

## LIPA Access and Participation Plan 2025/26 to 2028/29: Summary

### What is the access and participation plan?

Our access and participation plan (APP) sets out how we will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

You can see the full access and participation plan for LIPA [here](#).

### Key points

*See pages 1-3 of our access and participation plan for more information.*

LIPA is a small, specialist higher education provider with just under 1,000 students based at a single campus in Liverpool. We aim to be a leading centre of excellence for creative learning and vocational training within the performing and creative arts. Innovation, interdisciplinarity and diversity are central tenets. Our purpose is to enable and empower creatives of the future to develop the specialist skills and knowledge to secure sustained work.

Our commitment to equity means that we strive to provide a student-centred inclusive space where everyone, regardless of their background, feels supported and empowered to realise their creative potential. One of our overarching strategic aims is to diversify our intake of students, making the arts more accessible to all groups and specifically to grow our cohorts of students from the Global Majority, as well as students from disadvantaged and under-represented backgrounds.

As part of our wider commitment to creative education, we have set up a LIPA School (for learners aged 4-16) and LIPA Sixth Form College (16-19), which we work closely with, and which provide a route for some of the students who apply to join us.

### Fees we charge

The maximum fees we charge for full-time UK undergraduate students is £9,250. This is subject to change based on the maximum fee limits set by Government. We will also increase fees each year using RPI-X, where allowed, subject to the maximum fee limits set out in Regulations.

See [our website](#) for further details, including up to date fee information.

### Financial help available

*See pages 40-41 of our access and participation plan for more information.*

We are committed to offering the following bursaries to support our students:

- LIPA bursary: an annual bursary of £575 for UK-domiciled students who can demonstrate that they are in receipt of the full maintenance loan allowance.
- Care Leavers & Estranged Students Bursary: an annual bursary of £1,000 for UK-domiciled students who have either previous care experience (for 6 months+ prior to the age of 16) or who are estranged from their families. In particular, this bursary is in recognition that these students may be more likely to need access to student accommodation outside of term time.
- LIPA Placement Bursary (up to two awards each year) to assist students from targeted groups with the cost of undertaking assessed placements as part of their course.

More information about our financial support offer can be found on [our website](#).

### **Information for students**

*See pages 40-41 of our access and participation plan for more information.*

All information on fees and financial support available to prospective and current students can be found on [our website](#). Information on fees and financial support will also be provided during relevant recruitment and outreach events, such as open days.

Prospective students who are offered places on our degrees will receive communications including information on fee and financial support arrangements soon after accepting places (from March/April) and in enrolment information provided in August (after A Level results). For returning students, information on fee and financial support arrangements will be publicised on our intranet and through communications in March/April and in August before students are due to re-enrol.

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

*See pages 4-8 of our access and participation plan for more information.*

We are keen to increase the diversity of students accessing LIPA, and subsequently the diversity of those entering and working across the creative and performing arts industry. This was also reflected in the analysis of our data (Annex 1 of our plan) which showed that our largest risk to equality of opportunity is at the access stage for learners from the most disadvantaged and underrepresented postcodes and learners from the Global Majority entering LIPA.

We have therefore set targets within this plan to:

- Increase the proportion of students from IMD Quintile 1 and Quintile 2 areas enrolling on our courses to 36% of our intake by 2030-31. (Baseline = 29.6%)
- Increase the proportion of students from TUNDRA Quintile 1 areas enrolling on our courses to 17% of our intake by 2030-31. (Baseline = 11.1%)
- Increase the proportion of students from the Global Majority enrolling on our courses to 14.5% of our intake by 2030-31. (Baseline = 9.5%)

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

*See pages 8-28 of our access and participation plan for more information.*

We have designed three intervention strategies which we believe will help us to tackle the risks to equality of opportunity and help us achieve our objectives. These strategies are informed by a range of research and evidence (Annex B of the Plan).

1. A programme of activities with schools, colleges and community organisations which support increased awareness of higher education, improve attainment within our subject areas and encourage more applications from underrepresented learners. Key elements of this programme include sustained school and college partnerships, a multi-intervention programme for local Year 10 and 11 learners, our Year 12 summer school (Get Set) and professional development opportunities for teachers and careers advisers.

2. Supporting learners from targeted groups with successful applications through

- a) Activities aimed at helping targeted post-16 learners to understand audition/interview processes at LIPA and how best to self-prepare for these, such as audition preparation workshops and pre-audition/interview phone calls, replicating levels of support that more advantaged students may be able to access through other channels.

- b) Initiatives which reduce barriers that may impair learners from attending auditions/interviews at LIPA and successfully demonstrating their aptitude for our training. These include commitments to: reducing the cost of attending audition/interview events by removing all audition fees and offering travel grants for targeted applicant groups; a contextual admissions flag system; continued review of our audition/interview processes, improving the diversity of staff involved in audition/interview panels and training for staff involved in admissions processes.

3. Ongoing support of the LIPA Multi-Academy Trust (LIPA School and LIPA Sixth Form College) and its learners with the aim of raising aspirations, attainment and an appetite for lifelong learning through creative approaches to education.

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

Engagement and collaboration with students are fundamental in the creation and continued monitoring of this plan. LIPA students were consulted in the development of our access and participation plan through focus groups and relevant committees.

- Our elected Student Voice President and Student Officers formally represent the voices of our student population and actively feed into committees at many levels, including the Access and Participation Monitoring Group responsible for oversight of plan.
- Students can share their views through the Tell Us section of MyLIPA or by attending the regular forums organised by the Student Voice President. We will also collect further feedback through online surveys, focus groups, and 'on the ground' research.
- Student ambassadors and student workshop leaders assist with the delivery, co-creation and review of many of the activities within our plan. To express an interest in these roles, students can email [wp@lipa.ac.uk](mailto:wp@lipa.ac.uk)

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

*See pages 10-15, 18-24, 26-28, and 36-39 of the access and participation plan for more information.*

LIPA will systematically measure the impact of all the projects and activities we carry out, to better inform our strategies and make sense of what works and what doesn't. Our evaluation approaches involve:

- Embedding evaluation into the design, implementation and review of activities.
- Self-reflection to inform strategic decisions and identify areas for improvement.
- Building greater cross-institutional capacities for embedding effective evaluation practice and ensuring staff receive relevant training and support.
- Using our SEER membership to ensure our evaluation is robust and follows informed best practice approaches and to participate in collaborative projects to further develop sector understanding.
- Publishing and sharing our findings, both internally and externally.

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

You can contact Ben Leventhall, Head of Widening Participation and Schools/Colleges Liaison ([b.leventhall@lipa.ac.uk](mailto:b.leventhall@lipa.ac.uk)) for more information.