

# Summary of 2025/6 to 2028/9 Access and Participation Plan

## University of Liverpool

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 the University of Liverpool at [University of Liverpool Access and participation plan 2025-26 to 2028-29](#).

Key points:

Our plan builds on our commitment to widening access and participation for students from underrepresented groups outlined in our strategy: Liverpool 2031. Our Education and Experience objectives include a re-imagining of our research-connected curriculum 'to ensure that qualified students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to succeed in their studies and research'. Meanwhile, our Place and Innovation objectives include a renewed commitment 'to widening participation and outreach to raise educational attainment and aspiration, so that students from all backgrounds are able and supported to achieve their full potential.'

After undertaking analysis of our data, we have identified the following groups who face risks in access and success at Liverpool:

- Black, Asian and minority ethnic students are less likely to study with us, and less likely to complete their course with a 2:1 or above
- Students from areas of high deprivation, assessed using the Index of Multiple Deprivation, are less likely to study with us, continue studying at Liverpool and complete their course
- Students with disabilities are less likely to complete their course with a 2:1 or above

See pages 1-4 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### Fees we charge

We charge a maximum £9,250 for full-time first-degree undergraduate courses for home students.

We may increase tuition fees each year to reflect the changes in costs of delivering a programme, improving education services provided to students and any changes in government policy or regulation. Any increase in tuition fees will take into account matters such as increased staffing costs, the need to renew our facilities and inflation.

See page 67 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### Financial help available

The below financial support information was accurate as of July 2024. We regularly review financial support and therefore recommend going to our website for the most up to date financial support information and eligibility criteria.

The Liverpool Bursary is £2,000 per year for students with a household income of £25,000 and under, and £750 per year for students with a household income of between £25,001 and £35,000.

We also have bursaries available for students who are care leavers, estranged or young adult carers.

See pages 43-44 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### Information for students

Prospective students and applicants are provided with information on student fees at various touchpoints. Our webpages provide information on tuition fees; student loans and government grants; scholarships and bursaries; and information on additional study costs (both subject-specific and general). They also signpost to the Money Advice and Guidance team who are available to advise on a wide range of financial support queries.

We direct applicants to our website in our offer emails and recommend that applicants download a copy of the information for future reference. Information on student finance and advice on budgeting and managing the cost of living is included in emails from offer up to arrival.

Information on finance and fees are included in finance presentations at Open Days, Applicant Discovery Days and staff are available throughout the year to talk through specific queries with prospective students.

We inform applicants and students that fees may increase in future years via the Programme Terms and Conditions. Any such increases are communicated via email in advance.

See page 43 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### What we are aiming to achieve

By addressing the gaps identified in our key points, we aim to support all students to access and succeed at Liverpool. Our 2025/6 to 2028/9 plan focuses on:

1. Access for Black, Asian and minority ethnic students increasing from 18.9% to 21.8%.
2. Access for students from areas of high deprivation increasing from 16.7% to 18.1%.
3. Decreasing the continuation gap for students from areas of high deprivation compared to those from areas of low deprivation from 3.9% to 1.31%.
4. Decreasing the completion gap for students from areas of high deprivation compared to those from areas of low deprivation from 6.1% to 4.0%.
5. Students with disabilities to achieve degree classification awards of 2:1 or above at the same rate as those without disabilities.
6. Reduce the degree awarding gap between Black, Asian and minority ethnic students and white students from 8.8% to 4.3%, and to eliminate the gap by 2032.

See pages 3-4 of the access and participation plan for more information.

### What we are doing to address key risks to equality of opportunity

For each of our six targets, we have created a set of activities that will help us close our gaps. Our activities include:

- Liverpool Scholars – our multi-event pre-entry programme for year 12 students is being expanded to include more students from areas of deprivation and other underrepresented students
- Primary school activity – our outreach is being re-focused into schools that best enable us to achieve our plan
- Mentoring and individual support – we will be offering bespoke guidance and mentoring for school age students, including for Black, Asian and minority ethnic students, as well as those who have had a disruption to their education e.g. care experienced students
- Collaborative outreach – we will be continuing to work with IntoUniversity and Shaping Futures Uni Connect to support GCSE attainment in the Liverpool City Region
- Liverpool Plus – we will be providing tailored support for students from underrepresented groups to aid their transition, and to enhance their sense of belonging from first year through to graduation, including academic and community building activities
- Student workers – we will be continuing our student coaches and advocate programmes that give employment opportunities to our students

- Transition support – we will be piloting bespoke academic support for modules which have the largest gaps in success for our students, including those from areas of deprivation
- Financial support – as well as the financial support outlined above, we will also be supporting eligible students through scholarships
- Curriculum transformation – we will be undergoing a full review of our curriculum, focussing on scaffolding and transition between years to support all students through their learning
- Student support project – our student support will develop to better meet the needs of our changing student body
- Equality+ - we will be providing an enhanced package of careers support for students from underrepresented groups, including tailored communication and employer mentoring
- Student panels – we will convene student panels to learn from students about their experiences at Liverpool and where we can better provide support

See pages 5-30 of the access and participation plan for more information.

#### [How students can get involved](#)

Students have been involved in the development of our access and participation plan. We have worked with students through our two student engagement panels, one of which is for students from a range of underrepresented backgrounds, including low income, disabled, estranged and care experienced students; and the other is specifically for Black students. These panels were provided with information on the plan and gave feedback on the delivery of our interventions and evaluation.

The Liverpool Guild of Students have representatives on many groups where they input into curriculum design, university strategy, operation and action. The Guild President was a member of the Access and Participation Plan Writing group which supported reviewing data, setting targets and formulating key sections of the plan.

Wider student voice is incorporated into the plan, for example through our 100 days 100 voices campaign, which is an annual longitudinal student voice survey for all new students at five points across their first 100 days at the university. This work helped us to find areas where we can support students to settle in during their first year of study.

See pages 40-41 of the access and participation plan for more information.

#### [Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved](#)

We will use evaluation to understand whether and how our access and participation plan supports our students. Specifically, we will focus on evaluating our new activities and those that we believe will be most impactful.

Our evaluation strategy means that we will be rolling out best practice for evaluation across the University so more staff have a clear understanding of the importance of effective evaluation when designing new programmes or activities. Our strategy is to use data and literature to understand the issues our students are facing, undertake research into what activities will help with those issues, talk to students about their experiences and then design activities using this information. While delivering the activities, we will continue to listen to student and staff feedback, adapting our activities where relevant. We will also collect data from these activities to assess whether they are leading to our intended outcomes, and report the results of this on our website, as well as sharing with other universities so they can learn from our results.

See pages 41-43 of the access and participation plan for more information.

#### [Contact details for further information](#)

Please contact Ian Roberts, [ian.roberts2@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:ian.roberts2@liverpool.ac.uk) for more information.