

Change of Use: Arthur House, Manchester- Planning Application Supporting Letter and Operational Management Strategy

About Elizabeth School of London

The Elizabeth School of London (ESL) is a higher education provider committed to offering relevant, high-quality programmes in campuses in major locations such as London – Canary Wharf, London – Holborn, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, and Northampton. As an inclusive organisation, we believe in education for all but not one size fits all, which is why we place great emphasis on providing customised opportunities and supports for everyone that has an ambition to achieve their true potentials.

As such:

- We are proud to offer a wide range of entry points and flexible delivery methods.
- We believe investing in quality leads to sustainable growth.
- We believe that working in partnership brings benefits for everyone involved.
- We are committed to deliver the prospect that all our students should leave us with the skills, knowledge, and self-confidence they need to take advantage of career and personal opportunities in the future.

Arthur House, Manchester

Elizabeth School of London has an existing base in Manchester, located in Wellington House. However, ESL require more space as they cannot accommodate all their students in Wellington House. In addition, Wellington House is a multi-tenanted building, and, in this space, ESL cannot provide the level of quality they would like to provide for their students. The proposed relocation to Arthur House will allow ESL to meet their needs for space in Manchester and will also provide them with high quality recently refurbished space to provide an attractive, high standard teaching environment for their students.

Following analysis of occupation we are currently forecasting that across the full building, c.30,000 sq ft, there would be c.500 students with c.70 staff members. This would be subject to change dependant on take up and staffing requirements.

Student Demographics

The below provides a general overview of the current student demographics at ESL, highlighting the predominant nationalities, age ranges, and educational levels.

- ESL aims to be an all-inclusive university, accepting undergraduates from all backgrounds and ethnicities.
- Currently, most ESL students come from the UK and European countries.
- A smaller number of students come from Asian and African backgrounds, but ESL is actively working on increasing international recruitment, suggesting that this demographic is likely to change soon.
- Most students enrolled in ESL-provided courses are at the undergraduate level.
- Most applicants fall within the age range of 23-32 years old.
- There is also a portion of applicants aged 18-23 and 32-40 years old.
- Few applicants are over the age of 40.

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Employee Demographics

The head office of ESL is based in Isle of Dogs, London. It is running its ever-increasing business interests around England from this office with the support of local branches and their staff. Within ESL's local branches they strive to recruit employees from the local area in order to bring local benefit as a result of their educational facilities.

ESL has a well-respected diversity policy not only for its students but also for its employees. We expect that all new recruits for the proposed campus in Arthur House will pursue the similar recruitment policy and the majority of employees will be residents of Manchester or Greater Manchester.

Indicative lecture and seminar timings

As a general overview on timings please see below

- **Timings:** Lectures and seminars typically occur during weekdays, but there will also be courses available over the weekend, between 9am and 6pm.
- **Duration:** Lectures are often c. 1 hour, while seminars range from 1.5 to 3 hours.
- **Frequency:** Lectures and seminars will be conducted throughout the day with a general break of 10-15 mins between and a lunch period between the hours of 11am-2pm.

Travel plan - Staff and Students

ESL, as a group, aims to be as environmentally friendly as possible when considering travel plans for staff and students. Where applicable it is encouraged for staff and students to walk, cycle and use public transport. One of the factors identifying Arthur House as a location to expand, is its connectivity. In the first instance all users would be encouraged to use the nearby public transport facilities, which includes the bus and tram interchange at Piccadilly Gardens (approx. 200m north of the site), the Chorlton Street Coach Station bus stops (approx. 30m south east of the site), and Manchester City Centre's train stations, the closest of which being Manchester Piccadilly (approx. 400m east of the site). It is forecasted that all students except students with disabilities travel by walking, cycling or public transport. For staff, 95% of staff travel by walking, cycling or public transport, and parking is only provided to staff traveling further than 1.3 hours away from the location of the premises.

Furthermore, operationally, ESL provides students with a handbook that provides user friendly detailed travel plans/ advice for its students to assist in journey planning to their respective campuses. ESL will have an updated Student Handbook for Arthur House students with different options for travelling to and from Arthur House.

Arriving and leaving Arthur House

Student and staff arrival and departure will be carefully managed to minimize pedestrian and vehicular congestion in addition to ensuring the safety of ESL students and staff, with consideration also of other members of the public and users of the building. Staff and students will be encouraged to use environmentally friendly modes of transport with a large majority estimated to be arriving by public transport or foot/ cycle. ESL, as part of the student handbook, will highlight the closest public transports stations and stops with an emphasise on walking to and from the site. A small number of staff parking will be made available and located on-site, with accessible parking spaces also provided where applicable. When entering the building, a dedicated

member of staff will be available on reception to manage any queries on entry and exit. The building operates an online/app access system which all students are encouraged to use to minimise paper passes. These will only be available on an ad hoc basis. This is in addition to the current building management staff.

Security on site

The university prioritizes the safety and well-being of its students and staff. In tandem with building management, security measures include well-lit pathways to and from the buildings, restricted access at a number of key points within the building and leading into the floors, CCTV monitoring in key areas along with building management providing a 24/7 security presence.