

**Ethnicity of law students**

One of the recommendations of the recent Racial Inclusion Group report was to publish information on the ethnicity breakdown of the LLB and DPLP to help allow the profession to better understand the next generation of solicitors and be able to see if they attract people from all backgrounds proportionately to their organisations.

The information below and that considered by the Racial Inclusion Group is based on raw data which has been submitted by individual providers of the LLB and DPLP in relation to their accredited programmes. There are some instances where data has not been submitted by individual providers and where averages are used and as such the information below provides a general rather than precise representation of the Ethnic minority participation.

**LLB**

From our own work those individuals who select ‘Other’ are a wide range of individuals. Sometimes that is someone from a white background but not a white British or white Scottish background. Sometimes it may be someone from an ethnic minority group that is not named in the options. As we do not know we have presented both ‘’ethnic minority background combined (excluding ‘’Other’’)’’ and ‘’ethnic minority background combined (including ‘’Other’’)’’ for completeness.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Combined Black background** | **Combined Asian background** | **Mixed or multiple ethnic groups** | **Other** | **Ethnic minority background (combined) (excluding ‘’Other’’)** | **Ethnic minority background (combined) (including ‘’Other’’)** |
| 2012/13 | 1.00% | 4.20% | 1.10% | 0.90% | 6.30% | 7.20% |
| 2013/14 | 1.20% | 5.40% | 1.80% | 0.50% | 8.40% | 8.90% |
| 2014/15 | 4.80% | 4.30% | 1.80% | 1.10% | 10.90% | 12.00% |
| 2015/16 | 1.70% | 6.50% | 2.60% | 0.60% | 10.80% | 11.40% |
| 2016/17 | 1.60% | 6.70% | 2.60% | 1.40% | 10.90% | 12.30% |
| 2017/18 | 1.50% | 7.20% | 2.80% | 1.40% | 11.50% | 12.90% |
| 2018/19 | 2.20% | 7.20% | 3.00% | 1.60% | 12.40% | 14.00% |

**NB:** In 2018/19 two universities reported their figures in a slightly different way which made it difficult to include in the table above (i.e. they reported those from ethnic minority backgrounds as one group and those from white backgrounds as one group). Therefore, recategorizing all data sets we have produced the table below which gives us the most complete picture The data does not differ significantly (less than 0.5% of a percentage point but it does not allow us full insight into the experience of different ethnicities). The full % are, therefore:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **White background (total)** | **Ethnic minority background(total)** | **Not known** |
| 2018/19 | 85.7% | 13.8% | 0.7% |

It should be noted that the percentage is the percentage of LLB students who are studying in a given year (e.g. the percentage for 2018/19 outlined directly above includes students in all four years of the Honours degree including part-time students and also those studying the accelerated degree.

**The Diploma in Professional Legal Practice**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Combined Black background students** | **Combined Asian background students** | **Combined students from mixed or multiple ethnic groups** | **Ethnic minority total excluding Other** | **Ethnic minority total including Other** |
| **2013/14** | 0.90% | 4.90% | 0.50% | 6.30% | 6.30% |
| **2014/15** | 0.30% | 6.50% | 1.70% | 8.50% | 9.20% |
| **2015/16** | 1.20% | 4.20% | 0.60% | 6.00% | 6.30% |
| **2016/17** | 1.30% | 4.20% | 0.60% | 6.10% | 6.40% |
| **2017/18** | 0.20% | 4.90% | 0.90% | 6.00% | 6.20% |
| **2018/19** | 1.10% | 5.10% | 1.20% | 7.40% | 7.80% |

The reasons for the drop between participation of ethnic minority students between LLB and DPLP is explored fully within the [Racial Inclusion Group’s report](https://www.lawscot.org.uk/media/372186/rig-full-report-january-2022.pdf) (pg 22) and the recommendations of chapter 1 should be considered afresh by those involved in legal education and training.

The data suggests that the LLB is diversifying more rapidly than the DPLP. Ethnic minority participation went from 8.4% on the LLB in 2013/14 to 12.4% in 2018/19. The general trend is upwards.   
  
The DPLP has not seen such a positive trend rising from 6.30% in 2013/14 to 7.80% in 2018/19). The trend has been less obviously upward and has risen and fallen during that time.