

Web accessibility statement for the University of Salford

This website is run by the University of Salford. We want as many people as possible to be able to use this website. We've also made the website text as simple as possible to understand.

AbilityNet (<https://mcmw.abilitynet.org.uk/>) has advice on making your device easier to use if you have a disability.

Document scope

The University of Salford currently serves websites hosted on frameworks and platforms that include:

- Drupal Content Management System (new main corporate website);
- Squiz Matrix Content Management System (legacy corporate website);
- WordPress (miscellaneous websites linked to research, enterprise and other university activities);
- SharePoint (Staff and Student Intranets – only accessible to members of the University)
- Various other platforms (various functional websites, both accessible and non-accessible to members of the public)

The content of this document is limited to the main corporate website hosted on the Drupal CMS platform at <https://beta.salford.ac.uk>.

The Web Team will work with other teams across the institution as required to provide further statements as appropriate to describe accessibility compliance across other platforms/frameworks. We will endeavour to do this by September 2020 and our work will continue until the year end.

How accessible is this website?

We know some parts of this website are not fully accessible:

- Some pages have colour contrast issues
- Most downloadable files (for example MS Word, MS PowerPoint and PDF) are not fully accessible to screen reader software
- Our videos do not have captions
- Our audio files do not have transcripts
- Some of our online forms are difficult to navigate using just a keyboard
- Some of our popups are difficult to close with just a keyboard

Technical information about this website's accessibility

The University of Salford is committed to making its website accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

This website is partially compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 AA standard, due to the non-compliances listed below.

Non accessible content

The following aspects of our website do not currently meet the accessibility guidelines. We are addressing these issues as part of our migration to a new platform.

- Some pages use multiple headings levels or skip heading levels. This doesn't meet WCAG 2.1 'AA' success criterion 2.4.6 (headers and labels). We plan to fix these by September 2020.
- Some link text will not make sense to a screen reader, e.g. 'Click Here' or full URL's. This doesn't meet WCAG 2.1 'AA' success criterion 2.4.4 (link purpose). We plan to fix these by September 2020.
- Images presented as part of 'carousels' do not have an 'alt' tag but are all captioned. This doesn't meet WCAG 2.1 'A' success criterion 1.1.1 (non-text content). We will investigate the accessibility of this approach and add 'alt' tags if required by September 2020.
- Some of our interactive forms are difficult to navigate using a keyboard. This doesn't meet WCAG 2.1 'A' success criterion 2.1.1 (keyboard access). We plan to fix these by September 2020.
- Some iFrames are missing a title. This fails WCAG 2.1 level 'A' success criterion 4.1.2 (name, role, value). We plan to fix these by September 2020.
- Some tables don't have summaries or captions. This fails WCAG 2.1 level 'A' success criteria 1.3.1 (info and relationships). We plan to fix these by September 2020.
- Many of our downloadable files (mostly PDF documents but including some MS Office formats) do not meet accessibility standards, e.g. they are not structured so they're accessible to a screen reader. This does not meet WCAG 2.1 'A' success criterion 4.1.2 (name, role value). We will implement a workflow to ensure that all newly-published documents meet accessibility standards by September 2020. Please refer to the 'Disproportionate Burden' section below to see our statement on historical and current documents.
- Colour contrast is insufficient on some pages across the site in terms of hero and image placement, content links, keyboard focus etc. This doesn't meet WCAG 2.1 'AA' success criterion 1.4.3 (contrast (minimum)). We plan to fix these by September 2020.
- Keyboard navigation, including the ability to tab easily through content on some web pages, is not logical and intuitive. This doesn't meet WCAG 2.1 'A' success criterion 2.1.1 (keyboard access).
- Some elements are not highlighted on focus or have focus states with insufficient contrast. This fails WCAG 2.1 level 'AA' success criteria 2.4.7 (focus visible). We plan to fix these by September 2020.

Disproportionate burden

Two areas of our website would be a disproportionate burden to fix:

- The majority of the video and audio content we present is user-generated content embedded from sources such as YouTube and Soundcloud. Content is provided both by current students and colleagues across the university. Expecting these groups to provide suitable subtitles or transcripts forms is a disproportionate burden.
- Our websites contain several hundred downloadable PDF and other files. Updating documents that are outdated and will be replaced as part of our ongoing migration is a disproportionate burden.

Content that's not within the scope of the accessibility regulations

- The accessibility regulations [do not require us to fix PDFs or other documents published before 23 September 2018](#) if they're not essential to providing our services.
- Pre-recorded time-based media – such as YouTube videos - published before 23rd September 2020 are exempt.
- Live video streams – including our Graduation Ceremony streams - do not require captions.
- We will try and ensure online maps are as accessible as possible, although they are currently [exempt from meeting the accessibility regulations](#).

How we tested this website

This website was last tested on 13th February 2020. The test was carried out internally by the University of Salford Web Team within the Marketing, Recruitment and External Relations directorate.

We chose our sample by assessing the busiest and most important pages on the website; that sample included the home page, course pages, recruitment landing pages, information for international students and information for current students.

The audit was carried using both automated and manual testing methods.

Our test sample included:

- <https://beta.salford.ac.uk>
- <https://beta.salford.ac.uk/sports-centre>
- <https://beta.salford.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/business-and-economics>
- <https://beta.salford.ac.uk/international/international-scholarship-application-form>

What we're doing to improve accessibility

The main University website is currently distributed across two platforms; our new platform will be complete by the end of 2020. We are now at a stage where we are starting to develop strategies that ensure future content – including downloadable files – is created to full compliance with AA accessibility standards.

An example of this is the development of document governance so that each document will be assessed for accessibility before being accepted for publishing.

Contact us or make a complaint

We'd like your help to improve the accessibility of this website. If you find any problems not listed on this page or would like to talk to us about ways we're not meeting accessibility requirements, please contact us at webmaster@salford.ac.uk.

We'll consider your request and get back to you in 10 days.

Enforcement procedure

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is responsible for enforcing the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (the 'accessibility regulations'). If you're not happy with how we respond to your complaint, contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service (EASS) at <https://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>.

Last update

This statement was prepared on 28th February 2020. This statement was last updated on 7th September 2020.