

The London Interdisciplinary School

Summary of dates for which this plan applies, e.g. 2020-21 to 2024-25 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

You can see the full access and participation plan for the London Interdisciplinary School at <https://www.lis.ac.uk/policies/>

Key points

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving access for specific groups of students.

See pages 1-5 of the full plan

As a new provider with a lack data from past years, we have chosen to look at data from similar universities. The data shows that compared to their peers, students are less likely to access higher education:

- If they come from a neighbourhood where higher education participation is low
- If they come from low-income backgrounds
- If they are Black, Asian or minority ethnic students
- If they are disabled

There are gaps in the grades students achieve at the end of their degree for the following groups:

- Asian, mixed ethnicity and other ethnicity students
- Disabled students

Black students are less likely to achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above in comparison to white students. There is a lower rate of progression to employment for Black, Asian or minority ethnic students in comparison to white students and disabled students in comparison to non-disabled students.

Fees we charge

At the London Interdisciplinary School our fees for “Home Students” are:

- £9,000 for home students

You can see a full list of fees for courses at the London Interdisciplinary School at <https://www.lis.ac.uk/undergraduate-degree/fees/>

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed.

See pages 23 – 24 of the full plan

The support includes:

A financial support bursary if the student's household income (the money that their parents/carers earn together) is below £25,000. Students will be eligible for bursaries in each year of study. Bursaries will typically be £1,000 per year.

A Hardship grant which is decided on a case-by-case basis. Students can access multiple hardship grants at any time of study at LIS.

Other sources of income as part of our internships programme. We will ensure that all internships pay at least the London Living Wage and expect that a typical 5-week internship will be worth approximately £2,000

Information for students

- Prospective students receive information on fees and financial support at inperson events, such as our open days, and by email communications. There are also online events hosted where information about finance is communicated to students. Information can also be found in our online and physical prospectus.
- Current students receive information about fees and the financial support available through our student portal, student support mechanisms, academic tutors, and emails.

See pages 33 of the full plan

What we are aiming to achieve

The London Interdisciplinary School aims to create the conditions whereby all students, whatever their background, have equal opportunity to access higher education.

See pages 9 – 11 of the full plan

Our focused targets include:

1. Students from low higher education participation neighbourhoods: by 2024-25 we will achieve 10% of our student intake from the lowest higher education participation neighbourhoods (working towards a 2035/36 objective of 20%).
2. Students from low-income backgrounds: by 2025-26 we will achieve 15% of our student intake from the lowest income backgrounds (working towards a 2035/36 objective of 20%).
3. Black students: by 2025-26 we will achieve 9% of our student intake to be black students (working towards a 2035/36 objective of 13.4%).

Our continued areas of exploration which may lead to future targets include:

4. School attainment raising: We will look at ways to collaborate with other organisations to extend and expand our work with schools where students are less likely to access higher education from 2022/23.

5. Alternative pathways and diversifying provision: LIS continues to actively monitor opportunities in developing new programmes with an emphasis on underrepresented groups including, potentially, students in prison. Programme development will take place within the scope of LIS's degree awarding powers.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

We have highlighted five areas of work to help us achieve our aims:

See pages 12 – 24 of the full plan

1. Our [contextual admissions](#) – this supports more students from underrepresented groups accessing higher education
2. An intensive careers programme to support personal, social and professional skills.
3. A flexible and inclusive learning and teaching environment for a diverse cohort of students which includes student support systems.
4. Expand our work with schools through supporting more students to explore options, attain grades and experiences needed to progress to higher education.
5. Financial support in the form of bursaries, hardship grants, paid internships and information on [Student Finance England](#).

How students can get involved

See pages 24 – 28 of the full plan

Student representatives are included in the School's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (EDIC). EDIC supports and monitors our WP activities and progress against targets set out in the Access and Participation Plan (APP). Through the student representative students can provide feedback or contribute to the work being undertaken.

To become involved in this work you can contact our Widening Participation Manager, Geraldine Withey at Geraldine.Withey@lis.ac.uk for further information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our programmes will focus on evaluation in the following areas:

See pages 28- 33 of the full plan

- Programme design and feedback
- The impact on improved access and participation in relation to our activity and cost
- The five actions outlined above

Internally, progress against targets set out in the Access and Participation Plan will be monitored by the School's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Contact details for further information

You can contact Geraldine Withey at Geraldine.Withey@lis.ac.uk for further information.