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Tender

Contract for Impact Evaluation of the OfS APP approach

Office for Students

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-081649

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f318

Published 10 December 2025, 4:05pm

Scope

Reference

PRN2470

Description

The access and participation plan (APP) is the main lever through which the OfS regulates equality of opportunity at the provider level. In the context of higher education, 'equality of opportunity' means that individuals are not hampered in accessing and succeeding in higher education as a result of their background or circumstances they cannot fairly influence. An APP is a strategic document that sets out how a provider will reduce the risks to equality of opportunity within their own context.

The OfS wants to evaluate the long-term impact of the OfS's APP approach and would like to appoint a single supplier to deliver a theory based evaluation.

The aim of the evaluation is to understand whether the elements of the APP approach are effective in achieving change in provider behaviour and contributing to improving equality of opportunity for higher education students, from its initiation in 2018 to the 2023 reforms.

For more information about this opportunity, please visit the Delta eSourcing portal at:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-UK-Bristol:-Evaluation-consultancy-services./4MS5A68R7K>

To respond to this opportunity, please click here:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/respond/4MS5A68R7K>

Total value (estimated)

- £345,000 excluding VAT
- £414,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 9 March 2026 to 30 September 2027
- Possible extension to 31 December 2030
- 4 years, 9 months, 23 days

Description of possible extension:

1

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79419000 - Evaluation consultancy services

Contract locations

- UKK1 - Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

21 January 2026, 12:00pm

Tender submission deadline

21 January 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

24 February 2026

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Quality	Quality	85%
Price	Price	15%

Other information

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Contracting authority

Office for Students

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYZM-6681-RPZP

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Bristol

BS34 8SR

United Kingdom

Contact name: Sarah Phillips

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Region: UKK12 - Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

Organisation type: Public authority - central government