



## Empire College London

### Access and Participation Statement

We at Empire College London are committed to widening participation and access to higher education for all students. The College aims to continue to deliver to students from all backgrounds providing them with appropriate support allowing achievement in HE.

The College is committed to delivering a high-quality learning experience for all students irrespective of background, gender, age, ethnicity, disability, religion, social class, or any other factor. This is in line with the College goals and Equality and Diversity policy.

The College believes that everyone should have the opportunity to progress in education and succeed.

#### Access, success, and progression

Our Access and Participation statement supports awareness and raises the aspirations of all students to support their progression into and through higher education.

The College has a fair and transparent admissions policy that welcomes applications from students with non-traditional backgrounds. The admissions team provides comprehensive advice, guidance and pastoral support throughout the admissions process to allow applicants from as wide a spectrum as possible to access the college educational offer.

Existing students provide support to new and prospective students by participating in College recruitment events and the College induction programme each semester.

A comprehensive induction programme is provided, allowing an effective transition. Information on academic regulations, student support, policies, student and college expectations is provided during the programme.

The College offers flexible course delivery, which allows students with childcare and work commitments to continue with their studies rather than seeing this as a barrier to continue.

A wide range of support mechanisms is in place to enable progression, retention, achievement and success. These include initial assessments, tutorial support, IT support, mental health support, academic and pastoral support. Extracurricular activities are also embedded alongside the academic programme. Attending these events is an opportunity for students to enhance and share experiences with students across the College and have a balance between academic and social life.

The College has the appropriate processes in place to provide learner and learning support to students, including disabled students. Academic and pastoral support services are in place and are regularly reviewed to ensure all students benefit from the support throughout their learner journey and to enable academic progression and continuation.

Third-party arrangements are in place for additional professional guidance for students who may experience specific learning difficulties or social and emotional problems.



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The retention and achievement of students are monitored throughout the academic year. This allows the College to intervene at early stages to provide and identify the necessary support needed for those students who may require additional support.

The College offers a careers preparation service to students, which include CV writing and interview techniques. Employer engagement is embedded in course delivery to develop transferable skills. The College supports students to both employment and into further HE.

The College holds a strong track record of attracting and retaining students from diverse groups on Higher Education programmes. The College is continuing to focus on the recruitment of students to Higher Education from under-represented groups, including:

- Mature learners
- BAME Groups
- Disabled learners

The Higher Education portfolio currently consists of Higher National Certificate in Business, Higher National Diploma in Business (Business Management), Diploma in Education and Training. We are continually looking to develop and enhance the HE provision to meet the needs of prospective and current students to support access, success and progression.

The College will continue to:

- **Implement effective targeted marketing to encourage prospective students who would not otherwise think about or consider entering Higher education.**
- **Provide Prospective students with accurate and timely information, which will allow them to make informed decisions.**
- **Offer flexible course delivery to meet the needs of students and support progression, retention, and success.**
- **Offer a wide range of appropriate student support mechanisms throughout the learner journey to enable progression, retention, achievement, and success.**
- **Provide Higher Education that is accessible for all.**

The effectiveness of the above measures has resulted in:

- a. 82% retention rate in all courses in the 2020-2021 academic year.
- b. 87% success rate in all courses in 2020-2021 Academic year.
- c. 88% of HND Business management students progressed from the first to the second year of the course.
- d. More than 60 % of students returned to complete the HND (2<sup>nd</sup> year) after successfully completing the HNC.



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- e. 85% of disabled students either successfully completed or progressed satisfactorily on to the course.
- f. 85% success rate for BAME students in the 2020-2021 Academic year across all courses.
- g. 75% of graduate students are either in employment or further education (this data was retrieved from the Graduate outcomes survey)
- h. The overall satisfaction rate of 100% was reported in the external survey, which included various areas of student support. This survey was for the HND Business program only.
- i. Internal student feedback is also taken throughout the academic year on various aspects, which include teaching and learning, student support, college resources and health and safety. More than 80% of students agreed with the service provided in these areas.

*Data in points a-f are provisional as the analysis & report of the final results is due in October 2021.*

### **Future developments:**

Continue to develop further outreach partnerships to support access, success, and progression.

Continue to develop current support mechanisms to enable students to overcome barriers and achieve in their education and beyond.

### **Student consultation**

Students are members of management and staff meetings. The consultation takes place with students regarding the contribution that they can make to the development and implementation of College systems and procedures. A particular and identifiable strength of the College is the support provided by students in positively promoting the College.

### **Monitoring & Evaluation**

The College will review the impact of its access and participation strategies on an annual basis and make amendments if strategies are found to be ineffective.

The following data will be collected and used to inform future planning and support access and participation:

- Retention, progression and completion rates of students
- The social background of students to monitor participation by those from underrepresented groups
- Internal & External Data

*Last updated and reviewed: September 2021*