

Accessibility Statement for Liverpool Guild of Students Website (liverpoolguild.org)

This accessibility statement applies to the Liverpool Guild of Students website (liverpoolguild.org) and outlines our commitment to ensuring digital accessibility for all users. We strive to make our website inclusive and usable for everyone, regardless of ability.

Our Commitment

Liverpool Guild of Students is dedicated to providing an accessible online experience. We aim to meet the standards set out in the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, Level AA. We believe in equal access to information and services and are continually working to improve the accessibility of our website.

Accessibility Features

To enhance usability, we've implemented the following features:

- **Alternative Text:** All images and visual elements include descriptive alt text for screen reader users.
- **Keyboard Navigation:** Our site is fully navigable via keyboard for users who cannot use a mouse.
- **Clear Structure:** Content is organized with consistent headings and labels to support screen readers and improve comprehension.
- **Colour Contrast:** We maintain strong contrast between text and background to aid readability.
- **Resizable Text:** Users can adjust text size to suit their needs without loss of content or functionality.
- **Descriptive Links:** Link text is meaningful and clearly indicates the destination or purpose.

Accessibility standards

We aim to meet the minimum WCAG 2.2 AA standards for our website. These are the four pillars of the standard:

Perceivable

- **Text Alternatives:** Provide alt text for non-text content.
- **Captions/Transcripts:** Provide for videos and audio.
- **Contrast:** Minimum 4.5:1 ratio for normal text and 3:1 for large text.
- **Images of Text:** Do not use images of text, except for decoration.

Operable

- **Keyboard Accessible:** All functionality must be usable via keyboard, with no traps.
- **Focus Visibility:** Ensure the keyboard focus indicator is visible and not completely hidden.
- **Focus Not Obscured:** Ensure the focused element is not hidden by other content (2.4.11/2.4.12).
- **Target Size (Minimum):** Interactive targets (buttons, links) must be at least 24x24 CSS pixels.
- **Dragging Movements:** Alternatives provided for pointer gestures requiring dragging.
- **Pause/Stop/Hide:** Allow users to stop moving/flashing content.

Understandable

- **Readable:** Language of the page is defined.
- **Consistent Navigation:** Consistent menu structure across pages.
- **Input Assistance:** Provide labels, instructions, and error suggestions.
- **Redundant Entry:** Do not require users to re-enter information.
- **Accessible Authentication:** No complex cognitive tests (like memory puzzles) for logging in.

Robust

- **Compatible:** Content must be compatible with assistive technologies, including screen readers.

Known accessibility issues

We are aware of the following accessibility barriers:

- **Headings in sequentially-descending order:** Certain pages do not have properly sequential headings (e.g. H2, H3, H4). This can make navigating pages using a screen reader more difficult to understand. We will aim to review pages to ensure headings are properly formatted.
- **Colour contrast:** Some elements of text and buttons do not currently meet colour contrast standards. We will aim to have all areas of the website having enough colour contrast to meet WCAG AA standards.
- **Accordion dropdown elements:** There are certain pages that contain an accordion feature for summarising blocks of content. Some of these are not accessible while using a keyboard. We will aim to replace any of these with the HTML <details> accordion that includes keyboard navigation support.

How we're improving accessibility

While we aim to meet minimum WCAG 2.2 accessibility standards, some areas may present challenges:

- **Word Documents / PDF Documents:** Some older word documents & PDFs may not be fully accessible. We are reviewing and updating these documents. Next review date **Summer 2026**
- Improving website layout for accessibility - **Summer 2026**
- Adding Companion ticket option to events - **April 2026**
- We aim to make our documents accessible by providing Microsoft Word versions wherever possible.
 - However, in some cases PDF versions are also provided or required. This is because PDFs may be necessary to preserve document formatting, maintain version control, support official or signed documentation, or meet regulatory and operational requirements.
- **Third-Party Content:** Embedded content from external providers may not meet our accessibility standards. We work with partners to improve this where possible.
- **Alternative Booking Options:** If you are unable to book tickets online, you can complete your booking via phone, email, in-person at the Guild reception, or through our Live Chat service. We are committed to ensuring everyone can access our events and services with ease.

Alternative ways to access our services

If you are unable to use parts of this website, you can:

- Contact us by phone to complete your request
- Email us for assistance: guildweb@liverpool.ac.uk
- Visit us in person for support
- Request information in **alternative formats** such as large print or audio

Feedback and Contact Information

We welcome feedback on the accessibility of our website. If you encounter issues or have suggestions, please contact us:

- **Email:** guildweb@liverpool.ac.uk
- **Phone:** +44 151 794 6868

We'll do our best to respond promptly and resolve any concerns.

Ongoing Improvements

We are committed to continuous improvement. Our future actions include:

- Conducting regular accessibility audits.
- Providing training for staff involved in web content creation.
- Staying informed about evolving accessibility standards.

Statement Review

This statement was last updated on March 2026. We review it regularly to reflect changes and improvements.

Liverpool Guild of Students is committed to ensuring equal access for all. Thank you for helping us make our digital spaces more inclusive.