

# Liverpool Hope University

## Summary of 2020-2024 access and participation plan

### What is an access and participation plan?

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

You can see the full access and participation plan for Liverpool Hope University [here](#)

### Key points

Liverpool Hope is a welcoming community providing a nurturing environment to stimulate and foster the scholarly advancement of its students. We have around 5,000 students studying with us, approximately 4,650 of these are undergraduates. More information about the make-up of our student body can be found [on our web pages](#).

The University has at the core of its Mission a drive to ensure that access to higher education is equal for everyone. This particularly includes those from areas where a range of factors has traditionally discouraged people from entering higher education.

At Liverpool Hope widening access to higher education joins together with our commitment to Equality and Diversity. We have [University-wide objectives](#) whose focus includes the success of students from groups with protected characteristics.

Each year the University collects data about who comes to Hope, how well they achieve and what they go on to do after their degree. Liverpool Hope has committed, during the period of the 2020/2025 Access and Participation Plan, to carry out targeted activities. These will enable us to **completely** close a number of identified 'gaps'.

Key commitments and areas of focus are:

1. Across the UK local areas are given a rating in relation to the proportion of young people who go on to higher education. There are five of these areas which are known as POLAR quintiles. POLAR4 Quintile 1 represents areas of lowest participation in higher education and POLAR4 Quintile 5 represents areas of highest participation.

Another related measure is the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The IMD describes relative living conditions in each small area of England. Again, the index divides areas in groups or quintiles (Q). Quintile 1 is the most deprived area.

Liverpool Hope students from POLAR4 Quintile1 and IMD Quintile 1 are less likely to:

- i. continue with their studies
- ii. attain a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2.1 degree
- iii. progress into highly skilled employment or further study. Our data pointed towards particular issues for female students from POLAR4 Quintile 1 entering further study or graduate employment.  
*See pages 1-3 of the full plan*

2. Our student body is mainly white and therefore we must enhance access particularly for Black and Asian students. We also noted that, compared to White students,

- i. Asian students are less likely to achieve a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2.1 degree
- ii. Black students are less likely to continue with their studies
- iii. Global Majority students are less likely to enter further study/ graduate employment  
*See pages 4-6 of the full Plan*

3. Undergraduates are classed as mature if they are 21 or over when they start their studies. The

proportion of Liverpool Hope students who are mature is less than expected.

*See page 6-7 of the full Plan*

*Plan*

4. Liverpool Hope welcomes a higher number of disabled students each year than the sector average. However, we noted that the proportion of disabled students achieving a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2.1 degree is less than for non-disabled students. In particular, we are aware of the need to improve progression into employment or further study for students with mental health conditions.

*See page 7 of the full Plan*

### **Fees we charge**

The maximum fees we charge full time students is £9,250 and part time students £4,625. Further information about our tuition fees can be found on our [Fees and Funding](#) web pages.

### **Financial help available**

The University has a Student Support Fund for undergraduate students in hardship. In 2022/23 the bursaries and scholarships we have on offer include Access to Hope scholarships and a Care Leaver's bursary. We also make awards to current students who experience unexpected hardship to help them remain on course.

*See pages 19-20 of the full Plan*

### **Information for students**

The University holds a number of Open Days and Applicant Days which include detailed presentations on student fees and support. Our [Fees and Funding](#) web pages contain up to date finance information for current students

*See pages 20-21 of the full Plan*

### **What we are aiming to achieve**

From the understanding we have developed from our data we have identified the following areas of focus:

- Working collaboratively with groups external to the University to support attainment and aspiration raising in Schools. Liverpool Hope has collaborations in the City through projects such as [Hope Challenge](#) and [Shaping Futures](#).
- Expanding academic provision to include small credit courses. These learning opportunities aim to support individuals in lifelong learning by providing professional enhancement for those in teaching or business settings. This learning may also be accumulated to facilitate access to higher education.
- Students from areas of low participation and high deprivation - by 2024/25 we will remove identified gaps completely. We will do this by improving the proportion of students from areas of high deprivation who:

- successfully continue with their studies by 8%
- achieve a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2.1 degree by 10%
- move onto graduate level employment or further study by 4%

In addition, for students from areas where few people go onto higher education, by 2024/5 we will

- increase the number of students who successfully continue with their studies by 6% and who achieve a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2.1 degree by 14%
- Global Majority Students: by 2024/25 we are committed to making significant and sustained improvements for students in this group in relation to:
  - entry to study at Hope by reducing the gap by 2% to 0%
  - success in continuing with their studies by 9% to 0%
  - achieving a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2.1 degree by 6% to 0%
  - progressing into graduate level employment or further study by 7% to 0%
- Mature students – by 2024/25 the proportion of mature students in our cohort will reflect the sector average. This means we are committed to increasing the mature population by 14%
- Disabled students – by 2024/25 we will completely remove 'gaps' by improving:

- the proportion of our disabled students achieving a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2.1 degree by 4%
- progression for those with mental health conditions by 15%.

*See pages 10-12 of the full Plan*

## **What we are doing to achieve our aims**

We have a number of key approaches to help us fulfil our challenging aims:

1. Making sure that what we deliver includes everyone: academic subjects are currently reviewing their curriculum to ensure course materials avoid stereotyping but celebrate diversity.
2. Attainment raising through a programme of speakers and academic skills workshops. Workshops for students whose first language is not English removes barriers to success. Motivational speakers from the groups identified in our Plan are intended to be empowering, aspirational and inspirational.
3. Financial support for students, through a series of scholarships and through on course support for students who are struggling financially.
4. Changing how we deliver our courses: we have an expanding range of courses available on-line and in a flexible format. We are also committed to developing small, accessible chunks of learning that can be accumulated or used to progress professional careers.
5. Providing a 'one stop' approach to student support. Liverpool Hope has a flexible and rapidly accessible range of support services including support with finances.
6. A newly developed employment strategy which aims to provide our students and graduates with an extensive and expanding portfolio of employability opportunities.
7. Increasing our collaborative work with external partners including other higher education providers, employers and local schools. The established Shaping Futures and Hope Challenge collaborations aim to raise aspirations in primary and secondary school pupils.
8. Engaging the Student Union in a working partnership that gives students a voice in the direction of the University.

*See pages 13– 17 of the full Plan*

## **How students can get involved**

Students contributed to the writing of the Plan and were fully briefed about the data that sits beneath our ambitions. A representative of the Student Union elected officers is a member of the University Committees that are responsible for evaluating the delivery of our Plan. Students can get involved with our work in Access and Participation by contacting our [Student Union](#).

*See page 17 of the full Plan*

## **Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved**

All members of our staff are involved in implementation of our Plan by the regular conversations they have about the courses they offer. We also have small 'Implementation Groups' of staff who make sure that our eight key initiatives are impactful.

The University has a strong tradition of academic staff taking part in research activities related to widening participation. Therefore, the initiatives we use to close the 'gaps' are informed by the most up to date evidence of what works and what does not.

We evaluate our progress each year against our targets, we determine the success of our interventions and recommend changes of direction where they are needed. Evaluation of the impact of our Access and Participation Plan moves through senior Committees in the University to ensure collective responsibility for our activities.

Each year we publish a report that explains whether we have met our Access and Participation Plan targets. This can be located from our [Governance](#) pages

*See pages 17 to 19 of the full Plan*

## **Contact details for further information**

You can contact our team at the following address: [access&participation@hope.ac.uk](mailto:access&participation@hope.ac.uk)