

Central Film School, London

Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

Access and Participation Plans set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

You can see the full access and participation plan for Central Film School, London (CFSL) at <https://centralfilmschool.com/Access>

Key points

The School's ambition is to provide a highly practical 'film school' experience with small classes delivered by current industry practitioners. We provide a two year pathway to BA Hons award. As a successful specialist, fast-track provider, CFSL has small student and small programme cohorts. Our history as a micro provider means that the School's data relating to access, participation and success has dealt with very small cohorts of students, which leads to volatility in percentage data and makes it challenging to assess trends. Where appropriate, the CFSL uses techniques to mitigate the effect of small cohorts (eg multi-year aggregate data and cohort groupings). Nevertheless, the focus of our access and participation plan is on monitoring the available data-sets, developing our data collection processes and striving to improve outcomes for specific groups of students in light of the national trends. Whilst this is a developing picture and the data shows that CFSL is meeting its obligations, there are some indications of where further work needs to be done. We are looking to increase applications from the lowest-participation neighbourhoods, monitoring our intake of Mature Students and applicants from a Care Leaver background and strengthening the support that we provide for Disabled students. The School will also continue to monitor degree attainment outcomes between Black and White students (see page 2-10 of the full plan). The School has recently invested in additional student wellbeing and support to ensure students are provided with the resources they need to participate fully and achieve excellent outcomes and this work will continue.

As a micro provider in the first year of our Access and Participation Plan, CFSL will continue to monitor its commitments over the life of the current plan and make any changes necessary in the light of the accumulating data to ensure that it meets its obligations.

Fees we charge

The School reviews its fees and its fee policy annually. The current rates (2022-23) for BA Hons courses are £11,100 per year. Further details provided here:

<https://centralfilmschool.com/TuitionFeePolicy/>

Financial help available

For 2022-23 CFSL has committed financial assistance to those target learners from the most disadvantaged backgrounds. In line with best practice. This support is targeted at the learners who need it most (see page 21 of the full plan). A per-annum bursary of £1,000 will be available to students with a household income under £25,000, who are from the most deprived backgrounds, or who are mature learners, on a first-come-first-served basis. Students who face unforeseen financial problems during their course can apply to the Central Film School Hardship Fund to help

meet costs such as childcare, books/equipment, travel or general living expenses such as rent. Qualifying students will not usually have to repay. Additionally, the following measures are also in place:

- We may repurpose any remaining money from the Hardship Fund to award additional bursaries where it is deemed necessary.
- Should demand be less than the number of bursaries available, any unallocated bursary funds will be reallocated into the Hardship Fund.

Information for students

Students applying to any of our 2-year BA courses should pay particular attention to the [CFS Procedures for Assessment, Reassessment & Progression](#), and the [Enrolment & Registration Policy](#). These documents outline how progression, reassessment and registration works on our fast-track programmes (and all programmes), as the structure of these courses requires specific rules for our students, which may differ from those at other education providers.

All prospective students should familiarise themselves with our Terms and Conditions, paying particular attention to the terms regarding deposits, refunds and the 14-day 'Cooling Off' period. The [CFS Tuition Fee Policy](#) outlines the processes CFS follows on all matters related to the payment of deposits, fees and our approach to students who find themselves in financial difficulties.

Our [Academic Appeals Policy](#) sets out how we process appeals against academic decisions. Our [Student Complaints Policy](#) outlines the process for handling student complaints. Both of these policies are aligned with the Office of the Independent Adjudicator's Good Practice Framework.

The [CFS Consumer Protection Compliance Policy](#) has been drafted with strong reference to the Competition and Markets Authority's advice for HE providers on consumer protection law.

What we are aiming to achieve

The School's ambition is to provide a 'film school' experience with small classes delivered by current industry practitioners. It is our intention to provide this experience to students from all socio-economic groups and ensure equality of opportunity for students from under-represented backgrounds. CFSL is committed to improving access, success and progression outcomes for an increasingly diverse student body (see pages 1-9 of the full plan).

What we are doing to achieve our aims

We have identified a number of strategic measures to support achievement of our aims and targets. (See page 14-23 of the full plan). These include measures to:

Develop our data, evidence and monitoring capacity - This will lead to improvements in our ability to identify and track students within discrete groups in order to develop and monitor projects designed to improve their outcomes.

Develop our outreach programme - Outreach work will include Saturday Clubs, creative masterclasses both in schools and on campus, cultural visits, summer schools, and a mature learners programme.

Develop our Partnerships with schools, colleges and other organisations - We are developing our capacity to work with schools and colleges across the South East. Partner schools are being carefully selected, based on their proportions of students from under-represented groups.

Develop our Inclusive, Practice-based Teaching, Learning and Assessment - We have put in place enhanced assessment and feedback practices, drawing on research and good practice which have been shown to have been effective in closing attainment gaps between non-traditional student groups.

Develop our support for Careers and Employability - Our industry-led approach recognises that students from underrepresented groups are less likely to have access to professional networks and role models in industry. Our activity incorporates a range of measures and approaches that are designed to facilitate success.

How students can get involved

The School introduced the [Student Council](#) to the student body in Oct 2019 alongside the new Student Experience department. The Student Council reviewed and consulted on our approach to access and participation, including the Access & Participation Plan, in the first quarter of 2020, and received generally positive feedback. Student representation is also enabled through a range of other mechanisms:

- Access and Participation Committee
- Academic Board - which is responsible for day to day provision at the school and reports to the Board of Directors, the ultimate governing body
- Course Committees and Course Boards: The School Course Committee evaluates all the module modifications, course developments.
- Advisory Committee: The Central film School Advisory Committee advises on the School's vision, mission and core values, as well as on various areas within different departments.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

The School performs an Annual Internal Monitoring Review, conducted by department heads, which reviews the previous year's performance against objectives, deliverables and KPIs. From this review a [Consolidated Enhancement Plan \(CEP\)](#) is developed, where learning is incorporated to set objectives with specific KPIs across departments for the coming year, and published on the School's website. This plan is monitored on a monthly basis through the School's management committee structures, where 'CEP Review' is a standing agenda item.

The [Access and Participation Plan Committee](#) will monitor and report on these processes to the Academic Board (See page 23 of the full plan). The Committee oversees implementation of actions to ensure ongoing progress against yearly milestones in our access and participation plan. We will monitor impact on our target groups, to ensure we are addressing our aims. Where appropriate, we will adjust our interventions in the best interests of our students.

Contact details for further information

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