

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN

2025/26–2028/29



What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans, sometimes referred to as APP, set out how universities will improve equality of opportunity for under-represented students. This includes students with a disability, those from areas of low participation into higher education and low household income, as well as students of Asian, Black, mixed and other ethnicities to access, succeed in, and progress from higher education.

You can read the full plan for the University of Lincoln [here: Access & Participation Plan](#).

Key points

The focus of our plan is to make sure that it is straightforward for students from all backgrounds to join the university and feel part of the Lincoln community, while being supported to reach their full potential in their studies. Each year, we welcome thousands of new students to our community and strive to ensure that everyone, regardless of who they are or where they are from, feels included.

Our goal is to help every student grow and develop, feel safe to be challenged in their learning, and achieve their best. As one learning community, we embrace the diversity of identities and experiences, guided by our One Community values of equality, understanding, kindness, and acceptance. These values promote respect and inclusivity in enhancing the student experience.

What we are aiming to achieve

We want to help students think about how degree level study might be the right option for them; work with Schools and Colleges to help those students to realise their higher education ambitions; and for those who come to Lincoln be supported to be successful in their studies. To do this, we have set targets and detailed objectives in our plan which will embed activities and support into our teaching & learning practices and student support services which will help us to achieve the following:

- Increase the representation of students coming to university from the most deprived backgrounds and, for those who choose to study with us, attain the highest possible degree outcomes from their studies.
- Build on work with our feeder schools to address perceptions of higher education in order to specifically support and increase access for more male new entrants.
- Support students of Asian, Black, mixed and other ethnicities to successfully progress through their studies in line with their White counterparts and achieve the highest possible degree outcomes.
- Reduce the gap between students who disclose a disability and those who don't to achieve the highest possible degree outcomes and in doing so, progress into graduate employment.

What we are doing to achieve our aims

- We will work with applicants and their teachers to remove the barriers to accessing higher education for those people from the most deprived backgrounds. This will include access to financial assistance and offers made in the context of an individual's own circumstances. Through this work we will also address the increasing imbalance between male and female students at our university.
- Through our Lincoln Equality of Attainment Project and Lincoln Education Toolkit for Student Success we will ensure that students from Asian, Black, Mixed and Other ethnicities are supported as they establish their sense of belonging in our student community. This is central to student inclusion, positive mental health and student wellbeing, all of which have an impact on and contribute to increased student engagement and successful study progression.
- Students whose learning is affected by a disability will be supported to access a range of academic study services – including workshops, one to one appointments, and peer to peer help. Along with individual Personal Academic Study Support plans this will facilitate improved engagement in their learning, and in turn success in their studies.
- Working with our Personal Academic Tutors and using attendance data we will provide early interventions to those students from the most deprived backgrounds who are least likely to seek out help and support. This will build their knowledge of key services and the support they can access during their studies.
- We will provide tailored and targeted support in the form of online sessions, professional mentoring, and funding to enable students with a declared disability to progress into graduate employment or post-graduate study, in line with their non-disabled counterparts.

Information for students

Information is available on our website to guide and inform all prospective students and their supporters about what university study entails – including campus life, living away from home and the help and support provided for those who come to study with us. Our fees and the financial support we offer is signposted at events by our Recruitment and Outreach teams, included in our Prospectus, and confirmed in offer letters sent to applicants.

Details on how we support those students from under-represented backgrounds and communities is set out as commitments to ensure equality of opportunity. This links to financial information and other key interventions aligned with our access and participation commitments.

Our Student Support and Advice Team are always there to help students with any financial worries and further information on the support we offer can be found on our website [here](#): [Financial support](#) – this includes information on cost of living support, student finance and funding, and budgeting tools.

Fees we charge

The maximum fees we charge for a UK undergraduate student at Lincoln are £9,250 (per year) for a full-time student and £6,935 (per year) for a part-time student.

The undergraduate tuition fee may increase year on year in line with Government policy – this will enable us to provide the best possible educational facilities and student experience.

The most up to date details for all our fees can be found [here](#): [Fees and Funding](#) this includes tuition fees for current and prospective students, how students will pay their tuition fees and a link to information on Gov.uk about Maintenance Loans.

Financial help available

We offer the following financial support to students who we know might find the costs of study difficult:

University of Lincoln Scholarship	£500 per year paid in 3 instalments for UK students whose household income is less than £25,000/year.
Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)	Funding for specific equipment, non-medical help and allowances for students who have a diagnosed disability which may cause them difficulty during their studies.
Blackburn Bursary	£500 on enrolment and £1,000 on successful completion of each level of study for students who have previously received local authority care.
Foyer Supported Housing Bursary	£1,000 in 3 termly instalments for students who come directly from living in a Foyer or other supported housing.
George Major Bursaries	£1,000 per year for students with life-limiting illnesses.
University of Lincoln Financial Assistance Funds (ULFAF)	Targeted funds providing grants of £100 - £4,000 per year based on need for UK students experiencing financial difficulty.

These financial assistance funds are to help students with the greatest financial needs, so they can fully participate in their studies and university life.

A dedicated page can be found [here: scholarships and bursaries](#) which signposts students to all our support funds, details on eligibility criteria, and how to apply.

How students can get involved

Engagement with and capture of student voice across the whole student lifecycle is well established at Lincoln as a central element of how the University and the Students' Union work with students in partnership. This commitment is set out alongside our student commitment in our [Student Charter](#).

All students at Lincoln have the opportunity to provide feedback on their experiences of applying to and securing their place at Lincoln, their teaching and learning experiences, and the specialist services and support which go alongside this.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

It is important to know that the support set out by our plan is achieving the intended outcomes for our students. This will be monitored in a number of ways for our target student groups, including collecting key data and student feedback across the whole student life cycle to evaluate the impact that this has. This evaluation will ensure that we know what is working well and what improvement we can make to our support for students, where it is not.

Our Access and Participation Oversight Group works to ensure that this evaluation work is completed and used to meet the targets and objectives set within our plan. There is also student representation on this group to inform the delivery of the activities and contribute to the evaluation.

We are also committed to sharing the findings from our evaluation activities with our students, Students' Union and staff, as well as ensuring this is prominent within the higher education sector.

Contact details for further information

Please contact enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk for more information.