

# ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION STATEMENT



ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO, SUCCESS IN,  
AND PROGRESSION FROM HIGHER EDUCATION

## 1. INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

The London Institute of Actuarial Studies (LIAS) is a new specialist provider, launching in 2026 with the goal of making actuarial education accessible, rigorous, and professionally relevant. We aim to deliver undergraduate and postgraduate degrees that combine academic excellence with practical, real-world application, preparing students for success in actuarial careers both in the UK and internationally.

LIAS intends to develop an inclusive and globally aware student community. As we establish our provision, we recognise the importance of addressing structural inequalities in access, student success, and progression—particularly for those from backgrounds historically underrepresented in higher education and financial services. Our approach aligns with priorities outlined in the Office for Students' Equality of Opportunity Risk Register (EORR), and we are committed to embedding these considerations from the outset.

## 2. UNDERSTANDING OUR FUTURE STUDENT COMMUNITY

As a new provider with an international outlook, LIAS will initially rely on external datasets and market intelligence to model the profile of our future student population. Based on analysis of UCAS, HESA, and OfS datasets, along with demand signals from our outreach work, we anticipate that our future cohorts may include:

- Students from low-participation neighbourhoods (POLAR4 Quintiles 1 and 2)
- First-generation university students
- Students from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds
- Mature learners and career changers
- International students from regions where actuarial education is underdeveloped (e.g. South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Far East)
- These projections will inform our early planning and enable us to put in place supportive measures ahead of our first intake. As enrolment progresses, we will develop a deeper understanding of our students' needs through data collection, student engagement, and review processes.

### 3. PLANNED APPROACH TO ACCESS, SUCCESS AND PROGRESSION

In our formative years, LIAS will take a strategic approach to embedding access and participation in all aspects of our provision. Our early priorities include:

#### 3.1.ACCESS

We plan to proactively increase awareness of the actuarial profession and improve access to our programmes among underrepresented and underinformed groups. To achieve this, we will implement activities that aim to reach students who may not traditionally consider actuarial careers.

- Delivering targeted outreach and awareness-raising activity in schools and colleges in underrepresented UK regions and selected international locations.
- Offering digital engagement opportunities for prospective students who may not otherwise encounter the actuarial profession.
- Ensuring inclusive and contextualised admissions processes that recognise potential alongside achievement.

#### 3.2.SUCCESS

To support student success, LIAS will implement an inclusive academic environment underpinned by strong student support mechanisms. Our educational model will be informed by industry practice, with structured pastoral and academic interventions to ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed.

- Providing academic and wellbeing support from the outset, including mentoring by qualified actuaries and structured learning support.
- Designing curriculum and teaching practices that are inclusive, industry-informed, and oriented toward applied learning.
- Offering scholarships and bursaries to address financial barriers to engagement and progression.

#### 3.3.PROGRESSION

We aim to ensure that all students are well-prepared to transition into meaningful actuarial careers. Progression support will be embedded into our teaching model through employer engagement, career development, and hands-on consulting experience.

- Embedding professional development and industry exposure throughout the curriculum.
- Providing students with opportunities to engage in real-world actuarial work through our in-house consulting division.
- Establishing links with employers and professional bodies to enhance students' transition into the workforce.
- We recognise that access and participation is a long-term commitment. Our strategies will be piloted, evaluated, and refined as our student base grows.

### 4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

LIAS will put in place a structured framework for monitoring progress on access and participation. We will:

- Use enrolment and continuation data (including demographic breakdowns) to identify gaps and emerging risks.
- Collect student feedback through surveys, focus groups, and individual case tracking.
- Review graduate outcomes in collaboration with employer partners and professional bodies.

Oversight will be provided by our Academic Board, with a specific sub-group focused on student experience and equity. External review and advisory input will be sought as we build our evidence base.

## 5. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability for access and participation will sit with a designated member of the senior leadership team, reporting directly to the Principal. This individual will lead the development of our access strategy and ensure that equity is considered across institutional decision-making.

We plan to appoint a Director of Access and Participation in the lead-up to our first student intake. This role will coordinate monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, and support engagement with regulators including the Office for Students.

Our goal is to ensure that equality of opportunity is not an isolated policy area, but an organising principle embedded in LIAS's academic mission and operational model.

## 6. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND OFS REGISTRATION

This statement sets out LIAS's current thinking as we prepare for launch. We recognise that, upon seeking OfS registration and degree awarding powers, a full Access and Participation Plan (APP) will be required. We will develop that plan in accordance with OfS guidance and in consultation with our student community and partners.

This statement is supported by our Student Protection Plan and Refund & Compensation Policy, which set out the measures we will take to protect students from financial or academic disruption.