

Title: Improve accessibility on campus through navigation and communication

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This union notes

- There is a room finder for the Richard Hoggart building, found within the goldsmiths app. There is no room finder or alternative for the other buildings.
- The university sets out to 'ensure adequate and appropriate signage and wayfinding across campus.'¹
- Sign language interpreters are provided for students through Disabled Students Allowance as 'Non medical help.'^{2 3}
- For assessments, Goldsmiths university provides British sign language interpreters for students.⁴
- The Equality Act 2010 imposes a duty on the College to make Reasonable Adjustments when it is not possible to remove all barriers through inclusive design and practices.⁵
- The university's Strategic aim 1, as stated in the Access and Participation Plan, is to 'improve our institutional understanding of the experiences, needs, priorities and concerns of our students, especially those from underrepresented groups.'⁶
- For 2020-21 entrants, there was a 5.4pp continuation gap between students with mental health conditions and those with no known disability. Goldsmiths university states that a factor in this gap is 'access to information and guidance.'⁷ The university aims to improve their 'understanding of the needs, experiences, and outcomes of these groups of students at the College.'⁸
- The university aims to 'close the continuation gap between students with mental health conditions and those with no known disability by 2030-31.'⁹

¹ Policy 12.2 - <https://www.gold.ac.uk/media/docs/gam/Disability-Policy.pdf>

² <https://www.gold.ac.uk/students/disability-support/dsa-assessors/>

³ Policy 9.3.1 - <https://www.gold.ac.uk/media/docs/gam/Disability-Policy.pdf>

⁴ Policy 7.8.5 - <https://www.gold.ac.uk/media/docs/gam/Disability-Policy.pdf>

⁵ Policy 4.1 - <https://www.gold.ac.uk/media/docs/gam/Disability-Policy.pdf>

⁶ Page 2 -

[https://www.gold.ac.uk/media/documents-by-section/about-us/governance/Access-and-Participation-Plan-2025-29-\(PDF\).pdf](https://www.gold.ac.uk/media/documents-by-section/about-us/governance/Access-and-Participation-Plan-2025-29-(PDF).pdf)

⁷ Page 5, Risk 5.1 -

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⁸ Page 6, Objective 2.3 -

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⁹ Page 7, Objective 5.1 -

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This union believes

- The current room finder is useful for students and staff. Students and staff would benefit from a room finder for any building they may need to access.
- There should be equal access for all students and staff of Goldsmiths. Deaf students and staff should be able to use their preferred sign language on campus.
- All students and staff should have the same opportunity to interact with peers and engage in their studies or roles within the university.
- The room finder will help students navigate to their room, and find an accessible route to their room if need be by finding step-free routes.
- The access to an interpreter will ensure all students and staff are able to successfully and effectively communicate with their peers and interact with their course or job position within the university.
- Goldsmiths providing sign language interpreters to all students will create equal access to all courses, as interpreters are currently provided by DSA, and are only trained in British Sign Language (BSL). There is currently no formal process for students unable to access DSA, or who only know a different sign language such as American Sign Language (ASL) to have an interpreter with them at all times.
- In the following GSU values:
 - Equip to Excel - Giving others the tools to help themselves. Giving students and staff access to easier navigation and sign language interpreters will help them be more independent and remove barriers other students may not face.
 - Step up, speak up - Don't be a passive bystander, taking an active approach to contributing to the development of the organisation. Advocating for better conditions for all students is an active approach.
- These changes would result in an increased sense of belonging and wellbeing in the student body.

This union resolves

To campaign the university to improve accessibility on campus through creating a room finder for all university buildings, and by providing easy access to an interpreter for any student or staff member that requires one.