

## Access and Participation Plan

**Review Date:** [1/1/2025]

### 1. Introduction

iQualifyUK is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and ensuring access to higher education for individuals from all backgrounds, particularly those from underrepresented or disadvantaged groups. This Access and Participation Plan outlines our objectives, strategies, and commitments to improve access, support student success, and foster inclusive participation in higher education.

This plan aligns with the principles of the **Office for Students (OfS)** and reflects our dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### 2. Our Vision and Objectives

Our vision is to create an inclusive educational environment where every student can achieve their full potential, regardless of their background. To achieve this, we are committed to:

1. Increasing access for underrepresented groups, including students from low-income families, ethnic minorities, and first-generation university attendees.
2. Supporting student retention and success through tailored interventions and resources.
3. Ensuring students are equipped with skills and opportunities for progression to further study or employment.

### 3. Target Groups

We aim to support the following groups:

- Students from areas of low participation in higher education.
- Individuals from low socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Students with disabilities or additional learning needs.
- Care leavers and young carers.
- Mature students returning to education.

### 4. Strategies for Access, Success, and Progression

#### 4.1. Access

To improve access for underrepresented groups, we will:

- Partner with schools, colleges, and community organizations to raise awareness of higher education opportunities.
- Deliver outreach programs, workshops, and mentoring schemes for prospective students.
- Offer financial support, such as scholarships and bursaries, for eligible students.

#### 4.2. Student Success

To support student retention and academic success, we will:

- Provide a comprehensive induction program to help students transition into higher education.
- Implement tailored academic support, including tutoring, study skills workshops, and mentoring.
- Offer mental health and well-being services to support students' holistic development.

#### 4.3. Progression

To support students' progression to further study or employment, we will:

- Provide career guidance and employability workshops.



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- Partner with employers to create internship and work placement opportunities.
- Facilitate access to postgraduate study pathways through information and funding advice.

## 5. Monitoring and Evaluation

We are committed to monitoring the effectiveness of our Access and Participation Plan through:

1. **Data Analysis:** Collecting and analyzing data on application, retention, attainment, and progression rates for target groups.
2. **Feedback Mechanisms:** Engaging students and stakeholders to gather feedback on initiatives and their impact.
3. **Annual Review:** Regularly reviewing progress against targets and adapting strategies to ensure continuous improvement.

## 6. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

Our Access and Participation Plan is underpinned by our commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion. We aim to eliminate barriers to education and ensure all students feel valued and supported.

This commitment aligns with the **Equality Act 2010** and other relevant legislation, ensuring our policies and practices promote fairness and inclusivity.

## 7. Resources and Financial Support

To support the objectives of this plan, iQualifyUK will allocate resources to:

- Outreach programs and activities.
- Academic and pastoral support services.
- Financial assistance, including bursaries, scholarships, and hardship funds.

Information about financial support will be made available to prospective and current students through our website and admissions team.

## 8. Partnerships

We will collaborate with external partners to enhance access and participation, including:

- Local schools and colleges.
- Community organizations and charities.
- Employers and industry bodies.
- Other higher education providers for shared initiatives and best practice exchange.

## 9. Governance and Accountability

Responsibility for implementing and monitoring the Access and Participation Plan lies with the senior leadership team at iQualifyUK. Regular updates will be provided to the governing body, and progress will be shared with stakeholders, including staff and students.

## 10. Transparency and Communication

This plan will be published on our website and shared with prospective and current students, staff, and partners to ensure transparency and awareness.

Students will be actively involved in shaping the plan through consultations, feedback sessions, and representation in decision-making bodies.

## 11. Review and Continuous Improvement

This Access and Participation Plan will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant, effective, and aligned with regulatory requirements and the needs of our students. Updates will be informed by data analysis, stakeholder feedback, and emerging best practices.

## Approval

**Policy Owner:** iQualifyUK

**Approved By:** Board of Directors

**Approval Date:** 22/01/2025



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