

SAE Education Limited

2020-21 to 2024-25

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. SAE Institutes' full 2020-2025 Access and Participation plan can be seen [here](#).

Key points

SAE Institute UK is a specialist higher education provider with just under 700 students and three campuses in the UK (London, Liverpool and Glasgow). SAE specialises in creative media education and offers seven accelerated 2-year degree programmes from film production to audio and animation, and a series of online Masters degrees. We also provide SAE-accredited professional diplomas in Audio, Animation and Film. There is a strong commitment to supporting learners from different backgrounds who want gain experience and qualifications that will enable them to enter creative media industries. We have looked at our data for diverse students and we have found areas where we need to improve our performance. SAE's Access and Participation Plan therefore focuses on the activities to improve access, course success and progression into employment or post-graduate study for the following student groups: Students from areas of the country where participation in higher education is low; Black, Asian and minority ethnic students; Mature (age 21 and over) students; Disabled students; and, Students from socio-economically deprived areas. Details of our targets are on pages 11-13 of our full Access and Participation Plan.

Fees we charge

Our maximum fees are set at £9,000 per year for our UK full-time accelerated (2-year) degree courses at our London and Liverpool campuses; and £7,500 per year at our Glasgow campus. Full fee information is available [here](#).

Financial help available

SAE provides a fee waiver (reduction in tuition fees) of up to £1,500 per year for two years or a cash bursary of up to £1,500 year, for students who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Live in a region/postcode in a Low Participation Neighbourhood (LPN); AND/OR
- Be from Black, Asian or minority ethnic background

Full eligibility and terms and conditions can be found at <https://www.sae.edu/gbr/domestic-fees-payments/> and on pages 23-24 of our full Access and Participation Plan.

Information for students

Information about our courses, application process, student funding and support is available through our [website](#). We also provide information for prospective students, applicants and offer holders through online and in-person events, which can be booked through our website, and through a phone and email enquiries service.

What we are aiming to achieve

The SAE vision is to be the leading educator for the creative media industries. We aim to improve the diversity of our student body, where finances will not be a limiting factor. We aim to provide learners with the opportunity to access accelerated degrees (2-year programmes) which reduces

the overall cost of study for learners. We also aim to provide alternative entry pathways for those that do not meet the minimum entry requirements. We are focusing on:

- Raising awareness of the breadth and contribution of the creative industry
- Improving maths literacy required for technical subjects such as Audio Production and Games Programming and computer literacy required for all programmes
- Building understanding of diverse students needs to better support target groups to succeed on their course and achieve good degree outcomes
- Building inclusive learning, teaching and assessment into course design
- Understanding career aspirations of our students and working with industry and alumni
- **Asian students** – by 2024-25, reduce the gap in enrolment between white and Asian students to 55.2 percentage points
- **Students from low participation neighbourhoods** – By 2024-25, eliminate the gap in continuation between the lowest and highest participation neighbourhoods, and reduce the gap in achievement of a 1st or 2:1 degree between these groups to 3 percentage points
- **Black, Asian and minority ethnic (global majority) students**– By 2024-25:
 - Reduce the gap in continuation between the global majority and white students to 3 percentage points
 - the continuation gap between white and Black students will not exceed 10 percentage points
 - reduce the gap in attainment of a 1st or 2:1 degree between white and Black students to 3.4 percentage points
 - reduce the gap in progressing to good employment or further post-graduate study between the global majority and white students to 5 percentage points
- **Mature students** – By 2024-25, eliminate the gap in continuation between young and mature students
- **Disabled students** – By 2024-25, eliminate the gap in attainment of a 1st or 2:1 degree between disabled and non-disabled students
- **Students from low income backgrounds** – By 2024-25, close the gap between the lowest and highest income backgrounds progressing to good employment or further post-graduate study to 2 percentage points.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

SAE are delivering a number of activities to prospective and current students. These include:

- Access events, including creative media skills workshops provided in-schools and on-campus. These are designed to raise awareness of creative media generally and support students in understanding our application process, how to produce a professional portfolio, and provide techniques and tips for writing enhanced personal statements, with Creative Media in mind. These include support on understanding and preparing for alternative entry pathways, i.e. the production of a portfolio. We also run basic maths skills workshops.
- Alternative maths assessment at admission stage for Audio and Games programmes, for those without formal maths GCSE or equivalent.
- School and college partner engagement programme, where schools sign an agreement to work with us and access activities and support for their pupils. We focus on providing access events (as above), and supporting schools to raise attainment.
- Tailored access, information and advice, and communications. We ensure that photo shoots and video creations represent diverse communities, particularly black, Asian and minority ethnic and mature students. We run presentations highlighting the work being done by organisations such as BAFTA, and our individual alumni, to encourage people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities to pursue a creative media careers, with our own students acting as role models providing advice.

SAE have a variety of support measures designed to ensure successful outcomes particularly for students from our target groups. These include:

Improving the inclusivity of our teaching and assessment practices. This includes different options for assessment and feedback, including voice-recorded feedback; providing flexibility in teaching such as online, recorded lectures and study modes to meet different learning preferences of our students and allow students to self-pace learning and return to content. In our curriculum, we make sure content is reflective of a diverse communities, e.g. introducing overseas film industries on our Film course and covering world music in Audio.

- Providing a range of welfare support and celebrate key events such as Mental Health Awareness day. We work with external agencies such as MIND who provide sessions to students and training to staff. We want to encourage students to seek help when needed and raise awareness of the positive benefits of this to personal and academic achievement.
- Study skills workshops and drop-in sessions, such as mature student sessions to address specific work/life balance issues; mental health guidance; finance and accommodation support, with sessions tailored for mature students; computer literacy; and advice on independent learning. SAE also provide this support through our Virtual Learning Environment. We provide assignment surgeries which provide students timely feedback on their written work to raise attainment and success on programme.
- Careers advice and alumni / industry mentor schemes. SAE works with employers to offer placements to our students. CV writing and career workshops are also provided, along with opportunities for students to engage with industry/career mentors. We also run 'SAE Extra', where leading industry guest speakers and independent artists and entrepreneurs provide insight into the Creative Media industries. Finally, we engage with our alumni who provide current students with insight into the world of work and internship opportunities.

How students can get involved

Our Access and Participation plan was developed and written in collaboration with our students. Students can get involved through a range of consultation events and by providing feedback to student representatives. Lead representatives were asked to provide input to this Plan and commentary on targets and actions. We held consultation presentations at campus Board of Studies with all student representatives. Students continue to inform activities in this Plan, for example student ambassadors collaborate with us to promote awareness on campuses, helping us to achieve targets and curriculum reviews involve diverse student groups in order to ensure inclusivity. Data and targets relating to this Plan and monitoring of our progress is shared via a dashboard with student representatives. It is also regularly discussed at a range of student feedback events, such as Board of Studies and Lead Representative meetings.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We use a 'theory of change' model to evaluate specific initiatives, which helps us to identify how our activity works and how we can measure it. Our main methods of data collection to are surveys and observations in the cases of practical workshops. These methods provide quantitative as well as qualitative responses. We collect and evaluate data relating to student applications, offers, enrolments, attendance, retention, achievement, success, course outcomes, employment, further study and graduate outcomes. The outcomes from the evaluation will then feed into refinements to our interventions. This may be refining an activity so it has greater impact, or increasing the scale of an activity while maintaining impact.

We are supported in evaluation by external specialists through our membership of Specialist Evidence Evaluation and Research (SEER), who also conduct research and evaluation on our behalf. Our evaluation strategy is detailed on pages 29-32 of our full Access and Participation Plan.

Contact details for further information

For further information about our Access and Participation Plan or activities, you can contact Peter Hudson, Director of Marketing at p.hudson@sae.ac.uk.