

London South Bank University

Summary of 2024-25 to 2027-28 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan sets out provisions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students.

You can see the full access and participation plan for London South Bank University [on our website](#).

What we are aiming to achieve

Analysis of our institutional data presented on the [Access and participation data dashboard](#), we have identified disparities among student groups in terms of success, and progression from our university into employment. In our access and participation plan, our primary objective is to narrow down and mitigate the most significant gaps revealed by our data.

Data revealed:

- Students eligible for free school meals exhibit lower continuation rates in their studies compared to their counterparts.
- Individuals aged 21-25 demonstrate a lower likelihood of continuing their studies in comparison to their peers under 21.
- Male students show a lower level of success in continuing their studies when compared to their female peers.
- Students from Asian, Black, Mixed, or Other ethnic backgrounds are less likely to attain a 2:1 or above compared to their white student counterparts.
- Students from low socio-economic backgrounds are less likely to achieve a 2:1 or above compared to their more affluent peers.
- Individuals from Asian, Black, Mixed, or Other ethnic backgrounds are less likely to enter graduate employment than their white peers.

See pages 3 to 6 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are doing to address keys risks to equality of opportunity

In response to understanding our risks to equality of opportunity, we've formulated seven targeted intervention strategies. Each strategy comprises a set of activities designed to directly confront and mitigate individual risks. Our objective is to not only mitigate these risks but also to tackle the underlying issues contributing to the gaps we've identified. Through these efforts, we aspire to meet our targets and accomplish our objectives throughout the duration of the plan.

Intervention Strategy 1

- Risks addressed: Knowledge and skills, Information and Guidance, Perception of Higher education
- Our objective is to understand what works to enhance participants' positive attitudes towards learning and increase attainment pre-16.
- Activities to achieve this include: Sustained Aspire Programme, Teaching Mandarin in Primary Schools, Collaboration with Uni Connect.

Intervention Strategy 2

- Risks addressed: Cost pressures, Capacity issues, LSBU risk: Barriers to engagement
- Our objective is to close the gap in continuation rates between students eligible for free school meals and those not eligible by 2028.

- Activities to achieve this include: Reduction in exams, Academic calendar changes.

Intervention Strategy 3

- Risks addressed: Insufficient academic support, Capacity issues, LSBU risk: Barriers to engagement
- Our objective is to eliminate the continuation disparity between UG FT student groups aged under 21 and those aged 21-25.
- Activities to achieve this include: Peer Assisted Learning, expansion of the personal development plan.

Intervention Strategy 4

- Risks addressed: Insufficient academic support, Insufficient personal support, Mental Health
- Our objective is to eliminate the continuation gap between male and female students.
- Activities to achieve this include: Peer Assisted Learning, expansion of the personal development plan.

Intervention Strategy 5

- Risks addressed: Insufficient academic support, Insufficient personal support, Mental Health, LSBU risk: Barriers to engagement
- Our objective is to eliminate the attainment gap between UG full-time White and ABMO students by 2034.
- Activities to achieve this include: SCALE-UP, Peer Assisted Learning.

Intervention Strategy 6

- Risks addressed: Insufficient academic support, Insufficient personal support, Mental Health, LSBU risk: Barriers to engagement
- Our objective is to eliminate the attainment gap between UG IMD Quintile 1 and 5 students by 2038.
- Activities to achieve this include: Reduction in exams, Expansion of the Personal Development Plan.

Intervention Strategy 7

- Risk addressed: Progression from higher education
- Our objective is to eliminate the progression gap between UG White and AMBO students by 2042.

Activities to achieve this include: Increased placement and work-based learning, embedding employability in the curriculum.

See pages 8 to 23 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

The tuition fee for full-time courses for Home undergraduates is set at £9,250. For students starting their first degree, they can apply for a student loan to cover tuition fee costs from Student Finance England. Students can only apply for a loan for a second undergraduate full-time degree if it's in nursing, midwifery, or allied healthcare.

Part-time fees are found on our [course](#) pages.

International fees can be found on our [International Fee and Funding](#) pages.

See page 32 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Financial help available

Our commitment to fostering a supportive environment extends to care leaver and estranged students through our financial support bursaries. Eligible individuals can apply to receive £1000 annually throughout the duration of their academic journey.

See page 33 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

Prospective students are provided with timely information on tuition fees and available financial support through in-person events such as open days and via email communications leading up to the enrolment process.

Existing students will find easy access to fee and financial support details through internal communication campaigns, emails, the 'My Account' student portal, and personalized assistance from our dedicated Student Advice team.

See page 32 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

We highly value the input of the student voice, understanding its crucial role in influencing our decision-making processes, especially in the development of interventions and the shaping of our offerings. Students actively participate in our access and participation plan initiatives, with student representatives playing an integral role in governance.

We actively promote students to express their thoughts and share their experiences through diverse channels, including the Student Union, National Student Survey (NSS), Mid Semester Review, and the Personal Development Plan.

See page 31 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We've implemented a comprehensive evaluation strategy to meticulously gauge the effectiveness of our initiatives within the access and participation plan. Our procedures embrace industry best practices, ensuring that our efforts are firmly rooted in evidence. Moreover, we actively disseminate our insights both internally within the university and externally to contribute to broader knowledge in the field.

See pages 24 to 26 of the access and participation plan for more information on our evaluation of targeted interventions.

Contact details for further information

Please contact our Pro Vice Chancellor Education & Student Experience, Professor Antony Moss, for more information at mossac@lsbu.ac.uk.