



## UNIVERSITY ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION STATEMENT 2019-20

### Introduction

- 1 The University of London is committed to widening participation and access to higher education. We have a proven track record, for more than 150 years, of successfully providing the highest quality education and flexible programmes at an affordable price to students from non-traditional backgrounds in the UK, in the University's Institute in Paris and globally.
- 2 The University's core mission has always been, and will always continue to be, to offer life changing access to a university education that meets every student's needs and we will support all our students to enable them to achieve the best possible learning outcomes.

### Access

- 3 The University's portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes offered through its academic bodies, ie the School of Advanced Study, University of London Worldwide and the University of London Institute in Paris, encourages and supports access to higher education through a wide variety of modes of study and flexible provision including distance, and 'blended', learning.
- 4 In addition, the University is committed to the Social Mobility Pledge<sup>1</sup> which is in keeping with its access and participation strategies to make its programmes accessible to all students that could benefit, including those students who might otherwise have been excluded because of their life circumstances.

### Equality and Inclusion

- 5 The University complies fully with the Equality Act 2010 in the recruitment of students and is committed to inclusive learning and teaching. We strongly support the joint report (published April 2019) by Universities UK (UUK) and the National Union of Students (NUS) on *Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Student Attainment at UK Universities* and we will be looking to implement its recommendations.
- 6 The University respects individual choices and we strive to create an inclusive, flexible and supportive environment which recognises the diversity of every individual. Further details on this can be found in the University's Inclusive Practice Policy available at: <https://london.ac.uk/sites/default/files/governance/inclusive-practice-policy.pdf>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Social Mobility Pledge is a UK cross-political party campaign to improve social mobility in the UK.  
<https://www.socialmobilitypledge.org/>

## Admission of Students

- 7 The University welcomes applications from everyone, regardless of any specific access requirements and our mission is to ensure that our services are accessible to all. We are continually evolving the work of our student experience teams that enable us to provide targeted and dedicated support to applicants from their first enquiry through the application process and during enrolment. These teams also provide advice and guidance on both academic and pastoral concerns.
- 8 Our admission policies follow the guiding principles for admissions, recruitment and widening access as set out in the UK Quality Code for Higher Education:  
<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

## Participation

- 9 There are circa. 50,000 students from the UK and across 190 countries study for a University of London degree, many of whom would not be able to benefit from higher education were it not for the University's flexible provision encompassing affordability, entry requirements, registration period, pace of progression, and modes of programme delivery for learning and research.
- 10 Separately, the University has in place a suite of policies and procedures to ensure inclusive participation and accessibility for all students, for example adjusting learning and teaching resources to meet students' particular needs.

## Support for Students

- 11 An extensive support network is provided through the University's pastoral provision to enable students with a diverse range of needs to fulfil their academic potential. This provision includes adapted learning plans, multi-sensory teaching methods, soft skills support, mentors, study skills tutors, digital resources to support student well-being and access to student help lines paid for by the University.
- 12 The University's top priority is a safe and secure studying environment in which all students can contribute equally and effectively to the best of their abilities regardless of their personal characteristics. Further details and practical guidance/support for students can be found at:  
<https://london.ac.uk/sites/default/files/governance/University-of-London-Guidance-for-students-on-preventing-and-responding-to-harassment.pdf>. Our intercollegiate halls of residence provide full pastoral support to student residents and we are committed to continuing our work with the NHS, the NUS and with the Greater London Authority to improve student mental health needs.
- 13 In addition to academic and pastoral support the University provides bespoke careers advice and support to students, graduates and early careers research staff through the work of the Careers Group, the largest HE careers and employability service in Europe and recognised as a centre of excellence in relation to careers and employability support.
- 14 The University provides a wide range of affordable accommodation options for students across London to suit every requirement including: intercollegiate halls of residence which offer a diverse and inclusive environment; through University Student

Homes which works closely with trusted private landlords to offer good quality housing; and through our Housing Services team which provides expert advice to students looking for private accommodation.

- 15 Students have the opportunity to participate in the development and review of student-related policies through representation on the appropriate committees of their respective academic body.

### **Success**

- 16 The positive feedback received from UK and international students, past and present, indicates the University's success in providing a quality learning experience to students who would not traditionally enter higher education. This is further demonstrated by the high level of our completion and graduate employment rates.

### **Future Direction**

- 17 We are actively working to broaden the range and delivery modes for our programmes to meet changes in student demand, employer requirements and technological advancements. Additionally, we are developing new strategies to consolidate our success to recruit students from non-traditional educational backgrounds, both in the UK and globally, and we will continue to offer an open and inclusive learning and research-enabling environment to all students who wish to study for a University of London degree.

### **Review and Publication of this Statement**

- 18 The Access and Participation Statement has been reviewed by the University's academic bodies and approved by the Board of Trustees. It is reviewed annually and/or when required to ensure the content remains up to date.
- 19 It is available on the University's website at <https://london.ac.uk/about-us/how-university-run>.

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
[17 July 2019]