

William  
College

# PROGRESSION AGREEMENT

OCN London  
Access to HE Diplomas

For Learners progressing to  
Level 4 Entry  
Academic Year 2026 - 2027

Progression Agreement 2026 - 2027 | Version 1.0  
Stratford, London

William  
College

YOUR FUTURE  
YOU ARE IN

Partner: OCN London

William  
College

OCN  
London

# Introduction

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William College is a Higher Education provider based in Stratford, London, delivering programmes validated by Bath Spa University. Our mission is to widen participation in Higher Education by providing flexible, supportive, and accessible pathways for learners from a broad range of backgrounds - including mature students, those with caring responsibilities, and Access to HE Diploma learners.



This Progression Agreement formally establishes a structured route for learners studying OCN London Access to HE Diplomas to progress onto undergraduate study at William College.

## What is a Progression Agreement?

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A Progression Agreement is a partnership arrangement that:

- Confirms the intention of WC and (in this case) the Access Validating Agency to collaborate in facilitating for learners the transition into higher education.
- Recognises the Access to HE Diploma as a strong preparation for university study.
- Provides guaranteed interviews for eligible learners.
- Outlines clear entry requirements and pathways from FE to HE.
- Enhances learner confidence, aspiration, and preparedness for progression.
- Formalises outreach, taster, and transition support for Access students.

This agreement applies to learners studying an OCN London Access to HE Diploma in relevant subject areas, and covers the following William College programmes:

**BA (Hons) Business and Management (Law) – 3 years**

**LLB (Hons) Law – 3 years**

**Cert HE Business – 1 year**

# About William College

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## Flexible Model Designed for Students with Commitments

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William College operates a distinctive and highly supportive timetable model:

- Students study two days per week:
  - 1 day on-campus
  - 1 day online (the day immediately after)
- Learners are allocated fixed study days for the entire academic year, ensuring predictable scheduling for those with work, children, or caring responsibilities.
- Students benefit from reduced commuting costs and the reassurance of a stable pattern of attendance.

## Three-Semester Structure Supporting Student Balance

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William College teaches across three semesters per year, but learners attend only two.

**Example:** An October starter will study the October and February semesters, and not study the June semester.

This structure provides guaranteed non-teaching periods, helping students balance study with work and family commitments. It reduces burnout, provides defined rest periods, and makes planning around work and family responsibilities significantly easier. It also allows students to start their studies at 3 points in the year.





## Unmatched Transport Access

The Stratford campus is located 2 minutes from Stratford Station, one of the best-connected transport hubs in the UK - offering Central, Jubilee, Elizabeth Line, DLR, London Overground, and National Rail services. This significantly widens the catchment area for Access to HE learners.



## A Supportive, Community-Focused HE Environment

William College offers:

- Comprehensive student wellbeing and mental health support.
- Academic skills development, including one-to-one study skills and tutoring.
- Careers and employability guidance.
- A strong ethos of inclusion and widening participation.



# About Access to HE Diplomas

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Access to HE Diplomas prepare adult learners for university study by providing:

- 60 credits in total
- 45 graded credits at Level 3 (Pass, Merit, or Distinction)
- 15 ungraded Level 2/3 units (study skills)

These diplomas equip learners with subject knowledge, academic skills, and the confidence needed for success at university level.

William College fully recognises the value of Access to HE pathways - especially for mature students, career changers, and those who may not have taken traditional A-level routes.

## Benefits of this Progression Agreement for Students

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### OCN London Access to HE Diploma learners will receive:

#### Guaranteed Interview

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All eligible Access to HE applicants meeting the entry criteria will be offered a guaranteed interview for the relevant William College programme.

#### Direct Application Route (No UCAS Required)

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Students may apply directly and free of charge to William College.

#### Flexible Study Options

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Students may choose between weekday or mixed weekday / weekend timetable patterns, plus evening classes (subject to availability and programme).



## Loan Advantage via Cert HE Route

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The Cert HE Business is particularly attractive to Access learners:

If a learner completes this 1-year course, their previous Access to HE loan is written off under standard Student Finance rules.

Students who successfully complete the Cert HE may choose to receive the award or progress into the second year of the BA (Hons) Business and Management (Law) degree.

## Outreach Support for Applications

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Our Outreach and Admissions team can support prospective students with:

- Application completion.
- Interview preparation.
- Personal statement advice.
- Finance and wellbeing information.

## Taster Sessions / Masterclasses

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William College will offer a range of subject-specific academic taster sessions and masterclasses for Access to HE students. And will consist of:

- A 2-hour interactive academic taster/masterclass (in Business or Law) and HE experience session covering:
  - Student support
  - Wellbeing
  - Finance
  - HE expectations
  - William College's 2-day study model
  - Q&A

Sessions can be delivered at William College, or on-site at a FE colleges. Topic ideas include, but are not limited to:

### Business & Management (Law) focussed:

- How artificial intelligence is shaping the modern workplace - And what this means for you!
- Running a Business in the Real World - Business decision-making and leadership in real-world contexts.
- Why Managers Need Legal Knowledge - The relationship between business and the law.



### Law focussed:

- Your Rights at Work - What the law actually says.
  - Can the Law Keep Up With Technology? (AI, Social Media & Privacy) - Law, technology and ethics.
  - Thinking Like a Lawyer - Developing legal and critical thinking skills.

All sessions are designed to be accessible, discussion-led, and suitable for students with no prior specialist knowledge. We can also offer sessions more focussed on a particular area of interest.

# Benefits for FE Colleges

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Through this progression agreement FE Colleges receive:

- Clear, structured progression pathways for their Access cohorts.
- Increased learner recruitment and retention due to guaranteed progression routes.
- Outreach, masterclasses, and curriculum enrichment opportunities for their programmes.
- Direct support for Access tutors (application guidance, guest lectures, progression talks).
- Strengthened collaborative partnership with a widening-participation-focused HE provider.



## Programmes Covered by This Agreement

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The following William College programmes are included:

1. **BA (Hons) Business and Management (Law)**
2. **LLB (Hons) Law**
3. **Cert HE Business**

Each programme is validated by Bath Spa University.

## Entry Requirements for Access to HE Students

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To qualify under this Progression Agreement, learners must achieve:

### Full Access to HE Diploma including:

- 45 at Level 3 at Merit or above
- Relevant subject area:
  - Access to HE Diploma (Business Studies)
  - Access to HE Diploma (Law)
  - Or other relevant Access to HE course agreed with Admissions

### Additional Requirements:

- Applicants are required to undertake an academic interview.

For the most up-to-date information please see [William College courses](#)

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# Application Routes

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Students may apply directly. This is free of charge and has a much faster response time than UCAS applications. Applicants will be supported by the William College Outreach team.

## Outreach, Transition & Enrichment Activities

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William College will provide:

- Masterclasses and taster sessions.
- HE transition workshops.
- Application and interview support.
- On-campus or in-college information sessions.
- Priority access to open days and bespoke visits.

## Duration and Review of Agreement

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- This Progression Agreement is valid for the 2026–2027 academic year.
- It will be reviewed annually by William College and OCN London.
- Either organisation may propose amendments as required.

### Termination

Either party may withdraw from the agreement with written notice.

Learners already in the Access cohort will retain their progression benefits for that academic year.



# Contact Information

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### To speak to us:

020 4512 9370

### For general enquiries:

[contact@williamcollege.com](mailto:contact@williamcollege.com)

### For students interested in applying or learning more about our courses:

[applynow@williamcollege.com](mailto:applynow@williamcollege.com)  
(please use OCN as a reference)

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### For institutions:

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Inspiring Knowledge. Empowering Futures.



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