

# Waterloo Centre for Adult Education

## A guide for stakeholders





## Welcome

For more than 130 years, the Waterloo site has welcomed adults looking to pursue a better life through education. Our history is rooted in social justice after Suffragette Emma Cons first opened our college for working men and women.

Our passion for inclusive education continues to this day. As a local anchor institution supported by incredible partners, we make aspirational subjects and careers more accessible. We want to show education's potentially life-changing power and help adults re-skill, upskill, and enjoy what they learn.

From world-renowned institutions to impactful local employers, our stakeholders help us change lives every day. We work with Guildhall London, King's College London, Mosaic Clubhouse (supporting people living with mental health conditions), Ravensbourne University London, and even the Natural History Museum - the phenomenal setting for a recent Fashion catwalk.

Many of our partners make it possible for us to run vital bursaries, subsidies, and scholarships to help hard-to-reach students. Accumulate sponsorship is aimed at those affected by homelessness. The Rachel Mills Literary Agency supports our Morley Prize for Unpublished Writers of Colour.

The Royal Female School of Art Foundation (RFSA) funds our female artists. The list goes on.

At the Waterloo Centre, students are welcomed to a dynamic and diverse learning environment where individuals can be themselves and explore specialist interests. Working collaboratively, we will continue to shape exceptional training for future change-makers and meet local needs - now and tomorrow.

**Bushra Iqbal**  
Centre Principal, Waterloo Centre  
for Adult Education

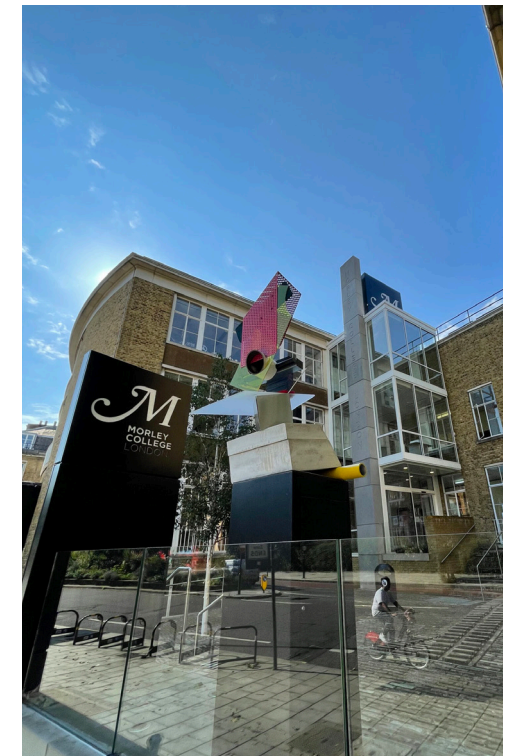
## 2024 Priorities

**Explore innovative ways to work with more stakeholders.** With a multi-million-pound investment in estates getting underway in 2024, the Waterloo Centre will boast even more flexible spaces and cutting-edge facilities. We want more students and stakeholders to use us as a venue and for training.

**Put sustainability at the core of what we do.** We have strong links with science, technology, and health sectors. We want sustainability to be central to all our subjects. In 2024, the Waterloo Centre will lead on green and digital skills thanks to Local Skills Improvement Funding.

**Grow our community and higher education offer.** Although we have an expansive short-course offer, we are developing even more programmes that meet community needs and fill skills gaps - from free and subsidised part-time courses to new degrees that focus on adult learners.

**Embrace new technologies to amplify innovation.** We are passionate about using technology to meet industry demands, reach more learners, and boost sustainable employment. We have a virtual learning environment, use teaching apps, and have online trackers recording learner journeys.



## Our Curriculum

Removing barriers to learning is our central ethos. We teach flexible, part-time, full-time, and (wherever possible) free or subsidised community courses for low-income families. Our training offers employability skills and progression routes, and we're delighted to be reaching more people than ever before.

**The Waterloo Centre straddles two of London's most culturally diverse boroughs, so we teach everything from part-time courses for adults to professional and higher education qualifications. With over 2,500 classes across 20 programme areas, the choice is kaleidoscopic and covers Visual Arts, Music & Performing Arts, Humanities & Science Technology, and Essential Skills.**

The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) praised our links with partners in 2023 when we received one of only a handful of gold ratings nationally for outstanding higher education experiences and outcomes. We teach degree courses as well as

access to HE and Level 3 diplomas for those wanting to access their higher education journey.

A termly Stakeholder Advisory Group - including Southwark and Lambeth Councils, Youth First, Good People, Hyde Housing, and Oasis Academy Southbank - shapes our curriculum to align with sector requirements today. Advisors challenge processes to give students the edge on entering the jobs market.

Our expert tutors have masses of passion and experience. Incredible figures like writer Virginia Woolf, composer Gustav Holst, and artist Maggi Hambling have all inspired Morley College London students of the past. Setting live briefs, teaching soft skills, and offering life-changing work placements, industry experts continue to enhance our curriculum today and give depth and meaning to classroom theory.



## Exceptional Facilities

As well as being a vibrant site with over 50 well-equipped classrooms, the Waterloo Centre is an important cultural venue. Creative students access incredible exhibition spaces, textile rooms, fashion labs, ceramics studios, jewellery workspaces, dance studios, and art facilities with 3D printers.

We offer a free **on-site crèche** to make education possible for parents. We also have **science labs**, a **digital suite**, and a well-equipped library and learning centre. The Waterloo Centre is also home to **Morley Radio** studios – our impressive in-house radio station and podcast production house (set to host the prestigious EPOD conference with publishers Routledge and SoundLearnings in 2024).

Music has been in our DNA since our inception, so today we teach across all genres, including classical, opera, voice, jazz, choir, and modern pop rock.

The Waterloo Centre houses music practice and teaching rooms, a production suite, **professional recording studios**, a **theatre**, and **two concert halls**.

Other facilities include the **Morley Gallery**, used for exhibitions by artists at all career stages. Our **Pelham Hall site** inspires the sculptors of tomorrow, while our **Nancy Seear Building** and nearby Stockwell Centre bustle with activity, from millinery, textiles and dance to ESOL and digital training.

We want the community to benefit from all our incredible amenities. Whether you need to hire a room, host an event, or run a staff away day, speak to us to find out what we have available.



Morley's Waterloo Centre is in the midst of a multi-year upgrade programme, including a new courtyard entrance and foyer, and state-of-the-art radio studios and art gallery.



## Claudette's Story

Claudette Forbes came to college in 2018 after applying for a two-year HND in Art, Design, and Ceramics. However, it was the structured professional development modules that really launched Claudette's career as a creative.

Thanks to the Waterloo Centre's network of partners, Claudette learned how to navigate a career in the creative industries. She spoke to established peers and submitted her work for the New Designers Awards, which gave helpful insight into being a successful industry professional.

Through the course, Claudette found her voice and authenticity. She gathers ideas by exploring complex issues surrounding inner-city communities. At her end-of-year show, Claudette's work was spotted by influential journalist Barbara Chandler, who has been a champion ever since.

After graduating, Claudette developed new designs and continues to exhibit, such as at London Design Festival, Peckham Festival, and Grand Designs TV Live. Her work features in publications such as Emerging Potters and Designer Magazine, and she won a Ruthin Craft Centre Showcase Award.

Other accolades include a Showcase Award at the Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair, Brixton Art Prize 2nd place, being shortlisted for New Ashgate Gallery Rising Stars 2022, and winning a year's mentoring with renowned ceramicist Mitch Pilkington.

Claudette said, *"The course has been truly transformative to me."* Her studies taught her how to avoid pitfalls after graduating, and by working with college partners and using business planning, this talented creative has seen her career take off and given her a roadmap for the future.



## Prestigious Partners

**D**e Beers Group is the world's leading diamond company. They are passionate about creating opportunities for under-represented designers to counter inequalities that can exist within their sector. One such initiative is the De Beers Group Jewellery Scholarships at Morley College London.

These unique scholarships recognise that learning should not just be for the privileged. They are open to over-18 applicants and welcome under-represented members of the community who want to make jewellery or progress their careers in jewellery making.

Thanks to the generosity of De Beers Group, funds have been made available to support places on two scholarships at the Waterloo Campus: The De Beers Starter Scholarship and The De Beers Intermediate Scholarship.

The scholarships each support two individuals starting or progressing in their jewellery-making careers

and offer a materials grants and mentorship from a professional jeweller. Scholars also exhibit their exquisite work at an end-of-year show and gain valuable business management experience.

Helen Smith, Programme Area Manager for Jewellery and Glass at the Waterloo Centre, summarised, *"This amazing opportunity has allowed the De Beers scholars to reach their goals, while encouraging diversity within the jewellery industry."*

Every year over £33,000 of funding supports these aspirational scholarships, covering course fees, material grants, mentoring, and exhibition costs. This rewarding relationship with such an inspiring brand is just one example of a partnership that is truly changing lives in the community.



**DE BEERS GROUP**

## Why work with us?

**W**e are always open to mutually beneficial long-term partnerships. Our flexible, responsive, and holistic model allows us to provide agile solutions to employer needs. Just some examples include:

**A historical link** - Morley College London is rooted in a rich local history. Partners can tap into our cultural legacy and social mobility aspirations to help realise their own CSR objectives.

**A talent pipeline** - help us write courses and shape potential employees. With your input, we can address skills gaps and priorities to produce the talent you need now and in the future.

**Raising your profile** - donations and scholarships change student lives and help you reach wider audiences. Partners can sponsor lunchtime talks to having whole facilities named after them.

**An intellectual asset** - students can act as a project research tool,

sounding board, or problem-solving resource, revealing fresh ideas and new perspectives.

**A platform for change** - we're delighted when experts agree to give masterclasses, talks, and host placements. We want you to debate everything from ethics and green skills to sustainability issues.






**A business network** - become a stakeholder advisor and gain access to our facilities and network of fellow movers and shakers in the city.

**Employer training** - ranging from professional qualifications to short courses in carbon literacy, mental health first aid, neurodiversity, advanced digital skills, customer service, and more.

We understand that every partnership is different, but each enriches our curriculum and offers life-changing experiences. Work at our Waterloo Centre and join us in transforming communities and lives.



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For more information about Morley's extensive range of courses, please visit **[morleycollege.ac.uk](https://www.morleycollege.ac.uk)**

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