

## **Access and Participation Statement 2023-24**

### **ECA International College (The College)**

ECA Group is a leading education group offering end-to-end services to international students arriving at its study centres through employment and further study. Those study centres have hitherto been in Australia, but now include ECA International College that works in partnership with London Metropolitan University, UK.

Over the past two decades ECA has helped tens of thousands of students from around the world transform their lives through English language courses, undergraduate degrees, postgraduate degrees and targeted internships. ECA has a global presence across Australia, UK, Brazil, Africa, China, Europe, India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines and Nepal – and works in partnership with quality higher education providers such as Victoria University and Swinburne University and now London Metropolitan University. ECA's mission is to create lifelong learning opportunities for the global community.

The ECA International College (The College) at London Metropolitan University builds upon the ECA experience of working in partnership to create both international and local opportunities for a global community. It serves those communities by providing accessible pathways for international students to commence their studies and preparation for undergraduate and masters' programmes at their chosen university. The College promotes accessibility to both the UK higher education experience and a full range of undergraduate and postgraduate pathways and awards.

### **Access, Success and Progression**

Through this Access and Participation Statement we wish to confirm and identify how we both prioritise and contribute to promoting access, supporting success and securing progression for our learners, who come from a diverse global community with very different cultural experiences and prior levels of educational attainment.

The College has benefited from the long experience of ECA working with diverse global communities to understand aspiration, ambition and support needs. The College has also worked closely with the academic schools and support services at their partner, London Metropolitan University, to understand its global recruitment priorities and the entry level expectations for its programmes. The result has been the design of

education pathways, approved by the constituent schools of the University, with delivery methods, support services and extra-curricular activities and experiences shaped by the aspirations and perceptions of international students arriving and succeeding in their higher education journey within the UK.

## **Outstanding Student Outcomes**

ECA provides an end-to-end student transition service that intuitively understands and supports the needs of international students as they move through higher education systems. ECA starts its process at the application stage with qualified vetting and follows through with world-class course delivery, academic support, and enhanced graduate employability.

ECA's successful and flexibly managed campus model has a demonstrated track record of assisting international students at each stage of their academic journey and ensuring that every student has access to ongoing personal and professional support.

For ECA's university partners, the above points mean the partner can expect:

- reduced attrition
- improved student experiences
- internationally qualified, work-ready graduates

## **Access**

Access is supported through actions across a range of needs:

1. By providing study opportunities at university for those who have not attained the standard entry requirements or for those who are returning to higher education
2. By providing preparation studies for qualified students who feel the need to undertake further study and activity to confirm their 'readiness' for UK higher education and to feel confident in their language and study skills
3. By providing access to a wide range of discipline and progression routes, aligned to student preferences and future employment opportunities
4. By providing access to a wide range of advice and support services to respond to the pastoral and living needs of transitioning to both the UK and to higher education study
5. By taking steps with the academic schools at London Metropolitan University to access, promote and facilitate the integration of the international learner into the academic school community

6. By providing access to London Metropolitan University's Careers Services that enable students to receive career and employability advice relevant for their level of study throughout their time in the UK.
7. By providing support to the University's diversity goals through agreed and targeted international recruitment
8. By ensuring the design and provision of accessible first stage studies

### **Success (and engagement)**

The students are supported to engage and succeed through the pedagogic design of the programmes at the entry studies to the degree stage of the student learning cycle. The focus is on providing opportunities for international students to develop and realise their aspirations and to overcome barriers to access UK Higher education.

The College's approach encourages students to confirm the understanding and skill development requirements of independent learners. This approach is facilitated, inter alia, by:

- Timetabled classes
- Weekly independent study tasks followed by individual feedback
- Reflective accounts and individual weekly tutorials to discuss students' learning journals
- Independent research activities supported by subject librarians and course lecturers
- Educational trips with a series of follow up activities aligned with course aims and expected LOs

The discipline of attendance and responsibility is encouraged through careful student attendance monitoring and actions, and through academic counselling structures. The College Student Engagement Policy has been developed in accordance with UK Visas and Immigration Guidance for Sponsors (September 2021), COVID-19: Guidance for Tier 4 Sponsors and Migrants and for Short Term Students (V.12 Dec 2021) and the London Metropolitan University Student Regulations and Engagement Policy. The policy establishes methods of monitoring engagement for students on Student visas, determines escalation points and contacts as well as ultimate outcomes.

It is expected that all students on a Student visa must be engaged with their studies as determined by their timetable and should aim for 100% attendance. For on campus activities there are a minimum of six contact points per week. Engagement activities include but are not limited to induction activities, tutorial sessions, classroom teaching,

online sessions, draft submissions, mock tests, final assessments, and submissions. Attendance and engagement are monitored on a weekly basis by the London Metropolitan University International Support and Compliance Team.

The introduction to the University academic Schools and integration into the campus at the University significantly enhances the transition from the status of a student of The College to that of student within an academic school of the University. This 'managed transition' contributes to the successful transition of students to the next study level and their achievements.

## **Progression**

The College has recorded the following academic progression rates in the academic years 2021/22 and 2022/23 for the students who met the entry requirements of the target degree programme:

- 92% - MSc International Business
- 96% - MBA
- 100% - MSc Public Health
- 100% - MA Education
- 100% - MSc Data Analytics

## **Monitoring Our Success**

Semester Monitoring Reports for pathway programmes are made available to the Joint Management Committee (JMC), with recommendations for consideration and approval. It is also reported to and shared with the Board of Governors UK and Europe for consideration and opinion.

The College is currently working with the University to identify KPIs that are relevant and include retention and progression to the next stage of the course against directly recruited students. The College is also working on KPIs that measure performance against entry qualification and region, and targeted groups agreed with the University to contribute to its Access and Participation Plan.

## **Publication**

Any revisions to Access and Participation Statement will be identified, and the fully revised version will be published on an annual basis within 28 days of approval by the JMC.