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Global Banking School

Access and Participation Statement 2019-2020

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1. Purpose

1.1 To provide an access and participation statement that supports Global Banking School's strategic aim, as detailed in Global Banking School's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and Equality and Diversity Policy, of widening access to higher education and supporting students to progress and achieve at their chosen programme of study.

1.2 To ensure that Global Banking School's Access and Participation Statement meets the requirements of Office for Students Regulatory Framework Condition A2 and Higher Education and Research Act (HERA) 2017 for approval of access and participation statements.

2. Background

2.1 The office for Students, established on 1 April 2018, requires as a part of the initial and ongoing conditions for registration that all higher education providers produce either an access or participation statement or access and participation plan. Since Global Banking School seeks registration in the *Approved* category for fee charges up to the basic fee amount, the Office for Students' requirement is for an *access and participation statement*.

2.2 To date and for the 2018-19 academic year students of Global Banking School are enrolled as students of the appropriate programme awarding institution (Buckinghamshire New University¹, University of Bedfordshire² or Leicester College³). As such Global Banking School is subject to the awarding institution's approach to access and participation. In applying for Registration with the Office for Students, Global Banking School will develop and publish its own access and participation statement applicable for the 2019-20 academic year and beyond.

3. General Statement and Values

¹ The access agreement for Buckinghamshire New University can be found at <https://bucks.ac.uk/about-us/governance-and-policies/access-agreement>

² The access to higher education approach of the University of Bedfordshire can be found at <https://www.beds.ac.uk/centre-for-academic-partnerships/widening-participation>

³ Leicester College provides access to higher education programmes which can be found at <https://leicestercollege.ac.uk/?s=access+to+higher+education>

(a) General Statement

3.1 Global Banking School is committed to recruiting and supporting students from under-represented groups to help and support them to meet their needs and aspirations.

3.2 Global Banking School is currently a relatively small provider of higher education. At present the School offers a range of higher education programmes, from a Foundation year, undergraduate honours degrees and masters degrees, offering just one programme of study, on behalf of other higher education providers through sub-contractual arrangements. However, Global Banking School is a Centre of Pearson approved to offer their HND Business programme.

3.3 The School recruits and admits students from around its geographical location in Bow and Stratford, East London. We are highly successful in recruiting students living in areas of low higher education participation, low household income and socio-economic status. Many of our students are mature and have been away from education for significant periods of time. Our students are also from a variety of ethnic backgrounds.

3.4 We will continue to recruit students around our geographical location and expect to maintain the profile of mature students from a variety of ethnic backgrounds who have been away from education for a significant time.

3.4 Global Banking School will admit any prospective student to the Pearson HND Business programme, through a fair and transparent admissions process, that wishes to undertake a programme of study offered by the School and meets the requisite entry requirements through either formal qualifications or recognised life and work experiences, or through recognition of prior certificated learning at Level 4/5 in the UK Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ).

(b) Values

3.5 Global Banking School's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 identifies nine core values of the School as follows:

- (a) Focusing on learners and learning
- (b) Striving for excellence in learner achievement
- (c) Supporting widening participation for students living in traditionally low areas of higher education participation
- (c) Ensuring high aspirations and learner achievement
- (d) Having committed and qualified staff
- (e) Valuing everyone's contribution
- (f) Creating a dynamic and welcoming environment
- (g) Working in effective teams and partnerships
- (h) Developing and enhancing our strategic capability to ensure the long term success of the School in order to achieve our vision.

3.6 Global Banking School takes an inclusive approach to recruiting and supporting individuals and groups of individuals with protected characteristics (as defined by the Equality Act 2010).

4. Access and Participation to Programmes of Study at Global Banking School

(a) Areas Seeking to Address

4.1 The areas of access and participation Global Banking School seeks to address are informed by the following principles:

- To provide an opportunity for those who 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 each individual's 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 each individual identify and realise their career aspirations through diverse means of employment and/or further study

4.2 A main focus of Global Banking School is to recruit and admit students from a wide range of backgrounds where engagement with higher education is under-represented. Our location in the Bow Road, East London together with our recruitment from the local geographical area greatly enables the School to achieve its stated widening access and participation in higher education aims. We welcome prospective students not holding formal qualification requirements who are able to demonstrate that they can benefit from higher education studies and can evidence relevant life and work experiences together with determination and motivation to study.

(b) Ambition and Strategy

4.3 Global Banking School aims to recruit and admit individuals to higher education from the wide range of different under represented groups. These include the following:

- people from lower socio-economic groups or from neighborhoods where higher education participation is low
- people from low-income backgrounds
- ethnic groups from economically disadvantaged backgrounds
- mature learners

4.4 Our student profile over the past three years^{SECRET} that we have been offering a range of higher education programmes shows that we have been highly successful in meeting our widening participation aims. Global Banking School is committed to maintaining its success at access and participation, and welcomes all individuals from under represented groups in higher education.

4.5 We will approach recruitment and selection for admission to higher education through contacts with and advertising in local communities. Having said that, 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 difficulties in making contact with.

4.6 Global Banking School, subject to successful registration with the Office for Students from 2019-20, will monitor student data through HESA and other returns required by external bodies.

(c) Activities and Support for Students

4.7 Global Banking provides support and encouragement to individuals enquiring about higher education study from first point of contact through to being a student at the School. Our approach is to encourage prospective students to complete an application form and invite them in for informal discussion before going through a more formal 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 Global Banking School for informal discussion or interview, prospective students are offered the opportunity to meet existing students to ask them about their experiences.

4.8 Upon commencement of their studies at Global Banking School student support is offered through a full induction process with the opportunity to meet the staff at the School, including their Programme Leader and Programme Manager, teaching and professional services staff. We provide academic and pastoral support according to our Academic and Pastoral Care Policy. The Student Engagement Manager is responsible for student engagement with studies and pastoral support is provided by the Head of Academic Support.

4.9 Programme Managers and the Student Engagement Officer meet individually with students to discuss attendance, assessment submissions and achievement, progression and academic malpractice.

5. Consultation, Approval, Monitoring and Review

5.1 Global Banking School's Access and Participation Statement has been discussed with current senior managers and teaching staff. The Statement will also be discussed with students from 2019-20 who are enrolled at the School on the Pearson HND Business programme.

5.2 The Chair of Academic Board has approved this Access and Participation Statement and it has also been approved at a full meeting of Academic Board in November 2018. This Access and Participation Statement has also been considered and approved by Global Banking School's senior management team. The Statement will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the School's quality cycle. The annual review will include feedback from students. Any revisions to Global Banking School's Access and Participation Statement will be approved by Academic Board and the approved revised document made available on the School's website and VLE.

Global Banking School documents referred to in this Access and Participation Statement

Global Banking School Strategic Plan 2018-2020
Global Banking School Equality and Diversity Policy
Global Banking School Admissions Policy and Procedures
Academic and Pastoral Care Policy