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## **GBS Access and Participation Statement 2024-2025**

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study in partnership with other higher education providers through sub-contractual arrangements. Our partners currently include Bath Spa University, Canterbury Christ Church U



4.3. GBS takes an inclusive approach to recruiting and supporting individuals and groups of individuals with protected characteristics (as defined by the Equality Act 2010).

## **5. Access and Participation Objectives**

### **(A) Areas seeking to address**

5.1. The areas of access and participation GBS seeks to address are informed by the following principles:



5.4. Our student profile over the years demonstrates that we have been highly successful in meeting our widening participation aims. GBS is committed to maintaining its success at access and participation and welcomes all individuals from under-represented groups in higher education.

5.5. We will approach recruitment and selection for admission to higher education through contacts with and advertising in local communities. Furthermore, many of our students come to us through recommendations from our past and current students. Community based referrals have been and will continue to be a vital aspect of our strategic approach to reach out to the highly diverse and distinct communities that more conventional and traditional institutions of higher education find difficulty in contacting.

5.6. GBS monitors and provides student data through Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Jisc<sup>2</sup> and other returns required by external bodies.

### **(C) Activities and Support for Students**

5.7. GBS provides support and encouragement to individuals enquiring about higher education study from first point of contact through to being a student at GBS. Our approach is to invite prospective students for informal discussion before going through a more formal application and interview process. Some applicants lack initial confidence in their abilities, and we aim to assure them that if they have the required formal qualifications, which may have been obtained some years ago, or relevant life and work experiences, we will support them in their studies. When invited into GBS for informal discussion, prospective students are offered the opportunity to meet existing students to ask them about their experiences.

5.8. Upon commencement of their studies at GBS, student support is offered through a full induction and needs assessment process with the opportunity to meet the staff at GBS, including their Student Success Tutor, teaching, and professional services staff. We provide academic, welfare and pastoral support.

5.9. Specialist Level Leaders at each... sty b Ti sw t oinO alisti



Retention Officers and the Student Welfare Team provide pastoral support, and the Careers and Engagement Team supports students towards their graduate outcomes.

5.10. Curriculum, learning materials, assessment and classroom teaching is designed at each level to build on the previous level, with a particular focus on valuing students'