



## 'Making a Mark'

### Gold Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

## University of Westminster

The University of Westminster aims to make a difference in the world by harnessing our resources, expertise and partnerships to effect sustainable social change with local, national and global impact. We are a progressive, responsible and sustainable organisation, and this ethos is increasingly embedded in our values, activities and governance practices.



We are the first London university to be awarded the Social Enterprise Gold Mark accreditation, confirming our university as an exemplar of a social enterprise: an organisation that puts social purpose, positive environmental impact and good governance ahead of financial return.

The Social Enterprise Gold Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to answer a set of social impact questions, which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/environmental objectives. Below are examples of how the **University of Westminster** is Making a Mark, striving to create a positive impact on people and planet.

### Adopting a holistic approach to social responsibility

We strive to help students from different backgrounds fulfil their potential. Our 'Being Westminster Strategy' reflects who we are today and our vision for 2023.

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We will have a whole institution holistic approach to social responsibility, making a measurable change for good to the well-being, health, culture and progression of our students, colleagues, local and international communities and creating a truly inclusive university.

## Creating social impact

The Gold Mark accreditation process highlighted the University's commitment to health and wellbeing; equality and inclusion; and our engagement with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Our commitment is demonstrated in areas such as the work of:

- Our [Creative Enterprise Centre](#), which supports Westminster students and recent graduates to develop transferable and industry-relevant enterprise and entrepreneurial skills;
- University of Westminster [Legal Advice Clinic](#), which provides free legal advice to the public, including in housing law, family law, employment law and immigration;
- The University's [Polyclinic](#), serving the health of the local community;
- Our [four research communities](#);
- The global reach of the University's alumni, reflected in this year's [Social Impact Award winner and nominees](#).

The University is already building on the achievement of the Gold Mark, further developing a range of ambitious social enterprise projects. Through partnership, training and public engagement, we aim to support the social enterprise activities and requirements of communities and organisations in London and beyond, at a challenging moment when the needs of society must feature in any business model.

In Autumn 2021 the University will start enrolling students onto an innovative Social Enterprise MSc course intended to train a new generation of social enterprise experts, whose societal engagement and impact will be local and global.

Planning is underway for the creation of a Social Enterprise Hub, which will bring even greater focus to and act as a catalyst for teaching, research and knowledge exchange engagement with social organisations in London and beyond.

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