

De Montfort University International College

Access and Participation Statement 2018-19

1. De Montfort University International College (DMUIC) is an embedded college offering integrated programmes, established by a collaboration agreement between De Montfort University (DMU) and Oxford International Education Group (OIEG).
2. DMUIC is committed to the development of a study environment that includes and supports all students and staff, where all are able to participate equally and where every individual has the opportunity and is encouraged to fulfil their potential and which further encourages and enables staff to promote and support student achievement.
3. DMUIC was founded in 2013/14; it offers integrated DMU programmes, at RQF Level 3, 4, 5 and 6. The Programmes were originally intended for international students, recruited and visa sponsored (where needed) by DMU, but later widened to include EU nationals.
4. As an embedded college on the campus of DMU offering DMU validated integrated programmes, DMUIC embraces the access and participation plan of the host higher education institution, DMU.
5. DMUIC's commitment to access and participation is reflected in its vision and core values:
 - a. Vision: "We create life enhancing learning experiences that help students worldwide to develop personally and professionally and that enrich their future opportunities.
 - b. Core Values "are at the heart of our business. They define who we are, how we work and guide how we act with each other and with other stakeholders. They're our DNA.
 - i. INTEGRITY: We build relationships through trust, honesty and respect
 - ii. PASSION & PRIDE: We love what we do and strive for excellence
 - iii. CARE: We put our students and their goals at the heart of everything we do
 - iv. CREATIVITY: We are not afraid to be different and we celebrate innovation
 - v. ...and we believe that a SMILE goes a long way"
6. Since receiving the first cohort of students in 2013-14, DMUIC has attracted a diverse range of international students.
7. DMUIC is proud of and embraces its diverse student body. As of 01/05/2019:
 - a. 45% of its student body are aged over 21 years
 - b. 65 nationalities are represented
 - c. The college has a Male/Female ratio of 55/45.

Access

8. DMUIC's portfolio of programmes encourages and supports access to higher education through the provision of International Incorporated Bachelors and International

Incorporated Masters Programmes, which provide continuation to the further stages of a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

9. OIEG is responsible for recruiting DMUIC students under defined guidance from DMU International Admissions Department. Recruitment activities are conducted with integrity, transparency and professionalism. In recruiting, and admitting students, DMUIC aims to widen participation and provide equality of learning opportunity to prospective and has admitted students judged to be able to complete their programme of study successfully
10. Programmes are designed for students supplemented by English for Academic Purposes classes to ensure they acquire and maintain the appropriate level of language and develop the study skills to help them to succeed in their academic studies.
11. DMU recognises the value of a wide range of previous academic studies as well as a student's work experience when assessing suitability for programmes of study.
12. DMUIC and OIEG have a policy of understanding student needs and appropriate financial fee arrangements are agreed to enhance access opportunities through provision of bursary schemes in certain scenarios.
13. DMUIC, OIEG and DMU analyses data on applications to check fairness and transparency. This is reported to the Joint Admissions Working Group, which itself reports into the Partnership Management Group.

Challenges during study

14. Once enrolled, students may face a variety of challenges including difficulty in adjusting to the processes and demands of the UK higher education system.
15. A comprehensive induction week is provided upon start of term, with support from members of the dedicated DMUIC professional services team. The teaching staff has opportunities within the language and skills areas of the curriculum to reinforce messages around the need for good and acceptable academic practices in studies.
16. Student surveys (academic and pastoral support) and the student voice (in the form of a College Board) are critical aspects of quality assurance and the findings are an essential part of the DMUIC Quality Cycle. These processes assist the DMUIC in identifying aspects of the course, which may present difficulties to some parts of the student body, and ways to overcome such difficulties are discussed with students.
17. The apparent reluctance of certain nationalities to disclose disabilities or specific learning needs prior to arrival, has resulted in the college becoming adept at identifying, responding to and supporting such conditions as they are disclosed or become apparent.

Supporting student success

18. DMUIC offers support to meet the needs of students and ensure more diverse access and participation;
 - a. Pastoral care and support
 - i. DMUIC has a dedicated professional services team to provide advice and guidance and signpost multiple DMU resources available.
 - ii. DMUIC has an enhanced level of supervision and care for those students who aged under 18.
 - b. Smaller classes

- i. With class sizes no more than 18, tutors can provide the best possible support to international students acclimatising to UK academia.
- c. Tutor system
 - i. Students receive a wide range of support from DMUIC, this includes both academic support and support on personal matters.
- d. University Support
 - i. DMUIC students are DMU students and have access to the university's wide range of counselling and support services.

Student achievement and continuation

- 19. Data reported in the last Quality Assurance Agency Educational Oversight (Exceptional Arrangements) 2018 Annual Return, shows that continuation rates, for those eligible to do so, were at 95%, and student retention at 94%.
- 20. Students who are at risk of non-continuation are made aware of their situation in advance once identified and personal study plans/options are agreed to provide them with the best possible chance to make continuation or alternative study options.
- 21. DMUIC is committed to inclusive learning and teaching and has used the principles of DMU's Universal Design for Learning (UDL) initiative in reviewing the content, delivery and assessment of modules at all levels.
- 22. Students are requested to notify the International Admission team of any protected characteristics during the application process and they are encouraged to inform their academic and personal tutors of any specific needs which may arise during their programme of study. DMUIC, in conjunction with DMU, has systems in place for a number of needs including:
 - a. Individual reasonable adjustments
 - b. Diagnostic assessment for Specific Learning Differences
 - c. Advice on equipment and access
 - d. Liaison with academic and other university staff and external agencies
 - e. Referral to university counselling services.