



Access and Participation Policy & Procedures

1. Introduction

This document outlines the Access and Participation Policy for London Studio Centre (LSC), which encourages engagement in widening participation, access, and student success.

The National Strategy for Access and Student Success concludes that 'outreach is most effective when delivered as a progressive, sustained programme of activity and engagement over time'. LSC takes this approach by aiming to actively identify and target potential applicants from a wide range of backgrounds at the earliest stage; to provide information about what is accessible for everyone. It will also provide targeted outreach events to identified groups to gain further experience and information about the conservatoire. Support for students continues throughout their studies with a substantial pastoral care support system and learning management system which provides students with guidelines, contacts and guidance about student support.

2. Policy Statement

LSC is committed to providing access and encouraging individuals from all backgrounds regardless of their financial or socio-economic circumstances. LSC actively creates opportunities to increase access from under-represented or disadvantaged groups in line with its equal opportunities policy.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all aspects of academic life at London Studio Centre; it includes all potential applicants, applicants, and students. London Studio Centre seeks to ensure that the policy is embedded within day-to-day practices, policies, and procedures throughout LSC.

4. Legal Requirements

London Studio Centre is committed to supporting a wide range of students from diverse backgrounds, in doing so it seeks to use the key findings from the National Strategy for Access and Student Success by HEFCE and OFFA (April 2014). LSC also maintains its responsibility to comply with the Equality Act (2010)

5. Implementation

A. Target Groups

London Studio Centre targets under-represented groups which include, but are not limited to; people from lower socio-economic groups, people from low-income backgrounds, diverse ethnic groups, and males.

B. Financial Support

LSC is committed to providing financial support to students who require it in the form of:

- i. Providing eligible students with London Studio Centre "Tuition Fee Scholarships". LSC uses the income assessments of Student Finance to provide a fair and transparent facility of awarding scholarships.
- ii. Removing barriers that might deter applicants from applying. LSC is committed to widening participation, as such LSC has a "Widening Participation Fund" for students who fit within its target group. The fund provides scholarships towards student tuition fees.
- iii. LSC also provides "Legacy Scholarships" which are named after key figures influential in the creation and ongoing support of LSC during its history. The scholarships provide the recipient with full tuition fees support for the entirety of their study.
 - The Teneisha Bonner Scholarship is awarded to a student from the Black and African Diaspora, showing exceptional potential.
 - The Bridget Espinosa Scholarship is awarded to a student who is viewed as exceptional throughout the application and audition stage.
- iv. LSC also provides numerous scholarships for its Summer School and Saturday Programmes, these are advertised throughout a range of dance schools and sources to provide access to those that may not have the financial provision to attend.
- v. Charity donations/bursaries awarded to LSC are allocated to students based on both talent and financial need; final decisions are ultimately made by the Widening Access and Financial Support Team. Financial information is sought from applicants and progression/attendance information is also considered in the decision.

C. Outreach Activities

London Studio Centre engages in outreach activities to promote its provision at a range of education establishments, college/higher education careers days, fairs, dance exhibitions and exhibiting at the annual Move It dance exhibition, Can You Dance? exhibition and CDMT Dance Careers Conference. LSC identifies Centre's representing a range of social cultural backgrounds, providing applicants with the chance to view and experience LSC's work through; open days, free taster days and Boys' Days, summer schools, and Saturday classes for 3-18+ year old's. National public performances also provide applicants with an opportunity to access the work of LSC.

LSC understands that outreach provides information, encouragement and motivation to potential applicants who may not normally have access. LSC delivers a range of general, targeted, and specific activities throughout the country at various schools and in various techniques. Targeted outreach includes school visits, these can be requested but also a number are identified by the Marketing, Widening Participation and Outreach Committee annually using London Studio Centre's Schools List. The visits are normally undertaken by the Admissions Manager accompanied by the relevant practitioner/s.

LSC targets outreach for young males in its annual countrywide Boys' Day event, which allows them to study for a day at LSC. This provides an opportunity for access and entry level males to experience the performing arts. The day provides an opportunity for networking and gaining support of other males aged 13-18, who can often find themselves isolated or without the necessary guidance required to make the next step into professional training.

LSC's Touring Companies offer outreach workshops across the country during their touring schedule, to bring high quality training opportunities and access to the company shows to various locations. International representatives provide local links for students and schools who want to find out more about

LSC. There is a continued commitment to developing links with the Alumni Association to encourage the support of this network of associates.

London Studio Centre also provides scholarships for its summer school programmes, these are advertised throughout a range of dance schools and sources to provide access to those that may not have the financial provision to attend.

The aim is to provide every opportunity for applicants to access and engage with LSC, this includes video applications and international auditions.

D. Monitoring

London Studio Centre monitor the effects of outreach programmes through feedback of events, review of statistical information, discussion of student representatives and staff at the relevant committees, and external submission feedback. LSC has proven to reach sections of the population traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

6. Responsibilities

Final responsibility for the maintenance of the Access and Participation policy rests with the Directors of LSC.

7. Review

This policy is reviewed annually at the Senior Management Group to ensure it is line with any changes made to legislation and OfS requirements.

8. Related Policies

- Disability Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Quality Assurance and Enhancement Manual

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