



UK COLLEGE
OF BUSINESS AND COMPUTING

Access and Participation: A Statement

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UKCBC ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION STATEMENT - 2019

Introduction

UK College of Business and Computing (UKCBC) is fully committed to attracting and supporting students from all backgrounds in their achievement of higher education qualifications at the college.

The college recognises that each student is an individual with varying academic potential and personal commitments, however, these are not barriers to the successful achievement of a qualification and future career opportunities. The college also embraces its role alongside the wider HE community and will contribute to the positive debate and commentary surrounding the benefits of HE and its opportunities.

UKCBC endeavours to provide meaningful information to potential students prior to their applications to enable informed and timely advice and continue to engage with students prior to enrolment and attendance at the college. Equally the academic support provided to manage the development and improvement of quality through a transparent and collaborative process.

UKCBC has traditionally recruited a significant proportion from within underrepresented communities resulting in a strong widening participation baseline. Furthermore, the college has responded to the demand from potential students in establishing campuses in North, East and West London, each serving its local population and employer community.

The underlying principles of UKCBC, highlight the College's focus on access, participation, and diversity:

- **Caring for individuals:** we care about the development, success, and well-being of our students, and believe that a better future means quality education for all;
- **Commitment:** we support our students with the help they need to succeed in the professional pursuits;
- **Academic excellence:** we ensure a high quality of success through exceptional standards of teaching and engaging learning methodologies;
- **Community and diversity:** we promote and encourage diversity in our college and are proud to embrace students from all backgrounds.

Definition of Widening Participation

Widening Participation is defined by Office for Fair Access (OFFA) as

Removing the barriers to higher education, including financial barriers, that students from lower income and other under-represented backgrounds face.

OFFA note that **underrepresented individuals** may be:

- people from lower socio-economic groups or from neighbourhoods where higher education participation is low*
- people from low-income backgrounds*
- some ethnic groups or sub-groups, including White males from economically disadvantaged backgrounds*
- people with disabilities
- mature and part-time learners*
- care leavers
- carers*
- people from gypsy and Traveller communities
- refugees
- students with mental health problems, Specific Learning Difficulties and/or who are on the autism spectrum.

* The college currently recruits significant numbers of students from these groups.

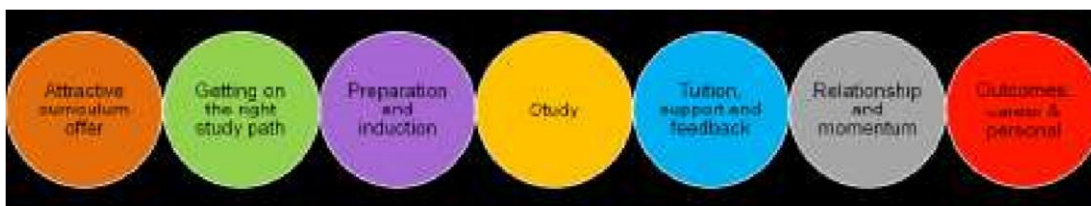
Our approach to access and participation of Widening Participation groups

The UK College of Business and Computing (UKCBC) has been, and continues to be, uniquely placed in the UK to make significant contributions to widening access to higher education through its mission of being a qualitative higher education provider to bring about qualitative change in the lives of people from diverse groups, particularly the underprivileged. Its open access policy provides opportunities to those without formal entry qualification and to those for whom a continuous support, care, guidance and flexible learning options through full time and part time study are the effective options provided to them. Every aspect of College business is focused on delivering the mission – widening access has always been the key strength of our College where we proudly state that about 95 percent of our students belong to these groups.

Over the same period, the College has also seen an increase in the numbers of disabled students. We have also seen an increase in the range of disabilities with which students are presenting.

The fee charged by the College has always been maintained at a very reasonable and affordable level that students from the widening participation groups can easily afford to undertake our options to pursue their studies. The College has been offering various programmes to the groups all at a fee below £6000 per annum while offering flexible payment and learning options that suit to their compelling needs of family responsibilities, financial and work-related limitations. Through these approaches, we have significantly been reaching out to a very large numbers of students from widening participation groups.

Our key strength has been student referrals that are community-based. They enable us to reach out to a very diverse and distinct community bases that are usually not approached by most of the conventional and established higher education Institutions. Our outreach to these groups has always been our key strength and a key focus of our strategic vision and direction.



Links to QAA Quality Code

This document is designed to underpin the process of recruitment in the development and delivery of activity that specifically works to promote UKCBC and its higher education to communities that are traditionally underrepresented in higher education institutions. In doing so it takes reference from the Quality Code expectations for standards core practices and expectations for quality core practices: **Guiding Principles 1-6**

It also relates to Monitoring and Evaluation expectations for standards core practices and expectations for quality core practices: **Guiding Principles 1-7**

Additionally, this statement resonates with the definition of Fair Access published by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA):

Equality of opportunity for all those who have the potential to benefit from higher education, irrespective of their background, schooling or income. This term is often used with reference to the uneven distribution of under-represented students between universities and colleges across the higher education sector, in referring to the universities with the most selective overall entry requirements where the pool of applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds is relatively small.

Ensuring Access and Participation

UKCBC recognises that it is not a single department that can make access and participation a success but rather it can only be achieved where all staff embrace the ethos across the whole college and at each campus through. UKCBC undertake the following activities to support this.

- Targeted marketing campaigns and activities to under-represented groups.
- Interviews for mature applicants to enable them to demonstrate non-academic skills and learning.
- Students encouraged to disclose any disability that may impact on their learning or accessibility so that reasonable adjustment can be made if required and a learning contract set up.
- Detailed induction activity including skills audit and personal development planning.
- Opportunity to study on fixed days per week to work around caring and work responsibilities.
- Part-time, evening and weekend delivery available.
- Academic skills development workshops available daily.
- Focus on student support – access to full-time academic skills tutors and support administrators.
- Access to hardship funding – funded by College.
- Employment preparedness sessions.
- Intercultural extra-curricular activities – e.g. bring and share lunches.
- Provide level 2 and 3 AAT qualifications and language provision (for those applicants not yet able to study at level 4).

Measurement of access achievements

UKCBC is very committed to its approach and responsibility towards the widening participation groups. To ensure that its access and outreach are effective and successful, the college evaluates the demographics, details, and patterns in its student recruitment, achievements and progression as evidenced by HESA and various other returns. The College reports the progress to its Board of Governors and ensures that each student is rightly provided all the needed support for empowering each student admitted to the college.