

NPR QS15: Access and Participation Statement Version 2021/01

Access and Participation Statement 2021-2022

Navitas University Partnership Europe (UPE)

Navitas Limited is a global education provider that gives students who have fallen short of entry requirements to university an opportunity to access Higher Education via an alternative pathway.

UPE operates a number of Higher Education institutions across England (our Colleges¹) in partnership with established English universities (Partner Universities).

What is an Access and Participation Statement?

In the context of Home/EU students UPE is committed to recruiting students from all backgrounds and nationalities to our programmes and providing a level of support to ensure that all have the opportunity to succeed on their pathway programme.

Our Access and Participation Statement (APS) sets out what we are doing to make sure we meet the expectations of a Higher Education provider and those of the Office for Students (OfS), the Higher Education Market Regulator in England.

In terms of **Access**, we aim to increase the opportunities for underrepresented groups of Home/EU students to enter Higher Education via a pathway programme.

In terms of **Participation**, we aim to maximise student retention and continuation rates of all students and work hard to reduce any gaps in performance between students from these underrepresented groups and other students.

Why is this Important?

The OfS has found that students with certain characteristics have been disadvantaged in Higher Education. It would like us to help to change this. The groups that have been identified are mature students, students from certain ethnic backgrounds and students with disabilities. Further information is available here: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/differences-in-student-outcomes>

¹ Anglia Ruskin University College (ARUC), Birmingham City University International College (BCUIC), Brunel University London Pathway College (BULPC), University of Northampton International College (UNIC), Hertfordshire International College (HIC), University of Plymouth International College (UPIC), International College Portsmouth (ICP), Leicester Global Study Centre (LGSC), University Academy (UA92)

What do we do?

UPE is a specialist provider of pathway programmes into our Partner Universities. We have a global reputation for transforming students' lives by providing access to Higher Education to students from diverse backgrounds and from across the globe.

A Navitas student is immersed in a pedagogic model and learning and teaching environment that is supportive. It typically includes:

- Small class sizes (typically fewer than 30 learners)
- A 'Compass' Programme that proactively identifies support needs at an early stage
- A higher than normal number of contact hours per module / semester
- A specially-designed Academic Literacy Development module (Interactive Learning Skills and Communication) as part of every programme
- Availability of open access additional support in the form of extra classes and a personalised learning experience
- Learning through a combination of formal, interactive in class and online lectures and seminars, and IT-enabled self-study. The practical application of theoretical knowledge allows students to develop further skills and understanding of relevant topics and concepts. As a result of this approach, student retention and progression to the next stage of their programmes are high

Our programmes of study fall into four broad levels, which enables our access objectives to be achieved:

- A Level 3 foundation programme for students who have marginally missed their university entry qualifications or whose English language skills fall slightly below the standard entry requirement
- A Level 4 first year for students who would benefit from additional academic support to succeed in their studies
- A Level 6 pre-master's programme for students who are changing discipline, or would benefit from additional preparation for the rigours of postgraduate study
- A pre-sessional Academic English programme for students who need to improve their English language skills before commencing their chosen foundation, undergraduate or postgraduate programme

Our University Partnerships

We work in partnership with nine (9) English universities. In these partnerships, a portion of domestic and EU student fees studying in Navitas Colleges is retained specifically for outreach, access and participation in Higher Education work. Navitas College staff work closely with their Partner University staff to optimise and deliver outcomes in each of these areas.

Below, we outline what our Colleges do to support access and participation of students on their pathway programme, including additional commitments to support access into, and participation of Home/EU students on our programmes, and throughout their tuition period within the UPE College.

Our Student Population and Identified Priority Groups

Students take Navitas pathway programmes as part of, and in preparation for a degree programme at our partner universities. We teach and support you for part of your educational experience and have developed our access and participation plan to support the priorities of individual partner universities, whose plans may include specific targets on the % of students recruited from the following categories – attendance at state schools, BME students, disabled students claiming a DSA allowance, mature students and students from disadvantaged areas (Participation of Local Areas, POLAR).

Our Partner University access and participation plans can all be found on their websites.

How we Promote Access?

i. Admissions

Our Admissions teams celebrate the cultural diversity of our applicants and are proud to be able to support our applicants in a number of different languages, where needed. We interview students to learn more about their reasons for choosing to study with us and provide ongoing feedback to support them throughout the application process.

We accept students from all backgrounds and nationalities to our programmes. The programmes are designed to meet the needs of motivated students regardless of disability, gender, race, religion and belief, or sexual orientation. Together with our specialist in-market teams we make great efforts to find a place in one of our Colleges for every applicant. Applicants are almost always provided with a conditional offer and receive assistance from our in-market teams to help them gather the right documentation to meet those conditions. We work closely with our Partner Universities to review our entry requirements so that they are accessible to the emerging needs of students, whilst ensuring that our programmes are designed to provide them with the best chance of progressing to the Partner University.

Mature learners who apply for any of our programmes are interviewed to ensure that the programme matches their experience, aspirational and career goals; thus offering the best chance of success.

ii. Outreach and Student Engagement Strategies

Our Partner Universities have comprehensive outreach strategies and policies that include provision to recruit our students. Please see their Access and Participation statements for further information.

iii. Funding and Investment

Our Partner Universities provide bursaries to encourage students from designated groups to apply to study with them. For more information on the type of bursaries available, please check the Partner Universities' access and participation plans.

How we promote Participation?

Participation activities include:

- Operation of a rigorous system of attendance monitoring designed to identify, students who are at risk of failing or withdrawing in real time and the earliest possible opportunity

- Availability of student support workshops on study skills, wellbeing and mental health issues, employability and cross-cultural communication issues
- Availability of personalised wellbeing and counselling services at Colleges or at Partner Universities
- Representation of the Student Voice through a range of forums including the College Enhancement Teams, Student Council, and UPE Academic Board
- Provision of a specialised advisor for disability support
- Careers support and services available in Partner Universities
- A Compass programme that supports students who are at risk of academic failure or withdrawal
- Student involvement in activities such as the annual Learning & Teaching Conference

Monitoring our Success

Academic Success will be measured through our Business Unit Balance Score Card, which is being developed. We are in the process of identifying KPIs which measure academic metrics such as Pass, Retention, Progression and Tracer data which helps us to monitor student outcome and drive performance. We will identify any particular target groups that need support.

Plans to improve access and participation

Our plans for 2021-2022 are:

- To improve methods of collecting, analysing and reporting student data across our European University Partnerships (UPE) division and link reporting more closely to partner universities throughout the student journey
- To review and build on the success of the Compass programme to widen the support that is available to students from all backgrounds, and make sure that prospective students are aware of the support that is available
- To strengthen employability training for all students within Colleges
- To further develop training in inclusivity and unconscious bias amongst College staff
- To develop strategies within Colleges to ensure that teaching materials, VLE access and recordings of lectures are available to all students in accessible formats
- To establish a Navitas UPE alumni network

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by Navitas UPE Academic Board unless there are internal or legislative changes that necessitates earlier review.

The Policy was last reviewed on 27 September 2021 by the UPE Academic Board.