

Lewisham College: Provider Access Statement

Date updated: November 2024

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in college is critical to our student's futures. It helps to prepare them for the workplace by providing a clear understanding of the world of work including the routes to jobs and careers that they might find engaging and rewarding. It supports them to acquire the self-development and career management skills they need to achieve positive employment destinations. This helps students to choose their pathways, improve their life opportunities and contribute to a productive and successful economy.

As the number of apprenticeships rises every year, it becomes increasingly important that all young people have a full understanding of all the options available to them as they progress through their post-16 education journey including wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

Commitment

Lewisham College is committed to ensuring there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students, for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. Lewisham College is fully aware of the responsibility to set students on the path that will secure the best outcome which will enable them to progress in education and work and give employers the highly skilled people they need. That means acting impartially, in line with the statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

Lewisham College endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and are able to access information on technical options and apprenticeships (The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause": supporting students to understand the full range of education and training options, and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023).

Aims

Lewisham College's statement for Access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

To develop the knowledge and awareness of our students of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.

To support young people to be able to learn more about opportunities for education and training outside of college before making crucial choices about their future options.

To reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training).

Student Entitlement

Lewisham College fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The college will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done via Careers activities and events laid out in our annual Careers plan.

Equality and Diversity

Access to other providers is available and promoted to allow all students to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. Lewisham College is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to Tracy Andrews, Careers Leader. Tracy Andrews may be contacted on tracey.andrews@lewisham.ac.uk

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend Lewisham College for Careers activities and events. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip. Please contact Mary Fudge, Careers & Personal Development Manager, mary.fudge@lewisham.ac.uk. The Careers Leader or Careers & Personal Development Manager will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team or other suitable staff member who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual encounters

Lewisham College will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the college assembly hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

Monitoring review and evaluation

This statement will be monitored and evaluated annually