

The Courtauld

Summary of the Courtauld Institute of Art

2025-25 to 2028-2029 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 The Courtauld Institute of Art at <https://courtauld.ac.uk/current-students/student-and-academic-policies/office-for-students/>.

Key points

The Courtauld is a research-intensive higher education institution, and an independent college of the University of London. We offer a range of degree programmes from BA to PhD in History of Art, Conservation and Curating. The BA History of Art contributes to The Courtauld's vision to be a dynamic and innovative centre for the study of the visual arts, as set out in our Strategy for 2024-29. Our access and participation plan focuses on increasing participation in art history among students from backgrounds that are underrepresented in our subject and its affiliated professions. These include students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, students from the Global Majority, and state school students. As a small, specialist provider, our support structures across the student lifecycle work well, with investment in student wellbeing support, careers and employability guidance and academic skills support. We will continue to develop these across the period of the plan. We have identified a possible risk that Disabled students may be slightly more likely to drop out than the rest of the student body; we are monitoring this closely and will work to support Disabled students across the course of their studies.

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

Fees we charge

Our full-time, home student, undergraduate tuition fee is £9,275. The Courtauld currently charges fees in line with the Office for Students' higher fee limits. Presently, The Courtauld does not participate in TEF, which affects the fees we are able to charge. In future years, this may change. Any information relating to this will be made available on the webpage below.

See our Tuition Fees webpage for further information: <https://courtauld.ac.uk/study/tuition-fees/>
Fee information can also be found in marketing materials and through our Admissions and Enrolment Team.

See page 25 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Financial help available

The Courtauld offers multiple means-tested bursaries and three means-tested scholarships aimed at supporting underrepresented groups for BA Home students, relating to different widening participation criteria. Full information on these can be found by students, guardians and educational professionals here: <https://courtauld.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/undergraduate-fees-funding-and-scholarships/> with brief information provided below.

Students can receive up to £3,000 per academic year from The Courtauld Bursary to support their maintenance costs. This is a means tested bursary – we receive information from Student Finance England and eligible students are automatically awarded the bursary.

The James Hughes-Hallett Scholarship is awarded to three students per year and is worth £10,000 over the course of a student's study. This scholarship is paid in three instalments of £3,333 at the beginning of each academic year for three years. To be eligible, students must have studied at a state school, have a household income of less than £45,000 per year and be studying at undergraduate level for the first time.

The Courtauld Hardship Fund provides short-term emergency funds to meet the immediate financial needs of students registered at The Courtauld. It is intended to provide support for short-term urgent needs, such as living costs and rent, and cannot be used in payment of tuition fees. Awards of up to £1,000 can be made from the Hardship Fund.

See pages 25-27 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information for students

We provide information on our course fees and financial support on our website:

<https://courtauld.ac.uk/study/tuition-fees/>. This information is regularly updated. Fees and financial support information can also be found in marketing materials and through our Admissions and Enrolment Team. Relevant information, including application processes, is communicated to all offer-holders and students via email.

See pages 25-27 of the access and participation plan for more information.

What we are aiming to achieve

Through analysis of internal and external data, and consultation with key stakeholders including members of the Students' Union Parliament, we have identified 3 key objectives that focus on students applying to our BA History of Art programme. These are:

- To increase the proportion of students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds enrolling on our undergraduate programme.
- To increase the proportion of students from the Global Majority enrolling on our undergraduate programme.
- To increase the proportion of state school students enrolling on our undergraduate programme.

These objectives have associated numerical targets which can be found on pages 7 and 51 of our Access and Participation Plan. In addition to these objectives that focus on students applying to our BA programme, we have identified the need to monitor the number of Disabled students who drop out of their studies or who interrupt their studies. This monitoring will go alongside supporting students with mental or physical health conditions or learning differences across the course of their studies.

See pages 5-6 of the access and participation plan for more information.

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

Through our outreach programmes we aim to increase engagement with higher education and promote the study of art history. These include our Summer University, State School History of Art Partnerships and Talks, Art History Workshops, and Outreach Tours. We engage students both in person and online, with activities taking place at the Courtauld Gallery and at schools and colleges across the UK. We offer targeted help at application stage and when students are on our undergraduate programme, including contextual admissions offers and financial support. Through these activities we work to demonstrate to students the value of studying art history, with activities targeted at underrepresented groups. We also recognise the pressure of living costs in London,

and work to support students through bursaries and paid employment opportunities while they study.

See pages 7-12 and 18-24 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Through our Wellbeing services and personal tutoring system we support students to succeed across the course of their studies. We will streamline and expand support for students with disabilities, specific learning differences and mental and physical health conditions to mitigate risks to equality of opportunity.

See pages 15-16 of the access and participation plan for more information.

How students can get involved

Our access and participation plan was developed with input from the SU President and members of the Students' Union parliament. Students will continue to be involved in the interventions in this plan through feedback and consultation as work progresses.

To get involved, contact the Vice-Dean for Education, catherine.grant@courtauld.ac.uk.

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

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

We will track data for each of our interventions, and will collate annual reports to assess their impact. This data will include student application information, student programme information, outreach activity participant information, surveys and interviews. Annual reports will be considered internally by our Admissions and Widening Participation Committees, which report to The Courtauld's Academic Board. The SU President sits on both of these, and will be involved in wider student consultation when necessary. These reports may also be shared with higher education networks, with a focus on smaller specialist providers.

See pages 25, 41-48 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Contact details for further information

Please contact Luke Dillon, Academic Registrar, luke.dillon@courtauld.ac.uk for more information.