

## 1.0 AMBITION AND STRATEGY

UK Business College (UKBC) is rooted in its community and plays a vital role in supporting young people and adults to develop the knowledge, skills, and education needed for employment, career progression, or further study. The College provides the environment, facilities, resources, and support services to enable students at all stages to make effective progress and contribute to a thriving local economy.

UKBC is committed to widening participation and providing opportunities for all students to achieve and progress. Our student intakes reflect the city and surrounding communities' growing diversity, and our practices are underpinned by the Equality Act to ensure that no one is discriminated against, directly or indirectly

UKBC has a clear mission and vision and is clear in its strategic positioning both within the education and training sector and geographically

The overarching mission of UK Business College is to:

- **Provide accessible, high-quality and transformative education that empowers underprivileged students from diverse backgrounds, fostering their success and promoting community engagement and social responsibility.**

This will be supported by:

- Expanding our educational portfolio beyond business, aiming to offer a diverse range of accredited degree programmes.
- Pursuing UK degree-awarding powers to elevate our academic offerings from HND to full degrees qualifications.
- Delivering high-quality, accredited programmes that meet UK standards and enhance students' career prospects.
- Developing and maintaining industry and university partnerships to provide students with real-world learning experiences and employment opportunities.
- Offering innovative curricula that addresses current and future challenges across diverse and emerging disciplines and sectors, preparing students for a rapidly evolving global economy.
- Providing comprehensive professional development services, including mentoring, workshops, and career counselling.
- Implementing a robust student support system with personalised guidance and resources.
- Conducting and disseminating innovative, interdisciplinary research, including pedagogical research, that advances knowledge, informs industry practices, and

addresses real-world challenges across diverse fields of study, both locally and nationally.

## 2.0 ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PRIORITIES

### **Access**

The College will follow all relevant regulatory guidance in its admissions processes to increase entry rates for students from underrepresented groups and reduce participation gaps for students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.

UKBC engages with local schools, community organisations, and stakeholders to raise awareness of higher education opportunities and support students from underrepresented groups in preparing for Higher Education (HE) study.

### **Success**

The College will provide additional student support to improve continuation rates, reduce attainment gaps, and support students from minority ethnic groups and those with disabilities.

Teaching, learning, and assessment activities, and the associated resources, are designed to be inclusive and accessible, ensuring that all students are able to succeed.

### **Progression**

The College will improve progression rates of students from underrepresented groups into graduate-level employment or further study.

Work with local employers and community partners to create mentoring, work experience, networking opportunities, and employment pathways for all students, particularly those from underrepresented groups.

## 3.0 AMBITION, STRATEGY AND SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

The College is committed to increasing access, participation, and achievement through the following priorities:

- Increasing participation among students from ethnic minority backgrounds
- Increasing participation among students from areas of low higher education participation and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.
- Supporting students to achieve strong academic outcomes.
- Increasing progression of students from underrepresented groups into employment or further study.

These priorities are supported through the College's activities and the range of academic, pastoral, and career support services available to students, as outlined in the following sections:

### **Pastoral and Additional Support**

Student Support Services offer professional, impartial, and personalised advice for students facing difficulties affecting learning, including declared disabilities.

Guidance is provided for students with Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) packages to access suitable support.

### **Academic Support**

Personal tutoring is an essential part of UKBC's student experience. Each student is allocated a Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) to provide guidance on academic and pastoral matters, supporting continuation and academic success.

A range of academic support workshops and online learning resources are made available to students to help develop key study skills, academic writing, and independent learning.

### **Career Support**

Careers and employability services play a crucial role in supporting students to transition from education into the workforce. At UK Business College, the designated Centre of Excellence (CoE) provides a range of services including:

- One-to-one career counselling, industry mentoring, and employability workshops
- Support with Curriculum Vitae (CV) preparation, cover letters, and interview skills
- Job search assistance
- Career fairs, networking events, and career readiness and industry-focused workshops

These services aim to equip students with the skills, confidence, and professional networks required to secure graduate employment or progress to further study.

## **4.0 EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND STUDENT VOICE**

UKBC is committed to supporting, developing, and promoting equality and diversity in all activities, fostering an inclusive culture that is free from discrimination and founded on respect and a sense of belonging.

All staff and students have access to facilities, development opportunities, employment, and study based on equality.

UKBC values the voice of its students and ensures it is heard in decision-making. Students are represented on relevant committees and working groups, helping to shape policies and

practices with respect to access, participation, and diversity. In addition, regular student surveys provide feedback on learning, support, and the overall student experience, allowing the College to identify opportunities to better meet diverse student needs.

UKBC is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce. The College strives to ensure that staff from different backgrounds are represented across academic, professional, and governance committees, helping to inform decision-making and promote equality, diversity, and inclusion throughout the College. A diverse staff body enriches the learning environment and supports students' access, participation, and progression.

## 5.0 REGULATORY CONTEXT AND OFS REQUIREMENTS

The primary regulatory objective of the Office for Students (OfS) is to ensure that all students, from all backgrounds, with the ability and desire to undertake higher education, are supported to access, succeed in, and progress from higher education.

UK Business College is not yet required to have an *Access and Participation Plan*, due to not being an Approved (fee cap) provider intending to charge fees above the basic amount for qualifying students on qualifying courses, as referenced under Condition A1.

This *Access and Participation Statement* reflects UKBC's ongoing commitment to creating a supportive, inclusive community where every student feels valued, empowered, and able to succeed.