

## CTF Access and Participation Statement 2018/19

The Cambridge Theological Federation (“CTF”) is committed to supporting access and participation in higher education by students from disadvantaged backgrounds and under-represented groups.

This Statement is made in line with the Office for Students’ priorities of:

- increasing the entry rates of students from underrepresented groups to higher education
- reversing the decline in higher education participation by mature students from underrepresented groups
- reducing the drop-out rates of students from underrepresented groups
- reducing the attainment gaps between students from underrepresented groups
- improving the rates of progression of students from underrepresented groups into graduate-level employment or further study

### Our distinctive situation

The Cambridge Theological Federation does not recruit students. All students admitted through the Federation are recruited by one of the nine member institutions of the Federation (“Houses”). Only six of the nine member institutions in 2018/19 can recruit students for accredited degrees and only four<sup>1</sup> of them offer the choice of a first undergraduate degree.

The majority of students in the CTF are sponsored by their churches and so there is a “filtering” process before students apply to study at one of the Federation Houses. The Access and Participation processes of the Church of England and the United Reformed Church have the greatest impact on the students who are admitted through the CTF. Where undergraduate students are recruited independently of sponsoring churches, the CTF will ensure that applicants from underrepresented groups are supported in their applications.

The majority of students admitted to undergraduate degrees taught by the CTF are mature students (93% of admissions in 2017 were to over 21s) and a large number of them already have degrees or qualifications in subjects other than theology. The undergraduate degrees taught by the CTF are vocational and so are very rarely offered to school leavers. There is no direct pathway from school to a CTF-taught undergraduate degree.

The majority of students leaving the Federation go either to further studies or into ordained ministry. Twelve of the sixteen responses to the January Destination of Leavers survey were employed by the Church of England. One was employed in industry and the remainder stayed in higher education.

Other than ensure that the Federation is not discriminating unfairly towards any potential or actual students from underrepresented groups, there is very little within the CTF’s control that can be done to increase access and participation.

April 2018

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<sup>1</sup> Margaret Beaufort Institute, Ridley Hall, Westcott House, Westminster College

## Current situation

68 undergraduate students enrolled in Autumn 2017. 35 were ERM students; 27 were Ridley Hall students and 6 were Westcott House students. (ERM will not be admitting students through the CTF from September 2018.)

Of these 68 students:

60% were women, 40% were men

58% were part time, 42% were full time

5 were age 18-20

13 were age 21-30

9 were age 30-40

13 were age 41-50

23 were age 51-60

5 were 61+

All but two had UK nationality (both FT male, 26, 35)

52 were funded by their churches.

Declared disabilities were:

Dyslexia (4)

Autism (1)

Long standing illness (1)

Mental Health (3)

Physical impairment (1)

Other (3)

Ethnicity information:

60 White

2 Black

2 Chinese

2 Mixed

In the 16 responses to the January 2018 Destination of Leavers survey:

12 students were going into full time employment

1 student was going into part time employment

4 students were going into full time study

12 students were employed by the Church of England