



# Accessibility Statement

## Using this website

This accessibility statement applies to the University of Essex Online website. This website is run by Kaplan Open Learning.

We want as many people as possible to be able to use this website and we have therefore worked to ensure that it is compliant with the European Accessibility Act (Directive (EU) 2019/882) and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1 Level AA. We keep the site under review to improve both its accessibility and useability.

We have built our website to be accessible with common assistive technologies and different ways of using websites. This means you can:

- ☑ Change colours, contrast levels and fonts.
- ☑ Zoom in up to 300% without the text spilling off the screen.
- ☑ Navigate most of the website using just a keyboard.
- ☑ Navigate most of the website using speech recognition software.
- ☑ Listen to most of the website using assistive technology.

**AbilityNet** has advice on making your device easier to use if you have a disability.

We also use plain English principles to make our content clear and easy to understand.

## How accessible this website is

The website contains a lot of pages and content in different formats such as written (including tables, buttons and various stylistic elements), images and videos. Its code is always evolving. Content modules can be enabled and disabled. The interface can be heavily customised using themes and thousands of settings. We recognise that not everything on our website will be accessible in accordance with our agreed standards. This will usually be due to legacy content (content uploaded

prior to 28 June 2025) and we are working on ensuring that any legacy content that is vital to the services that we provide is updated in order to be compliant with those standards. Below are some of the other ways in which our content may not be compliant:

- Some pages may not have adequate contrast in colours between backgrounds and images.
- No keyboard focus indicator for keyboard-only users.
- No 'skip to content' options available.
- Mobile accessibility issues related to button or link placement and spacing.
- Limited error handling within forms.
- Required fields not announced, meaning fields marked with asterisks aren't identified by screen readers.

Any new content that is published centrally will meet our accessibility standards and the vast majority of the content on our website is compliant with the European Accessibility Act and WCAG version 2.1 Level AA.

Accessibility is not a state, it is a process of continuous improvement in response to our users and the wider technical environment and we are regularly monitoring our website in order to maintain its continued compliance.

### **Reporting accessibility problems with this website**

We are always looking to improve the accessibility of this website. If you need information on the website, please get in touch with us via our contact form or email [marketing@online.essex.ac.uk](mailto:marketing@online.essex.ac.uk).

### **Enforcement Procedure**

If you are not satisfied with our response to your accessibility request or believe that we are not meeting the requirements of the European Accessibility Act, you have the right to escalate your concern.

You may contact the relevant national authority or enforcement body in your country, which is responsible for monitoring compliance with accessibility obligations under the European Accessibility Act.

For information on how to proceed or to find the appropriate contact point in your country, you can visit the official EU page on accessibility rights and national enforcement bodies:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/web-accessibility>



### **What we are doing to improve accessibility**

We are committed to improving accessibility across our websites and learning platforms. We are conducting a thorough accessibility review and implementing any necessary changes to our learning platforms and websites. An accessibility working group has been established to ensure continuous improvement.

This statement was first prepared on 11th March 2022. It was updated on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025.