

Press Release

20 July 2015

London Met receives £2.6m grant to further its social mission

- **Multi million pound grant donated by Sir John Cass's Foundation**
- **Money to be used to help students from London's disadvantaged areas access education**

London Metropolitan University has received a grant of £2.6m from Sir John Cass's Foundation to further its work in widening participation in higher education.

The University, which has a long history of bringing students from all backgrounds into education, will use the funding to engage with students in some of London's poorest boroughs.

Professor John Raftery, Vice Chancellor of London Met, commented: "We are extremely grateful to Sir John Cass's Foundation for this generous grant which will enable us to do even more to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds transform their lives through higher education.

"This grant is an endorsement of the life-changing work we do in widening participation, and we look forward to furthering this work."

London Met's origins go back to 1848, with the opening of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Working Men. Ever since then, the University has been committed to ensuring anyone with the potential for university study is given the opportunity to undertake it.

"This extra funding from the Foundation will enable us to do even more of this socially valuable work, which benefits not just students but London as a whole," Professor Raftery added.

London Met has a long association with Sir John Cass's Foundation, which is one of London's largest and oldest education charities. It aims to promote the education of young people in inner-London - a mission close to that of London Met. Over 40% of students at London Met are from within 7 miles of the University, while 70% of its students qualify for maintenance grants.

Kevin Everett, the Chairman of Sir John Cass's Foundation, said: "The Foundation is delighted to have awarded a multi-million pound grant to London Metropolitan University to boost their widening participation projects.

"We are acutely aware of the historical links between the foundation and London Met, and given the recent announcement by the Chancellor to discontinue student

maintenance grants, support for the most disadvantaged students is all the more required.”

Earlier this year, London Met was shortlisted for a Guardian Higher Education Award in recognition of its outreach work. The University was one of just three to be shortlisted in the Student Diversity and Widening Participation category of the awards, held in March.

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Notes to Editors

The grant will be used to widen participation among disadvantaged residents in boroughs across London, including Islington, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Hackney, Lambeth and Lewisham.

About London Metropolitan University

London Met has been providing education to people from all backgrounds since 1848, with the creation of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Working Men. With over 17,000 students, of which 40% are local, London Met plays an important socially valuable role in the capital.

The University is home to the ‘Super Lab’ – one of the largest teaching science laboratories in Europe. Students have access to professional facilities, including Bloomberg suites, a mock courtroom and high spec design workshops. Accelerator – London Met’s specialist business incubator - was named among the Top Five ‘Most Active’ accelerators in Europe in 2015, highlighting its contribution to London’s booming start-up industry.

The University is firmly focused on employability. In 2015, London Met recorded its highest ever graduate employment score, with 91.1% of all 2013/14 graduates in work or further study six months after graduation.

About The Sir John Cass’s Foundation

The Sir John Cass’s Foundation was founded in 1748 by Sir John Cass, a City of London politician and philanthropist, who bequeathed the majority of his properties and fortune to the endeavour. Its vision is to be regarded as an influential organisation, contributing to educational policy, practice and research in order to shape and meet the evolving needs of London’s young people.

The Foundation supports a wide range of educational establishments, special educational projects, grants and bursaries in and around the City of London. It has been successfully doing this for over 250 years, for the benefit of the people of the boroughs.

Today, the Foundation is one of the largest and oldest educational charities in London.

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