

Access and Participation
Statement



London Brookes College

Access and Participation Statement

1.0 Purpose

To provide an access and participation statement that London Brookes College supports our Equality and Diversity Policy, of widening access to higher education and supporting students to progress and achieve at their chosen programme of study.

To ensure that LBC's Access and Participation Statement meets the requirements of Office for Students Regulatory Framework Condition A2 and Higher Education and Research Act (HERA) 2017 for approval of access and participation statements.

2.0 Background

The Office for Students (OfS) requires, as a part of its initial and on-going conditions for registration, that all higher education providers produce either an Access and Participation Statement or an Access and Participation Plan. Since LBC is in the process to register with the OfS for the Approved category for fee charges up to the basic fee amount, an Access and Participation Statement is appropriate.

As such, LBC is subject to each awarding institution's approach to access and participation, as detailed in their respective Access and Participation Plans, as well as LBC's own Access and Participation Statement

3.0 College Philosophy

Our college philosophy is that everyone, irrespective of age, has an infinite potential for learning, and a great capacity for change.

4.0 College Mission Statement

Our aim is to provide every student with the skills, knowledge and understanding to achieve their full potential. All are encouraged to believe in themselves and build their confidence. Students leaving the college will have achieved outstanding personal success and have developed a love of learning, together with a lasting intellectual curiosity that will enable them to take their place in society.

5.0 College Vision

The purpose of the college is to support individuals of all backgrounds, abilities and aspirations in order to fulfil their potential through learning, achievement and progression. We wish to develop a student-centred culture and gain a reputation as a high-quality provider of further and higher education.

6.0 General Statement

LBC is committed to recruiting and supporting students from under-represented groups to help and support them to meet their education needs and career aspirations.

We are highly successful in recruiting students living in areas of relatively low higher education participation, low household income and socio-economic status. Many of our students are and have been away from education for significant periods of time. Our students are also from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, including black males and females.

LBC will admit prospective students to the HND and City & Guilds diploma Level 5 in education and training programme through a fair and transparent admissions process, who wish to undertake a programme of study offered by the LBC and meet the requisite entry requirements, through either formal qualifications or recognised life and work experiences, or through recognition of prior certificated learning at Level 4/5 in the UK Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ).

7.0 Access and Participation to Programmes of Study at London Brookes College

7.1 Areas Seeking to Address

The areas of access and participation LBC seeks to address are informed by the following principles:

- ❖ To provide an opportunity for those who have been out of education for a significant period and wish to return to study
- ❖ To provide an opportunity for those who may not in the past have had the confidence to undertake studies at higher education level
- ❖ To enhance everyone's personal confidence through success and achievement, underpinned by a supportive learning environment
- ❖ To provide a welcoming and secure environment in which equality of opportunity, diversity of backgrounds and rich experiences are valued
- ❖ To help everyone identify and realise their career aspirations through diverse means of employment and/or further study

LBC always focus to recruit and admit students from a wide range of backgrounds where engagement with higher education is or has been underrepresented. Our campus location in North London together with our recruitment from the local geographical areas, greatly enables LBC to achieve its stated aims for widening access and participation in higher education. We welcome prospective students not holding formal qualification requirements who are able to demonstrate that they can benefit from higher education, are committed to study, and can evidence relevant life and work experiences together with determination and motivation to study.

Our student profile over the years to whom we have been offering a range of education programmes shows that we have been highly successful in meeting our widening participation aims. LBC is committed to maintaining its success at access and participation and welcomes all individuals from underrepresented groups in higher education.

We will approach recruitment and selection for admission as given in detail below to higher education through contacts with and advertising in local communities. Having said that, many of our students come to us through recommendations from our past and current students. Community based referrals have been and will continue to be a vital aspect of our strategic approach to reach

out to the highly diverse and distinct communities that more conventional and traditional institutions of higher education find difficulty in contacting.

Recruitment to HE programmes at the College is supported by several strands of activity which are designed to widen participation.

- ❖ Programmes are designed to facilitate flexible delivery. This enables those in work to attend on a part time basis for 1 day per week. Full time delivery is planned to cluster activities so that students are not required to attend across several days. This again means that students can work and therefore maintain their income.
- ❖ The College offers a range of access to Higher Education to support those who are returning to education and need knowledge and skills to facilitate study at a higher level.
- ❖ Induction sessions are offered to applicants throughout the year so that they get the opportunity to attend the College in advance of enrolment and discuss any potential concerns or support needs.
- ❖ Applicants are also able to experience the welcoming environment and small class sizes
- ❖ The College support staff introduce the concept of Higher Education during induction activities for all ages
- ❖ The entry criteria for all higher education programmes at the College include 'non-standard' options to encourage applications from those who have not followed a standard route and may not have UCAS tariff points.

Information Advice and Guidance

The College meets all aspects of IAG, with a clear focus on support provided to individuals to progress towards their academic and career goals. The College has a comprehensive student welfare service. From the moment any prospective student considers joining the College they will be able to access support with:

- ❖ Course Information and Enrolment
- ❖ Travel and Transport
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Welfare and Funding
- ❖ Careers
- ❖ Counselling
- ❖ Learning support
- ❖ Accessibility

If any prospective student is looking for assistance or support to help them make that journey into education, then the College support services can offer impartial Information, Advice and Guidance on a full range of services, including specialist staff to advise and support prospective HE students. Student Services provide IAG and support to complete application forms for Disabled Students Allowance.

Support for students comprising pastoral provision through tutorial programmes, additional learning support for students with basic skills needs, central Student Services and the library is a strong

feature of the College. In addition to the cross-College support services, higher education students have a dedicated student welfare officer to oversee their pastoral support and to ensure that individual needs are being met.

We value student input on widening access and participation. We use suggestions and support from the student representatives, and outcomes of student surveys, as well as student feedback through the Annual Programme Reports, and personal tutors, to inform our strategies for access and participation.

This Access and participation statement has been considered and approved by the LBC's senior management team. The statement will be reviewed annually as part of our annual review of policies and LBC's quality cycle. Any revisions to this statement will be reviewed, updated, and approved by our academic board and re-publish annually as required by condition A2 of the Office for Students Regulatory Framework.

UK Quality Code References

Chapter B2 Recruitment, Selection and Admission to Higher education

Chapter B3 Learning and teaching

Part C: Information about Higher Education Provision