

The University of Law

Summary of 2024-25 to 2027-28 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. They detail the interventions that providers will make to challenge risks to equality of opportunity, and how they will measure and evaluate their impact. Providers review and re-write their plans every four years.

Here is the full [2024-25 to 2027-28 access and participation plan](#) for The University of Law and here you can find more information about our [access and participation work](#).

What we are aiming to achieve

From analysing our data, we are aware that certain groups of students do not access, succeed in or progress from our University into employment at the same rate as other groups of students. In our access and participation plan we aim to reduce what our data shows to be our biggest gaps. Our data shows:

- Students are less likely to access the University if they meet a combination of different characteristics (to identify this group of students we use a measure known as '[associations between characteristics of students](#)'), so we aim to increase enrolment rates of this group of students.
- Black students and mature students are less likely to complete their degrees than other student groups, so we aim to increase completion rates for these student groups.
- Black students, Asian students, mature students, disabled students and students from economically deprived areas are less likely to obtain a good degree (a 1st or 2.1) than other student groups, so we aim to increase attainment rates for these student groups.
- Asian students are less likely to progress into employment, so we aim to increase our Asian student progression rate.

We have expressed these objectives in targets with yearly milestones.

See pages 6-8 of the access and participation plan for more information on our objectives and Annex A, pages 31-43 for more information on our data.

Risks to equality of opportunity

Our gaps in performance between different student groups are indications of wider risks to equality of opportunity. To work out how to reduce these gaps we undertook a risk identification process which involved:

- Understanding where our largest gaps in performance are across student groups and lifecycle stages
- Consideration of the Office for Students' Equality of Opportunity Risk Register and the application of those risks to our context at The University of Law
- Staff and student consultation, and review of our student voice

This process identified five risks:

1. Replication of sector-wide inequalities in higher education recruitment
2. Cost pressures
3. Replication of the inequalities of the professions
4. Barriers to student engagement
5. Mental health

See pages 2-6 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

To address our key risks, we have produced four intervention strategies. An intervention strategy is a group of activities that we will undertake to directly address each risk. By addressing – or mitigating – these risks we aim to address the issues that are causing our gaps. By doing this we aim to achieve our objectives.

Risk 1 and intervention strategy 1

- This strategy covers our work to encourage students who are least likely to consider higher education to consider it as an option. It includes work to develop our information, advice and guidance, to develop students' knowledge and skills, as well as work to improve the success rates of applications.
- Key activities: an attainment raising programme, online outreach provision, contextual admissions; and third sector engagement.

Risk 2 and intervention strategy 2

- This intervention strategy is intended to mitigate the risk that increased cost pressures may affect a student's ability to complete their course, obtain a good grade, or to progress into professional employment. It aims to better inform students about and support them with the costs of higher education through direct support, indirect support and financial advice.
- Key activities: pre-entry information, advice and guidance; The University of Law Bursary; financial information, advice and guidance; extra-curricular support; and employability support.

Risk 3 and intervention strategy 3

- This intervention strategy has been developed to address the replication of inequalities of the professions in three key areas: within the curriculum, outside the curriculum and through role models.
- Key activities: student advocate schemes; curriculum development work; academic writing support; diversity of role models; staff training; professional preparation; and working with Professional Statutory Regulatory Bodies.

Risk 4 and intervention strategy 4

- This intervention strategy addresses the barriers that students face in engaging with their course and with our academic and personal support. It aims to tackle why students do not access this support, for instance if they are not aware of it or if they are not comfortable in accessing it.
- Key activities: improvement in provision of information pre-entry; improvement in identification of students not engaging; improvement in communication of support available; expansion of specific disability support; and better linking of support systems.

Risk 5 and the University Mental Health Charter

- We have not developed a separate intervention strategy to address the risk of mental health as we are already delivering activity in this area as part of the University Mental Health Charter. By signing up to the charter we have pledged a commitment towards creating and sustaining an environment which supports the mental wellbeing of our community.

See pages 8-22 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

The maximum fees we charge at The University of Law are £9250 for all programmes apart from our two-year accelerated LLB which is £11,100.

Financial help available

The aim of our financial support is to support our students with the greatest need, to enable them to fully engage with their course and wider university opportunities.

Information for students

The website and the offer-making process that the University follows both provide clear information on the cost of each course and how these costs can be paid, both in terms of securing funding via student loans, and in terms of how courses can be paid for in instalments. The website includes information on the range of financial support measures available to students and how these can be accessed, including eligibility criteria.

See page 30 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

Students are represented in our access and participation plan work and governance at The University of Law, through the Students' Union, but also through our student Diversity and Inclusion Advocate and Wellbeing and Accessibility Advisor schemes.

We encourage all students at the University to get involved with our access and participation work, and we advise them to find out more by contacting the widening participation team.

See pages 25-26 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We have an evaluation plan in place to ensure we robustly measure the impact of our access and participation plan activity. Our processes adopt best practice from the sector to make sure our work is evidence-based, and we share our learning within the university and externally.

In our access and participation plan we have:

- Set out our processes for monitoring and evaluation of activities (which includes embedding evaluation at the activity design stage)
- Explained how we plan to upskill our colleagues and strengthen evaluation
- Committed to publishing our evaluation of four key projects

See pages 27-30 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact our widening participation team on widening.participation@law.ac.uk for more information.