

Leeds Beckett 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 provisions 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 Leeds Beckett University (LBU) at <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/access-and-participation>.

Key points:

Our access and participation plan encompasses our strategic ambitions as a regional anchor institution to adopt a whole institution approach to achieve our strategic ambition and vision:

‘To be recognised globally for the positive difference we make as an inclusive anchor with the people, organisations and diverse communities of the Leeds City Region.’¹

Our APP is built upon a depth of understanding of our diverse student body (Annex A of our APP), their distinct needs, and existing good practice to address those needs (Annex B of our APP).

Our strategic framework, and specifically our education plan incorporate a defined ‘learner pathway’, student support framework, and employability implementation plan. These strategic frameworks establish a vision for LBU to empower students to navigate a route into, through and beyond their course, into graduate level employment or further study. They achieve this through exemplifying a clear ambition to deliver a differentiated approach to enable student success according to their unique circumstances and background, through an established culture of inclusivity, and a whole university approach.

Our approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) runs through our strategic framework, and our core values, which have resulted in our accreditation across three EDI charter marks – The Race Equality Charter, Mental Health Charter and Athena Swan.

It is within this context and institutional positioning that this plan will build on existing good practice across our university and the sector, to enable our community, differentiate our provision, build a strong student sense of belonging, and work in partnership – to provide equality of opportunity and equity for our diverse student body to access and succeed in their journey into, through and from Leeds Beckett.

See pages 1-3, 43-62, and 63-104 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

Our current maximum fees charged in any academic year at Leeds Beckett University, are as below²:

- Full Time First Degrees - £9,250
- Sandwich Year or Overseas study years - £1,325
- Part Time First Degree - £6,925

See pages 105-108 of the access and participation plan for more information.

¹ Leeds Beckett University Strategic Planning Framework 2021-2026

² Fees accurate at time of writing (January 2025)

Financial help available

We recognise the disproportionate impact that the cost-of-living crisis can have upon our student body and therefore the challenges that our students face in engaging with their studies, and the broader opportunities offered by the university. To address this, we provide a growing portfolio of bursaries and scholarships to enable students to maximise their engagement with the whole student experience. These include:

- Hardship bursaries: for those from the lowest household income.
- Cost of living awards: to support with costs associated with learning, such as travel and childcare.
- Placement and professional development bursaries: to enable students to engage with their own professional development and employability.
- Healthy eating and transport – to support healthy eating and transport between our campuses.

See page 35 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

We are committed to providing transparency and clarity for our students and prospective students, to enable well informed decisions about their university, their studies and their future. Information regarding student fees and financial support is readily available and updated via:

- Open days - presentations, stands and publications
- Our university prospectus
- [Our website](#)
- External partner websites, including UCAS and [Go Higher West Yorkshire](#)
- Social media platforms
- School and college outreach services
- Links with the Students' Union (advice service and website)
- Specialist support services and sites e.g. [The Care Leaver Covenant](#) website

See pages 38-39 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

We aspire to ensure that all students are offered equality of opportunity to **access** higher education, **complete** their studies, improve their **attainment**, and **progress** into highly skilled and rewarding careers or further study. According to our assessment of performance, we therefore aim to achieve the following:

Access: to increase the number of mature students and students from Asian, Black, Mixed and Other ethnicities studying at Leeds Beckett University.

Completion and Attainment: to improve the completion and attainment rates for male students, students from Asian, Black, Mixed and Other ethnicities, and students from socio-economic disadvantaged backgrounds.

Progression: to increase the proportion of students from socio-economic disadvantaged backgrounds, and students from Asian, Black, Mixed and Other ethnicities, who progress into highly skilled employment or further study.

See pages 3-9 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

Access:

- i) Developing differentiated interventions for target student populations.

- ii) Growing impactful outreach across partner schools/ colleges to increase awareness.
- iii) Growing attainment across our local communities through school-based interventions.
- iv) Building responsive and flexible practice through pre-entry interventions for mature learners.

Completion and Attainment:

- i) Enabling our academic community to enhance our inclusive curriculum and assessment.
- ii) Building a stronger sense of belonging and community for our students through curriculum modernisation and working in close collaboration with our Students' Union.
- iii) Integrating mental health and wellbeing support across the curriculum and as part of the whole student lifecycle.

Progression:

- i) Working across internal and external partnerships to develop university (employability) curriculum infrastructure.
- ii) Providing individualised and differentiated careers support which will resonate with the target student populations.
- iii) Facilitating and diversifying access to employment through the development of exclusive opportunities and engagement support.
- iv) Challenging / supporting inclusive employer recruitment practices.

See pages 10-31, 33-34, and 63-104 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

Our APP was written in partnership and in consultation with our students and the Students' Union. Students will remain integral to the monitoring and development of our interventions through their involvement in university accountability meetings and committees, in addition to localised focus groups and consultation across our lifecycle strands. To get involved please contact Leeds Beckett Students Union or the LBU contact specified below.

See pages 37-38 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We will adopt a dual approach to evaluation to ensure that we develop consistency in localised intervention evaluation methodologies, establishing a greater depth of understanding as to 'what works', whilst also monitoring our progress towards the high level targets which we have established within our APP.

The evaluation of our APP will be integrated into our institutional governance structured with overall accountability through our Academic Quality Standards Committee, and Academic Board. Our broader EDI infrastructure and Charter Mark Groups will monitor the impact of distinct interventions across the student lifecycles.

See pages 32-33, and 35-37 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact Mark Stow, Director of Business Engagement, Employability & Careers – m.d.stow@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.