courses that could be accessed by students nationally and internationally through Online Distance Learning.

Sussex entered into a ten-year contract with Pearson and built up a portfolio of 9 online Masters courses. In 2023 the contract was novated to Embanet T/A Boundless Learning and the agreement ends in March 2028.

Individual course-sheets are deemed separate, standalone agreements. A course-sheet term is 10 years from the date of commencement of teaching, unless subject to earlier termination

in accordance with the collaboration agreement. Currently each course sheet has a different commencement of teaching date with the most recent course-sheet commencing in May 2023.

Due to the upcoming end date of the collaboration agreement, we are currently considering our strategy for on-line distance learning. In line with the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023, a procurement activity will be taking place in relation to our future on-line learning provision. This activity will include early market research to seek contributions from potential bidders, including the incumbent, to help shape our strategy. Market engagement with all potential suppliers is planned to commence in summer 2025.

Services delivered by the supplier under the current contract arrangements:

Marketing and Recruitment: Market Research and Strategy, Lead Generation, Inquiry Management, Admissions Support, Application Processing, Reporting and Analysis.

Course Development and Delivery Model: Course Design and Development, Content Creation, Platform Integration, Technical Support, Continuous Improvement, Compliance and Reporting.

Student Support: Induction and Orientation, Ongoing Support, Monitoring and Communication, Reporting.

This is in very early stages but due to its impact across the university and the time required to gather information in order to define the strategy for this key requirement, an engagement piece is appropriate

Contract dates (estimated)

- 31 October 2027 to 31 October 2037
- 10 years, 1 day

Main category

Services

CPV classifications

- 75121000 - Administrative educational services

Contract locations

- UKJ2 - Surrey, East and West Sussex

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

1 November 2026

Contracting authority

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX(THE)

- Companies House: RC000672
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWVT-1568-HWWM

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Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government