London School of Management Education (LSME)

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 provisions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students (OfS). Through this plan LSME is aiming to help improve access to all groups and communities of people to access higher education; support them get good results, have a good learning experience and at the end of the course get a graduate level job or move higher in their academic journey. You can see the full access and participation plan of LSME by clicking here.

Key points

LSME is located in East London in the Borough of Redbridge and is providing higher education opportunities for all neighbouring Boroughs. We offer undergraduate courses in Business Management, Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Tourism, Accounting and Finance, Education and postgraduate Business Management and Education courses. LSME is a medium-sized higher education provider, which encourages students from various ethnicities, backgrounds and age groups to study with us. The majority of our students are mature but the number of young students is gradually increasing. Under our Access and Participation (AP) Plan, we are supporting students from the following groups and backgrounds to join LSME or other universities or colleges to gain a degree level qualification, attain good results, and progress with good employment outcomes:

- White British
- People with disabilities and special needs
- Black ethnic minorities (particularly Caribbean)
- Care leavers or Care experienced young people
- Refugees
- Asian students
- Students from areas of low participation in higher education
- Young people from economically disadvantaged families or low-income households
- Students facing financial hardship

See pages 4 - 10 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

Our fees for our full-time undergraduate degree programmes are £9,250 per year. Fees for our part-time courses are £5,000 per year. Full details of our fees are available here.

Financial help available

Under the plan, LSME provides a range of financial support packages to students in the target groups. These support packages are in the form of discretionary bursaries, hardship funds and Foundation Year fee waivers and offered to eligible students identified after assessing their eligibility and administered every academic year.

Students with household income below £25,000 will receive a discretionary bursary of £250 as vouchers, travel cards etc. based on the support required. Care-experienced and estranged students will receive a bursary of £500, while young students within the age group of 18 – 21 will receive £250 as an incentive. Hardship support fund of £250 is available to students from low participating neighbourhoods (TUNDRA Q1 & Q2). Disability Hardship support of £500 will be offered to students with disabilities and special needs. Students face with special circumstances such as sudden redundancy, disabilities, digital poverty, accidents, etc. will be offered an additional discretionary hardship support after assessment of their circumstances. To help students from White British, refugee and Care Leaver background, LSME will offer Foundation Year fee-waivers or scholarships. These scholarships are limited in numbers.

The financial support packages are designed in a way that the students experiencing greater hardship and financial difficulties will receive more support. All the financial support will be assessed and means-tested.

See page 34 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

Our goal is to provide detailed easy-to-understand information about our programmes, services, and resources to our prospective students, current students, their families, and support systems. Our plan gives importance to transparency, inclusivity, and fairness.

Comprehensive set of information about the courses and tuition fees are published on the website and on course brochures. Information about financial support is available under Bursary and Scholarship scheme and in the Access and Participation Plan on our website. The opportunities, support and benefits for the eligible students are outlined in the plan. We share this information with our prospective students and relevant stakeholders during our marketing and promotional events, career fairs and open days etc. Also, we use our social media platforms to reach the information to potential students and the community. There are additional resources produced for marketing, such as brochures and flyers both in hardcopy and electronic, containing substantial information on the opportunities for sharing with prospective students, parents and stakeholders.

See pages 33 - 34 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

Our Plan has been prepared based on the experience and lessons learnt from the implementation of the previous plan. We have also done extensive research in identifying risks to equality of opportunity for our students, especially the disadvantaged groups of students. Based on our experience, students' feedback, research and external advice we are aiming to achieve the following targets from the academic year 2025-26 to 2028-29 through this plan and mobilising our internal resources:

Access

- To increase admissions and support to students from low participation areas in the surrounding areas from 18.2% to 30% by 2029.
- To support access to higher education for disadvantaged school children by supporting the attainment of GCSE Maths and English for 50 eligible children per year over the plan period.
- To achieve a 10% enrolment of disabled student by the 2028-29 Academic Year.
- To improve access for disadvantaged young people by achieving a 15% enrolment by 2028-29 Academic Year.

Success

- To eliminate the attainment gap of -23pp between students from the Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 and quintile 4 and 5 by 2028-29 Academic Year.
- To reduce the existing continuation gaps between our young and mature learners (-16pp) by 50% (-8pp) in the next five years.

Progress

- To improve student progression among all LSME students from 45.6% to 70% in the next 5 years.

See pages 10 - 11 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

There are several risks identified by the Office for Students that make it challenging for some groups in the society take advantage of good higher education opportunities. So LSME is committed to providing support and opportunities to some of these groups to study and get good results.

Young learners, students from low-participation neighbourhoods within LSME's local communities and students with disabilities face considerable challenges in accessing higher education. To address these barriers, LSME is committed to supporting them in gaining admission and successfully completing degree programmes. Additionally, students from refugee or care-experienced backgrounds, as well as Black Caribbean and Asian students, often encounter difficulties in accessing and thriving within universities or colleges. Similarly, students from White British backgrounds require tailored support to progress and achieve success in higher education.

If we could help disadvantaged students at Secondary and Sixth Form schools to achieve good GCSE Maths and English results by providing extra academic support, there is a greater chance they will go into University or College. Therefore, we have launched outreach projects aimed at improving attainment levels in some of our partner schools.

Disadvantaged students require academic, financial, and mental health support to excel in their studies. Challenges such as cost-of-living pressures and financial hardship can lead to demotivation, causing students to disengage from their education. Our plan directly addresses these issues, providing the necessary support to help students remain focused and succeed in their academic work.

It is important for us that our students progress to a graduate level, higher paying skilled jobs upon completion of their degree programmes. Hence, we address the issue of providing employability and enterprise skills to the learners through a dedicated hub established at the College.

See pages 4 - 10 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

Our students played an important role in the development of this plan. Through a series of consultations with their peers, gathering feedback, and participating in several meetings with the College, they actively contributed to the preparation of the submission to the Office for Students. Throughout this process, students shared their ideas, expressed their views, and shaped the new Access and Participation Plan through thoughtful recommendations. The active involvement and leadership demonstrated by a group of students was critical in designing strategies and interventions.

Student representation in LSME's governance structure supports in the implementation of the Access and Participation Plan. Students are represented on the Academic Board and the Access and Participation Committee, where decisions related to the plan's execution are made.

Our AP Student Ambassadors are provided with training to effectively communicate and support outreach activities. These ambassadors raise awareness among their peers and contribute by participating in feedback surveys and offering valuable input to implementation.

See pages 29 - 30 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

All the interventions and activities to achieve our objectives of the plan are reviewed in line with the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. The four-year targets set in the plan are evaluated each year and a detailed Impact Monitoring Report is prepared. Our activities are informed by evidence and research on what works for our student group. We use the standards and measures outlined by the Office for Students and other relevant organisations working in the area of AP research and assessments. The evaluation will use information from internal data supplemented by student feedback, feedback from the schools, surveys, and focus group discussions. Additionally, we utilise LSME-specific and sector-wide data published by the Office for Students and other credible organisations and data from partner institutes and stakeholders for evaluation purposes. National-level surveys, such as the National Student Survey and the Graduate Outcomes Survey, further provide insights into the impact of our interventions.

We communicate findings from our evaluations by publishing a summary of the Annual Impact Monitoring report on our website and sharing information in relevant stakeholder meetings/conferences and publication in relevant journals.

See pages 31 - 33 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

For more information or to ask any questions about our access and participation plan, you can contact Head of Access and Participation, Mr Hassan Shifau, email: Hassan.Shifau@lsme.ac.uk; telephone: 0208 594 8462. Also, find additional information on https://lsme.ac.uk/admissions/access-and-participation-plans/