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## 02.5

# POLICY STATEMENT ON ACCESS AND ACCESS PROGRAMMES



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## **POLICY STATEMENT ON ACCESS AND ACCESS PROGRAMMES - ROUTES TO ADVANCED LEVEL STUDY FOR MATURE STUDENTS**

### **1 Background**

Mature returners of all kinds are under represented in the higher education system. The University intends to pursue recruitment of such individuals, recognising that they possess desirable qualities for study at advanced level and that they can make a valuable contribution thereafter to the nation's economy and culture.

Some mature individuals may already be capable of entering onto an advanced programme of study by virtue of academic qualifications and these will be actively recruited. Others, however, though not in possession of the precise pre-requisite qualification for a particular programme, may be capable of success on that programme by virtue of a combination of academic qualifications and relevant experience. In what follows, recognition of this combination is categorised under the banner of "Access".

Yet other mature students will have amassed much relevant experience or other attributes, but lack the academic background (and/or confidence) to pursue successfully a higher level programme. Such individuals may benefit from pre-study on what is referred to below as an "Access Programme".

### **2 Maturity**

The University is constrained in its flexibility towards the interpretation of what constitutes maturity by its associated awarding bodies - UW, Edexcel etc. The rules and regulations of such bodies in this respect must, therefore, be kept in view by those in charge of admissions. This may be further complicated by grant awarding bodies (LEAs) where entry to access programmes is concerned.

### **3 Access Policy Statement**

The University recognises that mature students who do not possess the normal academic entrance qualifications for its advanced programmes are often capable of success on such programmes following direct entry, by virtue of other attributes. Cardiff Metropolitan University will initiate, undertake and keep under review strategies, which attempt to identify

and give credit for the experiential attributes of mature returners with the intention of making its programmes directly accessible to them.

#### **4 Access Programmes**

Where appropriate, the University may provide Access Programmes, for mature individuals (see section 3), which enable academic bridging to advanced level programmes. In such circumstances, the University will develop appropriate provision in Access Programmes which, where possible, will encompass flexibility of delivery and mode, and which recognises experiential abilities and qualities on a par with academic qualification: such programmes will attempt (within reasonable boundaries) to be open to all who wish to attempt them.

Additionally, the University will admit onto its advanced programmes, where possible, individuals who have successfully completed relevant access programmes at other educational establishments.