

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Summary of 2025/26 to 2028/29 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 UK undergraduate students from groups that are currently [underrepresented](#) in higher education. This includes helping students to access, succeed in and progress from higher education into graduate employment or further study. You can see LSE's full access and participation plan [here](#).

Key points

LSE (or "the School") is one of the world's leading specialist social science institutions, founded in 1895 'for the betterment of society', and is based in central London. This plan focuses on our efforts relating to UK undergraduates, who make up around 20% of our students, and also reflects our broader strategy, [LSE 2030](#), to make sure the School is an inclusive and supportive environment for all students.

LSE has shown good progress in improving access and outcomes for under-represented groups. This can be seen through our [Silver Award](#) in the 2023 Teaching Excellence Framework (a national scheme run by the Office for Students), our past Access and Participation Plan targets and [top five ranking](#) in the 2023 English Social Mobility Index.

Our entry rate for applicants from areas with [high socioeconomic deprivation](#) has significantly increased and student outcomes (such as academic achievement and graduate careers) are generally very positive. Despite overall good progress, we have identified some specific student groups that may not experience equal opportunities to access, succeed at, or progress from LSE. These student groups will be the focus of this plan and more information can be found on page 2.

See pages 2-5 and 27 of our [access and participation plan](#) for more information.

Fees we charge

At LSE, we currently charge the following annual fees for UK undergraduate students:

- £9,250 for full-time students
- £1,385 for full-time overseas study years
- £1,850 for full-time work placement years

You can see a full list of fees for courses at LSE on our [fees and funding webpages](#).

See pages 30-31 of our [access and participation plan](#) for more information.

Financial help available

We offer various types of financial support to students to help them access higher education and continue studying until their degree is completed. Some of the support we offer includes:

- A [travel fund](#) for open days and offer holder days, for prospective undergraduate students who attend a UK state school/college, live more than 50 miles away from LSE's campus and meet certain eligibility criteria.
- An [LSE Bursary](#) of up to £4,250 per year of study, for a maximum of 4 years, for students from household incomes of less than £50,000 a year. The exact bursary amount depends on a student's household income which is assessed by [Student Finance](#).
- A [Care-Experienced and Estranged Student Bursary](#) of up to £1,000 per year of study, for a maximum of 4 years, for care-experienced students or students who are estranged from their parents or carers.
- A [LSE Discretionary Bursary](#) of up to £4,000 per year of study, for students with exceptional financial need but who may not be automatically entitled to the maximum value of the [LSE Bursary](#) (see previous page).

- Other financial support may also be available, such as donor-funded scholarships and accommodation bursaries for eligible students. Full details are published on our [website](#).
- The LSE Student Union (LSESU) may also offer financial support to students, including a hardship fund and a graduation support fund. Full details are published on the LSESU [website](#).

Full details of all the support and eligibility criteria are available on our [fees and funding webpages](#).

See pages 30-31 of our [access and participation plan](#) for more information.

Information for students

We offer up-to-date information for applicants and current students on our undergraduate fees and financial support in the following ways:

- In-person and virtual events: information is provided at in-person events, such as [Open Days](#), [Offer-Holder Days](#), and [widening participation](#) events, and also during virtual events, such as our [LSE Discovery sessions](#) and [Study at LSE Webinars](#)
- Digital: applicants can access information about tuition fees and financial support on our [fees and funding webpages](#), as well as information on living costs on our [student life webpages](#) and from [student bloggers](#). Current students can access information related to finances, including budgeting advice and on-course financial support, on our dedicated [student support webpage](#).
- Printed/digital publications: fees and funding information is listed in relevant publications, including the Undergraduate Prospectus/Guide, the UK Financial Support Guide and the Offer Guide for Undergraduates.
- Email communications: applicants and offer holders are provided with a range of information about financial support, budgeting and living costs through regular e-newsletters.
- Social media: Financial support provision is promoted on the School's social media channels such as [TikTok](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Student-led videos on [YouTube](#) highlight topics such as how to apply for scholarships, and these are also shared via social media, emails and on our website.

See pages 30-31 of our [access and participation plan](#) for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

LSE identified seven key priority groups who may not experience equality of opportunity to focus on in our new plan, at different stages of the student journey. Our objectives for each group are to:

1. Increase access to LSE for female students in quantitative subjects (those which require A-level Maths).
2. Increase access to LSE for students from low-participation areas.
 - a. Low-participation is measured by a statistical measure called '[TUNDRA](#)' which classifies local areas into five groups – or 'quintiles' – based on the proportion of young people who enter higher education.
3. Increase access to LSE for students from the lowest-income households.
 - a. Low-income households are measured by checking if students were eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) at secondary school, which is a measure of deprivation.
4. Improve progression rates and outcomes for students from the lowest-income households.
 - a. This will use the same measure as number 3.
 - b. Progression rates and outcomes refer to students securing graduate level employment and/or going on to further study (such as a master's degree).
5. Reduce the First Class Honours awarding gap between Black and White students at LSE.
6. Reduce the completion rate gaps (students who do not complete their degree) for students with a declared disability.
7. Support [care-experienced students](#) throughout every stage of their journey at LSE.

See pages 5-6 of our [access and participation plan](#) for more information.

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

LSE has developed seven Intervention Strategies to address the objectives outlined in the previous section. These Intervention Strategies include tailored activities that will help to address the issues that each priority student group is facing as well as a financial investment to support the delivery of these activities.

Below are a few examples of activities included across the seven Intervention Strategies:

- A pilot maths tutoring and enrichment programme for female key stage three pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, in partnership with [Imperial College London](#).
- A range of [Widening Participation](#) programmes and events that offer school and college pupils from across England a taste of university-level teaching and learning at LSE, as well as the information needed to make a competitive university application. Some of the programmes are delivered in partnership with other organisations such as [The Brilliant Club](#).
- The use of [contextual admissions](#) and offers in our admissions process. This involves using data and information provided on [UCAS application forms](#) to assess applicants' achievement and potential whilst recognising the challenges they may have faced in their educational or individual circumstances. In some cases, applicants are eligible for contextual offers which can be up to two grades lower than standard entry requirements.
- Delivering on our [Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework](#), such as providing student mental health and wellbeing support through the [Student Wellbeing Team](#) and a dedicated [24/7 mental health support line](#).
- Enhancing [LSE100: The LSE Course](#), our flagship interdisciplinary course for first year Undergraduate students, through continuing to diversify the course, and expand existing workshops and 1 to 1 appointments.
- Providing a [mentoring scheme](#) between LSE students and alumni who identify as part of the Black and Minority Ethnic community to offer support and advice for personal, academic, and professional development. Delivered in partnership with the [LSE Student Union](#).
- Tailored career advice and support delivered by the [LSE Careers](#) team, including funded internship opportunities, career mentoring, employer engagement and workshops, and the Summer Internship Programme for students with little or no previous work experience.

See pages 7-26 of our [access and participation plan](#) for more information.

How students can get involved

Students are involved in the planning, delivery, evaluation and monitoring of our plan, for example through our collaboration with the LSE Students' Union to enhance and deliver community building and engagement activities. Students can also get involved in our work through our [LSE Student Education Panel](#) and our [student ambassador scheme](#).

See pages 28-29 of our [access and participation plan](#) for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

LSE has established a comprehensive framework for monitoring and evaluating its Access and Participation Plan based on LSE's [Education Evaluation Framework](#). We evaluate our activities using a range of methods to ensure we know they work and are beneficial for students. It also allows us to continue to improve them in future. We are committed to sharing the findings of our evaluation so that others can learn from these.

See pages 29-30 of our [access and participation plan](#) for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please email ard.app@lse.ac.uk for further information.