



# ESCP Business School

## Student Protection Plan

### (London Campus)

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## 1. Introduction

As a provider of higher education in the UK, ESCP Business School London is required to publish a Student Protection Plan (the Plan), which sets out how continuation and quality of study will be preserved for current and potential students if a risk to their continued study crystallises. This Plan builds on our experience and is intended to assure current and future students that we have appropriate arrangements in place to protect the continuation of study. It outlines the types of risks, gives examples of events that might trigger action and explains what we might do to minimise the impact of these events if they happen. As a 'one size fits all' approach might not protect each student in each instance, our Plan is also designed to take into account the differing needs, characteristics and circumstances of our student community.

## 2. Risk Assessment and Mitigation

The risk that ESCP Business School London is unable to operate is negligible. ESCP Business School London is an autonomous subsidiary of the Paris-based EESC ESCP Europe which itself enjoys a statutory link to the Paris Chamber of Commerce, which is its main shareholder. The London Campus is an integral part of the ESCP group. As such, it plays a key role in the Group offer strategy, with London being at the forefront of the students' campus choice. Due to this popularity, the London campus (in particular since the launch of the Bachelor in 2015) has seen its student population grow significantly and its financial performance improve with lesser funding requirements from the Federal centre. Notwithstanding this, the Federal centre continues to be committed to the Estate development and financial support of the London campus, investing heavily in the campus infrastructure and providing, if and when needed, financial support to the campus through a mechanism of letter of financial guarantee aiming at covering any operational or exceptional financial shortfall which may arise.

The EESC ESCP Europe owns the freehold for the School building, and the Charitable status of the School in the UK is long-standing. The School has an excellent compliance record and a risk register model embedded in its strategic processes. Student growth is regulated in line with our operational capacity in London. London will operate at levels without risk to its financial security. Ameliorative or contingency actions are defined for each of the major risks identified.

A comprehensive approach to risk management takes place at both the School Management Board (SMB) and Board of Trustees levels. In both settings, risks are assessed, monitored and classified. The initial risk classification by SMB, which occurs on a monthly basis, is examined and evaluated by the Board of Trustees and Audit and Risk Committee on a quarterly basis.

The Risk Register is the document in which all risks are identified and contingency actions defined. It is framed by the UK Charity's School Management Board and presented at the Board of Trustees and Audit and Risk Committee level on a quarterly basis.

### a. Risk of Campus Closure

Critically, the multi-campus nature of the parent institution and the design of academic programmes as multi-campus programmes provide further insurance. If the London Campus were, for whatever reason, no longer able to deliver material components of its courses in London, the possibility exists for those courses to be delivered at alternative ESCP Business

Schools (in Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Turin). It is already the case that structured parts of the same programmes are delivered in those alternative centres, and in extreme circumstances, this arrangement would follow.

#### b. Course changes and/or Closure

If we are unable to deliver specific modules in our programmes due to exceptional circumstances, we will offer students substitution modules approved by the European Teaching and Learning Committee that result in equivalent learning outcomes. However, the risk of such alteration to taught courses is extremely low. Where material changes (such as a number of changes to the structure of the programme, or the removal or addition of a number of modules) are made between the publication of the programme brochure and registration, the School will draw these changes to the attention of applicants as soon as possible and advise them of their right to withdraw their application or seek entry on to another programme. Such changes cannot apply during the cycle of a programme.

If we are unable to deliver certain programme(s) or significant parts of a programme (e.g. a term or a semester) at our London campus in the face of exceptional circumstances, existing students will be enabled to complete their studies. We will allow students to undertake their degree (in its remaining part) on another campus, namely Paris, Berlin, Madrid or Turin. As per our programme structure, no more than two semesters of any single Level 7 degree are delivered at the London campus and no more than one year of any Level 6 award. Teaching Faculty are accustomed to delivering large parts of these degree programmes at one or more ESCP Business School campuses. Therefore, the risk that the School would not 'teach out' a programme due to business continuity problems or unforeseen closure is non-existent. Prospective students for such cohorts will be contacted by the admissions team and will be provided with advice on suitable alternatives elsewhere.

#### c. Loss of validation

The London Campus works closely with the City, University of London, which validates its Master in Management. The loss of validation by the City has been a considered risk within our Risk Register since its first establishment. However, whilst the loss of validation constitutes a theoretical risk, we have never classified it as a significant risk due to the excellent status of our relationship and repeat renewals since 2000. The programme validation is monitored by City on a rolling basis with two Course Boards a year, plus one formal Assessment Board.

In the event that validation is withdrawn, the School would work with the University to "teach out" existing students with no impact on their experience or accreditation. This would be in accordance with the City's provisions for such an instance. Ultimately, the Master in Management is accredited by the French Ministry of Education, the Berlin Senate, and the Italian Ministry of Education. As such, the loss of validation in the UK would not lead to the cessation of the programme or to any significant change in student experience. We would simply lose the ability to supplement one or more of those European qualifications with a City degree.

#### d. Loss of Tier 4 license

The School takes Tier 4 sponsorship responsibilities seriously and makes every effort to ensure it is fully compliant with the UKVI requirements. Our Tier 4 sponsorship has been consistently renewed every year; therefore, the risk of losing our Tier 4 Sponsorship licence is low.

In the unlikely event that the sponsorship is withdrawn, the School will contact all prospective international students to support them in securing a place at another campus outside the UK.

### 3. Triggering the Plan and Student Support

- In any of the above-mentioned risks, should a decision be made by the School Management which results in the need to trigger the Plan, students will be informed in writing within 10 working days of the decision being made.
- Where applicants have already accepted an offer, they shall be furnished with all necessary information, advice and guidance by the School to help them make an informed decision on their future course of action.
- Current students should be informed of their options, too. The School will provide all necessary information, advice, guidance and support to facilitate students in deciding which option to follow. The standard of academic provision and the student experience must, as far as is reasonably practicable, be maintained throughout their period of registration. In particular, the conditions must be maintained to enable the stated learning outcomes in the relevant Programme Specification to be achievable by students who are being 'taught out'.

### 4. Refund and compensation in the event of Student Protection Plan being triggered

The annual consolidated income of ESCP Europe Business School ("the London campus") is £11.8 million as of 31 December 2022. Through the implementation of a letter of financial support provided to the London campus at the end of December 2022 by its parent company (the EESC), the London campus ensures it will have sufficient funds to repay all of its liabilities should any crystallise at any point in time.

As is the case for any other sister campus of the ESCP Group, the London campus no longer benefits from an operating subsidy since 2020 but relies on the strength of its financial projections, recruitment levels as well as on the existence of the letter of financial guarantee to ascertain that it is a going concern within a period of 18 months after the signature of the financial statements.

The School's Refund and Compensation Policy (London Campus) sets out the provision for refund of fees and compensation in the event of the Student Protection Plan being triggered. The policy includes information on the provision to recognise and compensate students where other alternative arrangements are inappropriate or not available and/or where refund or compensation is deemed appropriate. The refund and compensation policy is applied in a fair and proportionate way, ensuring students are not disadvantaged.

Please refer to the "ESCP Business School Refund and Compensation Policy (London Campus)." The School Tuition Fee Refund outlined in the "Admissions Terms and Conditions" operates separately from this policy.



## 5. Communicating the Plan

We aim to review our student protection plan annually before the beginning of each academic year. We draw the attention of current and future students to our Student Protection Plan by publishing it on our website and in the admissions terms and conditions.