

The University of Law

Summary of 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 University of Law at:

https://www.law.ac.uk/globalassets/13.-media--doc-repo/06.-about/theuniversityoflaw_app_2020-21_v1_10039956.pdf

Key points

The University of Law is a specialist provider, with 15 campuses across the UK, an online campus and two international campuses. Our undergraduate provision is small and relatively new. Our undergraduate student body is very diverse, as over 75% of our students come from at least one underrepresented group (for a list of the groups that are considered as underrepresented please see the Office for Students' [glossary](#)). Our key challenges are to ensure that all our students, and in particular those from underrepresented groups, succeed in their courses and progress into employment or further study.

The focus of our access and participation plan is on improving outcomes for specific underrepresented groups of students. Data shows that, compared to their peers at The University of Law, the following groups are less likely to complete their courses and achieve a degree award of 2:1 or above:

- Ethnic minority students
- Students from deprived areas
- Mature students

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of the full plan

Fees we charge

At The University of Law, the maximum fees charged are:

- £9,250 for first degree full-time students
- £11,100 for accelerated degree full-time students
- £6,935 for first degree part-time students

Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This support is designed to help students to complete and succeed on their courses. The support includes:

- A **hardship fund** of up to £1000 to support any student who can provide evidence of financial hardship
- An **annual bursary for care-experienced and estranged students** of £2000
- A new **annual bursary** of £1000 for students with a household income of zero (as assessed by their relevant Student Finance Authority), starting in September 2023

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Information for students

- **Prospective students** can find information about our fees and financial support on our website, as well as at all in person or virtual events
- We have a 'Support for you' hub on our [website](#) with information specific to underrepresented groups and we provide specific guidance for care-experienced students on the [Propel](#) website
- **Current students** can access information about fees and financial support through our student portal and support services
- We plan to create a video summary of our access and participation plan

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What we are aiming to achieve

Our aim is to reduce, and eliminate where possible, our gaps in access, success and progression. We have a diverse student body so we will continue to develop and improve our access activities. Our strategic focus, however, is on improving continuation and attainment rates for underrepresented groups and in supporting them to progress into employment or further study.

- **Access:** we aim to increase the enrolment of care-experienced students and white students from deprived areas
- **Success:** we aim to achieve the following by 2025:
 - to eliminate the awarding gap between students from deprived areas and those from less deprived areas
 - to halve the awarding gap between white and black students, and white and Asian students
 - to reduce the awarding gap between white and BAME students from deprived areas
 - to reduce the awarding gap between young and mature students
 - to eliminate the gap in continuation between white and BAME students
 - to eliminate the gap in continuation between young and mature students
- **Progression:** we aim to eliminate our progression gaps for students from deprived areas and disabled students by 2025

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the full plan

Our strategic aim is to eliminate all gaps identified in our assessment for performance by 2031, and to maintain our performance in all other areas.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

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the full plan

We are carrying out a strategic programme to review our data gaps in more detail and to undertake research with students and staff to identify a range of activities to achieve our aims stated above. We are working to:

- **Access:** improve the information available on our website for specific student groups and develop our work with targeted schools local to our campuses to support pupils from underrepresented groups to attain good grades and progress into higher education

- **Success:** develop our ability to identify and support students who may not be engaging fully with their learning through our learner analytics platform and support system, and to support students to approach challenges, grow their social capital and develop a sense of belonging at the university and within the legal and business sectors
- **Progression:** support students to develop their employability for life rather than simply securing employment
- **Financial support:** expand our offer to include bursaries in addition to hardship funding, and increase our financial advice support

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How students can get involved

We worked with our Students' Union (previously Student Association) to write our access and participation plan and work with our students to deliver it. Students are represented in our Widening Participation and Access Committee, and all its working groups, which work to oversee the implementation of the plan and deliver activities to achieve its aims.

To provide feedback on this plan, students can contact the [Students' Union](#)

To become involved in this work, students can contact our [Head of Access and Participation](#)

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

The University of Law uses evidence to inform what we do and to monitor if we are on track to achieve our access and participation aims. We collect data and feedback to do the following:

- Evaluate the activities we deliver
- Identify the impact of the activities on our targets
- Evaluate the impact of our financial support
- Identify if the activity we deliver is value for money

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Our Data, Research and Evaluation working group monitors the delivery of access and participation activities and the progress of our work against the targets in our access and participation plan. We work collaboratively with higher education sector organisations to ensure our evaluation is rigorous and objective.

Contact details for further information

You can contact our [Head of Access and Participation](#), Morag Duffin, for further information.