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GBS Access and Participation Statement 2024-2025

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| Related GBS policies |
| GBS Strategic Plan GBS Equality and Diversity Policy GBS Admissions Policy |
| External Reference Points |

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Global Banking School Access and Participation Statement 2024-2025

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To provide an access and participation statement that supports Global Banking School (GBS) strategic aim, as detailed in GBS Strategic Plan 2024-



of study in partnership with other higher education providers through sub-contractual arrangements. Our partners currently include Bath Spa University, Canterbury Christ Church University, Leeds Trinity University, Oxford Brookes University and the University of Suffolk. GBS is also a Pearson-approved centre and runs the Pearson BTEC HND in Business, BTEC HND in Healthcare Practice for England (Healthcare Management), BTEC in HND Digital Technologies for England (Cyber Security) and BTEC HND in Construction Management for England (Construction Design and Build Technician).

3.3. GBS recruits and admits students from around its main geographical locations in London, Birmingham, Leeds, and Manchester. We provide access to HE to students living in areas of relatively low higher education participation, low household income and socio-economic status. Many of our students are mature (over 25 years of age), are from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, speak English as an additional language, and have been away from education for significant periods of time.

3.4. We will continue to recruit students around our geographical locations and expect to maintain the profile of the students we currently have but as GBS evolves we will expand approaches and provision with a variety of programmes. This will likely diversify our recruitment.

3.5. GBS will admit prospective students through a fair and transparent admissions process who wish to undertake a programme of study offered by GBS and meet the requisite entry requirements, through either formal qualifications or recognised life and work experiences, or through recognition of

5 (1) (e)



5. Access and Participation Objectives

(A) Areas seeking to address

5.1. The areas of access and participation GBS 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 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.

5.2. GBS main focus is to recruit and admit students from a wide range of backgrounds where engagement with higher education is or has been under-represented. Our campus locations in London, Birmingham, Leeds, and Manchester, together with our recruitment from the local geographical areas, enables GBS 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.

(B) Ambition and Strategy

5.3. GBS aims to recruit and admit individuals to higher education from a wide range of different under-represented groups. These include the following groups, many of which are intersectional:

People who are socio-economically under-privileged

People from neighbourhoods underserved by higher education

People minoritized on the basis of race and ethnicity and underrepresented in HE

Mature learners.

5.4. Our student profile over the years demonstrates that we have been highly successful in meeting our widening participation aims. GBS is committed to maintaining its success



at access and participation and welcomes all individuals from under-represented groups in higher education.

5.5. We will approach recruitment and selection for admission to higher education through contacts with and advertising in local communities. Furthermore, 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.

5.6. GBS monitors and provides student data through Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Jisc² and other returns required by external bodies.

(C) Activities and Support for Students

5.7. GBS provides support and encouragement to individuals enquiring about higher education study from first point of contact through to being a student at GBS. Our approach is to invite prospective students for informal discussion before going through a more formal application and interview process. Some applicants lack initial confidence in their abilities, and we aim to assure them that if they have the required formal qualifications, which may have been obtained some years ago, or relevant life and work experiences, we will support them in their studies. When invited into GBS for informal discussion, prospective students are offered the opportunity to meet existing students to ask them about their experiences.

5.8.

