

ISTITUTO MARANGONI LONDON  
ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023 - 2024

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Istituto Marangoni has been providing training and higher professional studies in fashion and related areas in Italy since 1935. The London School which (operating since 2003) is part of the GGE Marangoni Group delivers foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate education in fashion design, styling, fashion Business Interior Design, product and visual design. The School attracts students from across the world and is predominantly international with a significantly smaller, but expanding UK student population.

The London School is committed to widening participation and seeks to ensure that students from all backgrounds fulfil their potential, achieve high quality academic outcomes and gain employment in the fashion and design industry either within leading UK or international companies or through establishing their own business.

## **2. OUR COMMITMENT**

The London School supports creative talent to access and participate in higher education across all social and cultural groups and countries, regardless of background and with a view to improving socio-economic diversity within the luxury fashion and design industries, across existing and developing economies. Our mission is multicultural and global and we provide excellent learning opportunities for students from all over the world through a continuous exchange of ideas, projects, stimuli and vision. The London School complies with the Equality Act 2010 in the recruitment of students. It is also committed to inclusive learning and teaching and supports its student community academically and pastorally to facilitate successful outcomes for all its students. In reviewing this Statement, the School has considered relevant student data including institutional management information and national datasets to inform its further ambitions and plans. The School also remains committed to make better and fuller use of national datasets in conjunction with further development of its own management information to enable it to systematically monitor and evaluate its progress as part of its longer term strategy in this area. This also includes gaining greater insight and management information on the employment destinations of its alumni community on students' employment destination and career trajectories of our graduates.

## **3. OUR STUDENTS AND PROGRESS**

The School is a vibrant international community with an internationally diverse student population. Our Undergraduate student population is also predominantly international and under 21, with 20.7% of our undergraduate student population reporting as mature students. In terms of ethnicity, while remaining a diverse and inclusive international community overall, our UK student population remains mainly white. In 2023/2024 Quintile 5 remains the largest socio- economic group with low and far less participation from quintile 1 and 2. Despite this overall trend, our recruitment processes are inclusive and accessible and the School welcomes applicants including those from under-represented groups and we support our applicants from initial enquiry and throughout admission and enrolment. 11.1% of our UK and 7.2% international students reported a disability (HESA 22/23) the largest category being those with mental health conditions.

Graduate outcomes show secure and increasing graduate employment rates within our recent graduate community.

## **4. AMBITION AND STRATEGY**

The School recognises its UK student population has historically attracted a relatively low proportion of students from socio economic disadvantaged groups. Consequently, our overriding priority is to improve participation rates from more disadvantaged socio-economic groups recognising that this will take time to achieve in practice.

In developing this annual statement, the London School is committed to seek to improve the diversity of our students through the following:

- Increasing the proportion of applicants and students from low participation UK neighbourhoods, focusing on the London and the South East regions;
- promoting opportunities and improving applications and take up from other disadvantaged groups including mature and male applicants;
- promoting and enhance our scholarships to disadvantaged groups;
- review of student support within identified access and participation priorities, leading to further action
- local and national graduate entrepreneurial success
- corporate and community stakeholder support across the country and globally appropriate to identified access, success and participation priorities

We will do this by:

- developing strategies to improve recruitment from socio economic disadvantaged groups both in the UK and internationally (including those from UK quintile
- promoting the Istituto Marangoni scholarship programme to encourage applicants from disadvantaged groups;
- expanding our outreach activities including visits to Schools, academies and colleges;
- reviewing our academic portfolio to encourage diversity including, for example and promote the integrated foundation programmes as a progression ladder to undergraduate study;
- work with our alumni and industry partners to promote positive images of diversity within fashion and design;
- consider the inclusivity of our programmes and teaching and learning approaches as part of the programme approval and periodic review process;
- developing our monitoring and evaluation against our access priorities including academic progression and completion of disadvantaged groups compared with our overall student population including progression from foundation to undergraduate study;
- continue to monitor and develop our services to ensure inclusivity and in response to student needs;
- developing a Mental Health Strategy and extend our specialist support or referral to specialist practitioners to support overall well- being, academic progression and completion;
- further promote opportunities to disclose disability or requirement for adjustment throughout the student and applicant journey;
- continue to support our disabled students to maximise progression and academic success;
- increasing cultural and outreach engagement events with targeted student communities.

## **5. OUR ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT INCLUDING ENSURING SUCCESS AND PROGRESSION**

The London School is committed to providing equal access opportunities to higher education to all students from different backgrounds. The London School has already taken the following actions to improve access for everyone:

### Pre-arrival access activities

Through research, application, offer and enrolment, the London School invites applicants and students to disclose contextual information which will facilitate targeted support where appropriate. The School ensures applicant preparedness to study through, for example:

- School participation in the National Saturday Club Trust to offer young people, aged 13-16, an introduction to the world of fashion through workshops and project-based work. Members have an opportunity to experience and receive expert and interactive tuition from Istituto Marangoni London tutors and students
- fair and transparent admissions processes where information provided to applicants is comprehensive and responsive to their individual circumstances;
- support for financial management of fees including instalment plan support;
- scholarship and referral to hardship support;
- orientation interviews where potential applicants can without academic requirement, experience the School environment and receive study preparation and mentoring using a standard 'script' of prompts to enable the applicant to make an informed decision with consistent information;
- entry test to develop applicant understanding of programme content prior to enrolment and seek to evaluate language proficiency and subject skills.

### Our academic provision and inclusivity

Our academic provision is inclusive and accessible to all communities providing opportunities through:

- targeted use of our Foundation courses to support and provide progression opportunities into higher education
- a comprehensive and focused academic offer from level 3 entry to level 7 (which respects student entry from a range of backgrounds and prior educational experiences);
- targeted use of two programme intakes per year to enable further flexibility for non-traditional applicants;
- the use of personal development planning to support the holistic student experience needs, personal context (including barriers and achievements), student self-reflection (upon personal goal setting) and appropriate graduate professional ambitions.
- the deliberate adoption of a range of inclusive learning and teaching styles to foster progression into a self-directed, autonomous learner equipped to enter the industry;

### Pastoral and well-being support

To ensure students from all backgrounds progress and succeed in their studies, the School provides a wide range of support services to enable all our students, including those from disadvantaged groups to fulfil their academic potential including the following:

- specific support for those with disclosed learning difficulties;
- Personal Learning Plans, ensuring any reasonable adjustments are identified and implemented to enable individual student success and progression;

- a range of personal, educational and professional coaching available on request or by referral via the academic and student services team;
  - a well-established coaching and mentoring scheme;
  - specialist counselling and access to diagnostic assessment support available on request or by referral to enable students' progression, mental well-being and academic success;
- cultural engagement: through social cultural events, the School actively engages with targeted student communities, highlighting success and motivating broader community understanding, academic and career ambition
- comprehensive induction programme to support transition into higher educational study providing opportunities for early formative diagnostic assessment;

### Careers advice and support

To maximise employment success for students from all backgrounds, the London School provides a comprehensive careers advisory service incorporating the following:

- bespoke careers advice and support as well as access to careers fairs, access to coaching and mentoring,
- extensive networking opportunities with the industry and our global alumni community to secure work and internship opportunities during study and on graduation.
- careers job platform: the student and alumni portal enables direct job search and application (local, national and international) within Istituto Marangoni industry networks
- careers counselling: this service (available on request for students and alumni or by referral) enables focused employment preparation with CV and cover letter support, personal branding, and interview skills training to enhance graduate self-assessment and success in a competitive employment marketplace
- industry engagement: the School works closely with business, industry and trade organisations, for example, London Fashion Week and Careers Fairs, to improve opportunities for work experience which have demonstrably improved graduate outcomes
- graduate satisfaction: the School monitors satisfaction with careers support through national graduate survey responses and identifies annual action plans in response to priority areas, for example, entrepreneurial support.

## **6. FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND INVESTMENT**

The London School is firmly committed to ensuring that financial and/or socio- economic disadvantage is not an unnecessary barrier preventing talented prospective students from accessing higher education. It also recognises that its fees are significantly higher than the rest of the UK sector while access to student loans is limited to £6165. The School has a targeted scholarship programme involving full or partial fee remission to offset the shortfall against the difference between higher fee thresholds and student loans to address any affordability issues. It also provides substantial merit based academic scholarships, including individuals who are particularly talented. The London School has a budgeted Hardship Scheme to provide targeted financial support for those encountering unforeseen or critical financial hardship during their studies.

The London School also ensures that applicants and students are well-informed about the cost of study and sources of financial support including work study rights for visa students, SLC funding, additional costs,

including accommodation costs through a wide range of publications and its advisory services at all stages of the applicant and student journey.

## 7. COMMUNICATION WITH APPLICANTS, STUDENTS AND STAFF

The Access and Participation Statement is published on the School's website and the School's student intranet, Sinapto. This edition is also disseminated as part of induction and orientation.

All staff will be made aware of the Access and Participation Statement and their responsibilities within it to enable students from all backgrounds to access, participate and succeed in Istituto Marangoni London.

## 8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The School will undertake annual monitoring and reporting of progress through the following measures within its management and governance structures:

- Monitor and report on applications and student population against our access priorities;
- Monitor and report on the number of scholarships awarded against our access priorities;
- Monitor and report on academic progression and completion including the comparative performance of students from disadvantaged groups against our overall student population;
- Monitor and report on graduate career destinations of our students, including the comparative performance of students from disadvantaged groups against our overall student population;
- Make recommendations on areas for future development and/or investment.

We will review our performance against the findings from our monitoring and reporting measures including national data sources and any additional contextual information to identify further improvement and our priorities going forward.

## 9. REVIEW AND PUBLICATION OF THIS STATEMENT

The School Director is responsible for the annual review of our Access and Participation Statement, financial planning and performance indicators approved through the Academic Board and Finance and Resources Committee. The London School recognises the importance of students' input on assuring relevant areas are addressed in relation to widening access and participation. The School's recently established Equalities Diversity and Inclusivity Group will help to inform the further development of the School's approach to access and participation including subsequent editions of the statement and our strategic priorities.

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