



Stratford College London

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

Title: Embracing Every Journey: Our Commitment to Access and Participation

1. Our Vision and Ethos

At Stratford College London, we believe that education is a lifelong journey and that the pursuit of knowledge has no age limit. We are committed to creating a vibrant, inclusive, and supportive learning community that reflects the rich diversity of society itself. Our core ethos is to break down barriers to higher education and ensure that every individual, regardless of their background, age, ethnicity, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or prior educational pathway, has the opportunity to thrive.

We proudly welcome a growing community of mature students who bring a wealth of experience, perspective, and resilience to our classrooms. We recognise and value the unique contributions of those returning to study after a break, seeking a career change, or pursuing a long-held passion.

2. Our Principles

We are dedicated to the principles of equality and fairness. Our admissions and recruitment practices are designed to be transparent and equitable. We accept students from all backgrounds and do not discriminate on the grounds of age, ethnicity, race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status.

3. Supporting Our Mature Student Community

Understanding that returning to education presents specific challenges, we have developed a robust framework of support tailored to the needs of mature students:

- * Dedicated Mature Student Advisor: A single point of contact for advice on academic, financial, and personal matters.
- * Academic and Pastoral Support: Comprehensive services including academic writing workshops, study skills sessions, counseling, and peer mentoring programmes.
- * Financial Guidance: Clear advice on student finance for those returning to study.
- * Building Community: Facilitating networking events and forums for mature students to connect, share experiences, and build a supportive peer network.
- * Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL): We actively encourage applications from those with professional and life experience and offer a clear process for having this experience recognised towards your prospective qualifications.

4. Outreach and Engagement

Our commitment begins long before enrolment. We proactively work to encourage participation from under-represented groups through:

- * Partnerships with local community centres, level 3 colleges, employers, and charities.
- * Hosting open days and information evenings specifically for prospective mature students.
- * Providing clear, accessible information about the application process, student life, and the support available.

5. Student Consultation and Engagement

Stratford College London perceives HE provision as a partnership arrangement between the provider and its learners. The partner-learner therefore needs to be fully engaged in the delivery of the programme to create an inclusive learning environment in which the provider is aware of learner needs from the onset and learner made aware of support mechanisms available.

Students play a significant role in the development of access and widening participation policy and practice at Stratford College London.

The College aims to facilitate student engagement at all levels, including the use of our Student Representative Council (SRC) to explore specific issues, making use of current students' feedback to enhance the understanding of student challenges and the development of supportive practice.

We will work continuously with the student representatives to ensure that mechanisms for delivering the support on offer are fit for purpose and in the best interests of students.

6. Continuous Improvement

This statement is a living document. We continuously monitor our progress through data analysis, student feedback, and consultation with staff and student union. We are committed to evolving our practices to ensure we remain a beacon of opportunity and inclusion for all.