

Liverpool Hope University

Summary of 2025-26 to 2028-29 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan sets out our interventions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students. You can see the full access and participation plan for Liverpool Hope University [here](#).

Key points

Liverpool Hope University pursues a path of excellence in scholarship and collegial life without reservation or hesitation. The University's distinctive philosophy is to 'educate in the round' – mind, body and spirit – in the quest for Truth, Beauty and Goodness.

Liverpool Hope has around 5,600 students, 4,360 of whom are undergraduate, our smaller size means that we have the advantage of knowing our students 'one by one'.

51% of our students have non-A level entry routes. 61% of our students have those characteristics associated with a risk of under representation in Higher Education. The University has a growing number of students from black and global majority backgrounds. A significant number of students have disabilities, almost 8% above the national average. More information about the make-up of our student body can be found on our web pages.

Thus, with such a distinctive and mission specific cohort, Equality of Opportunity, and risk to this, is at the core of our strategic approach. The Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy, the Strategic Plan and the University Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Objectives are all rooted in providing a nurturing environment in which all of our students can thrive.

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. Analysing this data has enabled us to identify a number of 'gaps' which indicate that not all our students are achieving equally. Liverpool Hope has committed, during the period of the 2025/2029 Access and Participation Plan, to eliminate or significantly reduce inequalities of opportunity. This will be achieved by planned interventions and subsequently evaluating their effectiveness.

Across the life of the Plan Liverpool Hope is seeking to improve:

- The number of black and global majority students who achieve a 1st or 2.1 degree. Particular focus is required for students who come to Hope from areas of high deprivation (including those receiving free school meals), without A level qualifications and who opt to study a joint honours degree.
- The number of students from areas of high deprivation/ lower participation who are successful. Specifically, increasing the number of students from these areas who successfully complete each year; achieve a 1st or 2.1 award; and go on to further study or graduate employment.
- The number of students who have mental ill health who are able to move onto further study or graduate employment.

See pages 3 and 4 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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 [web page](#).

See pages 3 and 24 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Financial help available

The University has a Student Support Fund available to students in financial difficulties during their time at the University. The Student Support Fund also provides emergency payments in response

to unplanned events – for example the need to travel home in an emergency. Details of financial support for students from underrepresented groups can be found on the University [website](#).

The [bursaries and scholarships](#) we have on offer for 2025/6 onwards include Access to Higher Education Scholarships and bursaries for Care Experienced students. We also make awards to current students who experience unexpected hardship to help them remain on course.

See pages 24 and 25 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

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

See pages 24 and 25 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

Liverpool Hope welcomes all those who seek an excellent higher education and we aim to offer the support required to ensure all of these students have an equal opportunity to succeed during, and after, their degree. Analysis of our data has enabled us to clearly identify groups of students where there are risks to equality of opportunity:

For black and global majority students, particularly those who come from areas of high deprivation (and may have been eligible for free school meals), had non-A level qualifications on entry and opted to study joint honours courses:

Liverpool Hope will reduce the awarding gap for black and global majority students compared to white students to 5 percentage points (pp) from the current 14 pp over the life of the plan.

For students from areas of lowest traditional participation in higher education and for those from the most deprived areas:

Liverpool Hope will eliminate the gaps across the student lifecycle. We aim to ensure that compared to students without these risks, students from these backgrounds will:

- be as likely to continue through their degree, year on year
- attain as many first class or 2.1 awards
- be equally successful in completing their awards

For disabled students with mental ill health:

Liverpool Hope will significantly increase the number of students with a mental health disability who successfully progress to further study or graduate employment after their degree.

See pages 4 and 5 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

The Office for Students has produced an Equality of Opportunity Risk Register (EORR) which highlights the factors that contribute to inequalities in higher education. We have consulted the EORR alongside analysis of our own performance and have an in depth understanding of the factors that contribute to some of our students doing less well than others.

For black and global majority students: these inequalities are most likely to arise because of insufficient personal and academic support and poorer knowledge and skills on entry. We propose to address the issue at Liverpool Hope through ambitious interventions that will decolonise the institution and the curriculum. This means that we will ensure that the policies and processes of the institution embrace global histories rather than allow them to create injustice. The University will provide better opportunities for staff and students to work together and with external/third sector

experts to understand the experiences of Black and Global Majority students. We will also offer enhanced financial, pastoral and academic support to students from the poorest backgrounds.

For students from areas of lowest traditional participation in higher education and for those from the most deprived areas: students from these groups are disadvantaged by a lack of knowledge and skills needed for successful HE and also a deficit in information and guidance before coming to university. At Hope these students are more likely to enter without A level qualifications and to select joint honours degree courses. Cost pressures impact on this group because of the likelihood of students having to support their families and increase paid work.

The targets set out in our Plan are stretching. We aim to achieve them by offering enhanced financial support including a range of on-campus employment opportunities and free extracurricular activities including through interaction with local community groups. Learning and learning resources will be more readily accessible. The University remains committed to targeted pre-course and outreach confidence raising activities.

For disabled students with mental ill health: mental ill health negatively impacts progression outcomes for students graduating from Liverpool Hope. This cohort are more likely to join Hope without having studied A levels and may require additional advice and guidance in relation to the range of opportunities available on completion of their award.

Improving outcomes after their degree for this group of students is a sector wide issue. Liverpool Hope aims to significantly improve outcomes by focussing on more targeted careers interventions including enhanced induction processes, on course support, focus on successful transition, better integration of placements and enhanced guidance relating to progression opportunities.

See pages 4 to 13 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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 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 22 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We are committed to using robust evidence when putting interventions into action and in measuring their impact. In preparing this Plan we have consulted the published literature to find out what has worked elsewhere, we also have projects ongoing which have also provided a useful evidence base. A newly formed cross- University Evaluation Group will ensure we carry out ongoing evaluation of our activities from which we can learn from as a whole university community. In the main we will use an evaluation approach that looks to collect data from participants who received a particular intervention compared to those that did not. This will give us a clear picture of whether our interventions are moving us towards achieving our aims and objectives.

We will seek to disseminate our findings through research publications, our website and delivery at conferences such as the Society for Research in Higher Education, Advance HE Learning and Teaching Conference. Internally we have regular Learning and Teaching Days where we can spend time together considering the impact of our interventions and deciding on next steps.

See pages 14 to 17 and 22 to 23 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact access&participation@hope.ac.uk for more information.