## The London School of Architecture

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

#### **What is an Access and Participation Plan?**

The London School of Architecture’s (LSA) Access and Participation Plan sets out its most significant risks to equality of opportunity for its current and prospective students, and how these particular risks can be addressed and countered. The particular groups of students covered by the Plan are from UK domestic households, from a range of underrepresented groups. The Office for Students approves and monitors all Access and Participation Plans.

You can see the full Access and Participation Plan via the [policies section of the University website](http://www.ucem.ac.uk/policies).

In May 2025, London School of Architecture (LSA) merged with University of the Built

Environment. This LSA Access and Participation Plan was written prior to this merger, but University of the Built Environment will honour the commitments (including financial support) made within this Access and Participation Plan and oversee its delivery.

#### **Key points**

The LSA is a small independent higher education provider and a charity. This Access and Participation Plan details how we work to support access to higher education and training in design and the built environment, support and success of its students on the MArch in Designing Architecture programme. LSA will look to address key risks to equality of opportunity across the duration of this Plan. Three key objectives have been identified to mitigate these risks:

* To reduce the gap in access for students from low socio-economic backgrounds, as measured by IMD Quintile 1 compared to their counterparts, measured by IMD quintile 5 to a 5pp gap by 2032-33
* To increase the proportion of entrants from global majority heritage backgrounds on the MArch programme, to 33% by 2032-33
* To reduce the continuation gap between disabled students and non-disabled students, 5pp by 2032-33.

See pages 1-3 and 7-20 of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

#### **Fees we charge**

LSA’s published annual fee information can be found via the [policies section of the University website](http://www.ucem.ac.uk/policies). For 2025-26, full-time course fees (programme fees) are set at £9,000 and part-time at £6,955.

See the last four pages of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

#### **Financial help available**

The re-launch of LSA bursaries and the restructured hardship fund reflects a strong financial commitment to removing economic barriers to education. This initiative fosters a more inclusive environment where students from all financial backgrounds are supported to succeed.

See pages 24 and 34 of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

#### **Information for students**

A copy of the LSA’s Access and Participation Plan is available via the [policies section of the University website](https://www.the-lsa.org/who-we-are/). The University’s Student Representatives are required to draw student attention to the Plan and supported to obtain feedback and comment from the student body on Plan activities and then feedback to the student body. Students are made aware of fees and the financial support available in their offer letter.

See pages 27 to 28 of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

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

The LSA’s Plan sets out clear objectives to increase access and success for underrepresented students. Its key aims include expanding participation via a whole lifecycle, personalised approach to supporting students from low socio-economic and global majority backgrounds to access LSA. Furthermore, supporting students with disabilities and mental health needs to stay on programme and continue to graduation.

See pages 7-20 of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

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

Each intervention strategy details how the University will address its identified risks to equality of opportunity.

Intervention Strategy One, aims to reduce the access gap between students from low and high socio-economic backgrounds (IMD Quintiles 1 and 5) by 5 percentage points by 2032–33. It includes targeted programmes such as Crafting Cities workshops, the National Saturday Club, and the Extended Project Qualification to build skills and boost university readiness. Supported Admissions and peer transition support enhance confidence and retention, while career-focused coaching and diverse wellbeing services improve employability and emotional resilience. These initiatives are continuously evaluated to ensure they effectively address barriers and support long-term student success.

Intervention Strategy Two, aims to reduce the continuation gap between disabled and non-disabled students by 5 percentage points by 2032–33. It includes initiatives like peer support and buddy schemes to boost motivation and retention, alongside the Culture of Care programme, which promotes mental wellbeing through activities like yoga and meditation. Inclusive teaching practices and tailored Learning Support Plans further enhance engagement and academic performance. Each intervention is evaluated through data and feedback to ensure continuous improvement and meaningful impact.

See pages 7-20 and 41-62 of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

#### **How students can get involved**

Students enrolled at LSA can contribute to the Access and Participation Plan through consultation sessions, feedback forums, and co-design opportunities that shape future outreach and support strategies as well as the wider Plan activities.

See pages 28-29 of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

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

As part of an annual cycle of review, the University will use relevant evidence to develop and report on the impact of this Plan. We are committed to sharing evaluation findings to inform and improve practice. While publication plans are indicative, they will evolve as new opportunities for dissemination arise. Evaluation will focus on individual components of the intervention strategy, rather than the strategy as a whole, and will meet OfS Type 1 and Type 2 standards to assess whether intended outcomes are being achieved. The strategy will launch in September 2025, with findings published according to the outlined schedule. In collaboration with the Specialist Evidence, Evaluation and Research service, we will undertake continuous evaluation and use insights to refine and enhance our approach.

See pages 10-20 29-31 of the Access and Participation Plan for more information.

#### **Contact details for further information**

Please contact [enquiries@ube.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ube.ac.uk) for more information.