

London School of Theology

Summary of 2026-27 to 2029-30 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 London School of Theology at https://lst.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/London-School-of-Theology_APP_2026-27_V1_10004075.pdf.

Key points

The London School of Theology (LST), established in 1943, was founded to equip Christians to engage meaningfully with a post-war society. Today, it continues to provide high-quality adult Christian education to students from a wide range of denominational, demographic, and geographical backgrounds. Over the decades, LST graduates have gone on to serve in Christian ministry as well as in diverse secular roles both in the UK and globally.

Currently, LST has around 350 students enrolled across four undergraduate programmes, three postgraduate taught programmes, and three postgraduate research programmes. Its undergraduate offerings include the BA in Theology, which can be studied On-Campus, Online, or through a flexible Mixed-mode combining both approaches. The BA in Theology and Counselling is unique in being the only interdisciplinary degree in the UK accredited by the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP). The BA in Theology and Worship is similarly distinctive, offering an integrated approach to these disciplines, while the BA in Theology and Liberal Arts, launched in September 2025, reflects the College's commitment to innovation and broadening educational opportunities and can be studied On-Campus, Online, or Mixed-mode.

LST is dedicated to providing comprehensive academic and pastoral support to all students. This plan specifically aims to enhance access and academic success for young people aged 18–25, those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and students from Black, Asian ethnic communities.

See pages 1-5 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Fees we charge

At LST, the maximum fees charged for undergraduate studies in 2026-27 are:

- £9,275 for full-time students
- £6,950 for part-time students

These amounts are applicable only for the stated academic year and are likely to rise in future years, normally in line with inflation within the confines of the published approved fee cap.

You can see a full list of fees for undergraduate programmes at London School of Theology at <https://lst.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/>

Financial help available

LST is committed to improving access to its courses for those who for financial or other reasons may not typically consider studying or have perceived barriers of entry. The below lists the eligibility criteria we assess and the resulting financial support we offer:

- Family income less than £35,000 (£1,000 to £2,000). Over and above this amount, £1,000 is awarded if you fall into any of the below categories:
- Students who are carers or a care leaver
- Black ethnic background
- Low socio-economic status and Mature student (over 21)

See pages 26-28 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

Information about tuition fees and the financial support available is shared with prospective students during in-person and virtual engagement activities and is readily accessible on the School's website.

Throughout Freshers' Week, the Accounts department meets with both new and returning students to discuss fee instalments and ensure they are aware of the full range of support available. Our Pastoral Team, Academic Tutors, and Learning Support team are all well-versed in bursary, scholarship, and fee-related processes and are equipped to direct students to the appropriate services. Full information always available on our website at <https://lst.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/>

See pages 26-28 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

Through our assessment of performance, LST has identified 3 indicators of risk:

- Young people (aged 18-25) are significantly underrepresented across LST's undergraduate programmes, despite low entry requirements.
- Low continuation rates of students from Quintiles 1 and 2.
- Gaps in Black Student Attainment.

Based on these three risks identified, our access and participation plan has three objectives:

- To increase the enrolment of young students (aged 18-25 years) to 20% of the recruitment profile by 2032. Currently students under the age of 21 years represent 1-14% of the recruitment profile.
- To lower the gap in continuation rates between Q1-2 students and Q3-5 students to no more than 10 percentage points, whilst also aiming to increase the continuation rates for students from low-income households, students of black ethnicity, those who have been out of education, and/or those with qualifications below level 3.
- To increase Black students' attainment of good degrees to 30% (an increase of 10pp) in the next five years (by 2030).

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

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

We have introduced several initiatives specifically designed to achieve the objectives of our plan, in addition to LST's usual activities that support and facilitate students' learning:

- Partnerships with local Schools and with a national association of teachers
- Targeted Publicity campaign to attract young students in the 18-25 age group

- Bursary Support for students identified in IMD 1-2 and/or from disadvantaged backgrounds/underrepresented groups in HE at LST and who meet the eligibility criteria for a bursary/scholarship.
- Identifying areas of intersectionality, including those without formal level 3 qualifications.
- Student support and requests for extension
- Student: Staff Focus groups on race and culture
- Embedding inclusive educational practices in our learning, teaching and assessment strategy.
- Enhancing existing training around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for Faculty and Staff
- Accreditate a “Studying Theology” with integrated Study Skills.
- Extend and enhance Black History Month
- Further interrogation of data/research
- Clear leadership by the Executive Team and Board of Trustees on the above action points, and a demonstration of how they have led to meaningful change.

See pages 4-22 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

Initial drafts of the APP, outlining risks to equality and the objectives to address them, were circulated to the Academic Board, Academic Affairs Committee, and Board of Trustees for feedback, all of which include student representatives. During the Summer term, 2 students volunteered as APP Ambassadors, and consulted the wider student body on LST’s draft APP plan. As a result of their feedback, a separate student submission was made to the OfS and the APP plan was amended to take into account their feedback.

LST is committed to embedding student feedback across all operations. Going forward, student representatives will participate in the APP Monitoring Group, which will meet quarterly to ascertain progress towards targets. Students are also actively represented on the Academic Board across undergraduate, postgraduate taught, and research programmes, ensuring their voices are included in key decisions.

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

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

The coordination and monitoring of the APP is the responsibility of the APP Monitoring Group, which includes the ASDAS, the Disability, Inclusion and Learning Support Manager, programme leaders, the Compliance and Reporting Officer, pastoral staff, the Learning and Teaching Manager, two student representatives and the Academic Dean as an ex-officio member. Meeting quarterly, the group analyses student data, monitors progress against the APP targets and develops proposals for implementation. It reports to the Academic Board, Executive Team, and Board of Trustees, ensuring recommendations from data analysis, focus groups, or other reviews are acted upon. The Academic Board can adjust activities and targets based on these recommendations, while the Board of Trustees oversees execution, strategic progress, and necessary actions to address concerns.

See pages 25-26 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact enquiries@lst.ac.uk, Tel, 01923 456000 for more information.