

Liverpool John Moores University

Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans (APP) set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed, and progress from higher education (HE). The full plan for Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) can be accessed at: [LJMU APP](#)

Key points:

Context:

LJMU is ‘*an inclusive civic university transforming lives and futures, by placing students at the heart of everything we do*’. Driven by a 200-year heritage we are committed to a university education accessible to all irrespective of social or economic background. 43% of LJMU’s UK student population is recruited from the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority (Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens, Halton, and Wirral), and a further 9% recruited from Northern Ireland.

Key challenges:

LCR attainment at key stage 4 reports only one of the local authorities (Wirral) as above the English state-funded average. For pupils achieving a pass at GCSE in English and Maths. Furthermore, in terms of educational attainment, over 30% of lower educational attainment is in the most deprived LCR areas. National levels of income and employment deprivation are highest in Knowsley, with a quarter classed as income deprived whilst Liverpool is ranked fifth.

Main areas of focus:

LJMU address the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service POLAR4 data (an area-based measure classifying likelihood of young people to participate in HE). In 2018 UK domiciled 18 year-olds from quintile 5 (most advantaged areas) were 2.36 times more likely to enter higher education than those from quintile 1 (most disadvantaged areas). Based on the local demographic and LJMU’s own data analysis, we continue to target and invest in students from the following groups:

(i) Low HE participation areas; (ii) Low household income families (i.e., including young white males from low participation neighbourhoods); (iii) Students of ethnicity; (iv) Mature students with level 2 and level 3 qualifications; (v) Students with disability status; and (vi) Care leavers

We recognise the impact of existing barriers to preventing equality of opportunity for student groups. We continue to support our students to succeed in HE by fostering a student focused, and inclusive community. Groups we particularly focus on include carers, students estranged from their families, students with specific learning difficulties and those with mental health needs.

Fees we charge

Maximum course fees for undergraduate full-time degrees are £9,250 per year. Maximum part time undergraduate degree is £6,935 per year. Accelerated degree programme maximum course fees are £11,100 per year. We have broken down our student finance information so that it’s specific to what students are studying and what type of student you are, and this can be accessed at the following link: [LJMU fees and funding](#)

Financial help available

Minimal levels of financial support to different groups of students is as follows:

- Annual progression bursary of £500 for eligible full-time home students paying the full tuition fee with a household income of £25,000 or less to support retention and student success.
- Minimum bursary of £1,500 per year for looked after children and care leavers for living costs.
- Minimum bursary of £1,500 per year for students estranged from their families for living costs.
- Young Adult Carers Bursary: £500 per year to help with their living costs.

In addition, we have a Student Support fund of at least £1m directed at students who are most in need to aid their retention and progression. We also offer a range of scholarships available to all students, as well as access to funds to support global engagement. Full details of the financial support available to students is provided on the LJMU website at [LJMU fees and funding](#)

Information for students

We use a range of approaches to explain how our fees and funding support is made available to students. Our [LJMU Fees and Funding Guide](#) is one such example outlining tuition and maintenance (living costs) loans, how household income affects student funding, how to apply for funding, scholarships and bursaries, and budget planning.

Information is available on the university website, at Open Days, and subject discovery events. Our university student recruitment and advice and wellbeing and teams are also available pre and post enrolment to provide support to students. The university Outreach Team [LJMU Outreach](#) deliver a suite of programmes designed to promote fair access to education. We also provide opportunities to engage with the university and offer support and advice to students relating to financial and course options.

What we are aiming to achieve

We care deeply about our agenda on social mobility by driving the local and regional economy to make sure our students have choice when they leave, and there are sufficient graduate-level jobs available in the city region. We want to ensure all our students are equipped to flourish, develop their confidence, ability, skills, experience, and attainment. In meeting this commitment, we recognise some students (both nationally, and at LJMU) are disadvantaged and therefore more likely to not access higher education, and/or have lower positive outcomes.

Our [LJMU APP](#) sets out measurable objectives to tackle inequalities in access and attainment and is structured around three strands of access, success and progression.

Access

Access is the first stage in ensuring we recruit, retain, and support students underrepresented at LJMU. We are working on raising numbers of black, Asian, and care experienced students joining the university (see page 31 of our APP [Access targets](#)).

Success

Success is part of the entire student experience at LJMU and focuses on addressing barriers that prevent underrepresented students from continuing with their studies and ultimately succeeding in higher education. Specifically, we are working on ensuring students continue with their studies where there are gaps in success as detailed in the table below (see page 31 of our APP [Success targets](#)).

Progression

This ensures LJMU students progress from higher education into employment or further study, particularly where there are lower positive outcomes. For LJMU we are focusing on three areas namely underrepresented ethnic groups, disability, and male and female students from low areas of higher education participation. (See page 31 of our APP [Progression targets](#))

What we are doing to achieve our aims

A selection of the key strategic measures we are taking to achieve the objectives and targets set out in our APP are as follows:

- Senior accountability and responsibility for our APP by our Pro-Vice Chancellor for Student Experience. This includes regular reporting to Governors and the Executive Leadership Team.
- Sustained engagement with prospective students from local areas of disadvantage to support access and success.
- Proactive engagement with LJMU support services for Northern Ireland domiciled and male students from POLAR4.
- Increasing the numbers of successful female, disabled, and black professional mentors.
- Partnership working with schools and colleges with diverse pupil populations.

- Increased representation of Black, Asian, and care experienced students in outreach programmes.
- Reduction in financial worry through LJMU's bursaries, scholarships, and funding support.
- Dedicated evidence based monitoring and evaluation of our APP through our Teaching and Learning Academy.

How students can get involved

LJMU's APP is the responsibility of the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Student Experience who is also a member of the Executive Leadership Team. The Pro-Vice Chancellor chairs institutional committees responsible for strategic and operational delivery of the plan.

LJMU place students at the heart of everything we do, with one of our four university values being to be student focused. [LJMU Vision and Values](#) The Pro-Vice Chancellor reports directly to the Vice Chancellor as well as acting as the senior link to the Chief Executive of JMSU to work in partnership with the Sabbatical Officers of the Student Union. The Student Union are represented on all senior committees for student experience.

As part of the university [Respect Always](#) campaign LJMU and JMSU work together to ensure above all else everyone who studies at LJMU, works here, and works with us, feels respected and is respectful of others Central to LJMU's evaluation of our APP is our active consultation and engagement with our diverse range of students to ensure we are responding to their needs.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

LJMU's evaluation strategy has been developed through an in-depth review of theoretical approaches to evaluation in addition to an audit of current evaluation practice across the university at the different stages of the student lifecycle.

An Evaluation and Impact Working Group ensures a holistic approach to evaluation and reports into the LJMU, Education and Student Experience Committee, and Executive Leadership Team. It operates as a mechanism for strategic overview, bringing together individuals from across the institution with the evaluation skills and practice skills to ensure activity benefits our targeted students.

Based on the outcomes of evaluation on occasions a change in focus has been implemented to maximise outcomes for our APP students. At the access stage of the student lifecycle, we are committed to delivering sustained long-term outreach. We utilise the Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT) to evaluate the impact of aspiration and attainment raising activity. This provides quantitative metrics that detail learner characteristics, baseline data and the volume of outreach individuals have engaged in.

The use of HEAT ultimately provides LJMU with a comprehensive picture of how interventions support progression to higher education and will support the University in identifying which activities have the most impact. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of student outcome data as set out in our APP takes place systematically throughout the year. The university has recently established an APP Dashboard that outlines in a clear and unambiguous way the access, success, and progression metrics of students.

Contact details for further information

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