2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by The University of Hull against targets, objectives and written commitments set out in its 2019-20 access and participation plan. This document is a summary of information submitted by the provider to the OfS. This document is a self-report by the provider only and does not indicate any OfS assessment of compliance.

1. Ambition and strategy

The University of Hull's ambition and strategy as detailed in the 2019-20 access and participation plan:

Our 2019/20 Access and Participation Plan set out our commitment to foster a whole institution approach to access and participation activities, prioritising those with demonstrable impact on student attitudes/behaviours and outcomes, at every stage of the student lifecycle. Our ambition was to move away from request-led, isolated interventions, to the creation of a sustained programme of evidence-informed outreach and in-reach activities, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

A key emphasis of the strategy was to encourage students to engage with a variety of activities alongside their academic studies (both pre-entry and on-programme) and to enable them to develop wider skills in order to realise their full potential, for example through the Principal Partner Colleges Network and the Degree Plus+ Scheme. The ambition was that these interventions would (as relevant) raise aspirations, enable informed choices, minimise barriers to learning, and encourage the development of Hull Graduate Attributes and employability skills.

We committed to use data and impact evaluation to adopt a more evidence-based and targeted approach. This included development and implementation of systems which utilise data effectively to better inform and support our interventions, for example:
• Increasing targeted outreach initiatives based upon identification of gaps related to specific under-represented groups
• Enhancing academic supervision discussions
• Identification and early invention with students at risk of non-continuation or under-achievement

As part of our strategy, we made a commitment to deliver targeted activities for the following student groups:

• Students of Black and minority ethnic groups (at all stages)

• Students from low participation neighbourhoods (at all stages)

• White, British males from low socio-economic status backgrounds (at all stages)

• Care leavers and students estranged from their families (at all stages)

• Refugees (at the Access stage)

• Military families/service children (at the Access stage)

• Mature and part-time students (at the Success and Progression stages)

• Disabled students which may include those with mental health problems, specific learning differences (SpLD) and those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (at the Success and Progression stages)

• Student carers, including parents (at the Success and Progression stages)

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by The University of Hull of progress against the targets approved in its 2019-20 access and participation plan.

Please note the tables contain only a summary of target milestones approved in 2019-20 access and participation plans. Full information can be found in **Table 8a – statistical targets and milestones** and **Table 8b – Other milestones and targets** of The University of Hull's 2019-20 access and participation plan.

Any optional commentary provided against the targets is given in Annex B.

Statistical targets and milestones

Reference Number (lifecycle stage)	Description	Baseline year	Baseline data	2018-19 milestone	2019-20 milestone	Units of target	Comparison year	Actual performance in comparison year	Target self-assessment
T16a_01 (Access)	Seek to maintain high proportion of participants from state schools	2013-14	92%	92.8%	93%	Percentage	2019-20	95.6	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Access)	Seek to increase an already high proportion of participants from low participation neighbourhoods	2013-14	18.1%	19.6%	20%	Percentage	2019-20	27.6	Expected progress
T16a_03 (Access)	Seek to maintain the high proportion of mature participants from a LPN undertaking a first degree	2013-14	21.5%	22%	22%	Percentage	2019-20	19.8	No progress
T16a_04 (Student success)	Seek to improve non-continuation	2013-14	9.5%	7.5%	7%	Percentage	2019-20	8.9	Limited progress
T16a_05 (Student success)	Seek to improve projected outcomes	2013-14	82.9%	84.5%	85%	Percentage	2019-20	76.4	No progress
T16a_06 (Access)	Seek to increase the proportion of acceptances from Home students with a self-declared disability	2013-14	9%	11.%	11%	Percentage	2019-20	20.3	Expected progress
T16a_07 (Access)	Seek to increase the proportion of acceptances from Home students from a BME background	2013-14	15%	17%	17.5%	Percentage	2019-20	14.6	Limited progress
T16a_08 (Access)	Seek to increase the proportion of Post graduate participants from low participation neighbourhoods	2013-14	18%	18.8%	19%	Percentage	2019-20	18.8	Expected progress
T16a_09 (Access)	Seek to increase the number of participants from a care leaver background	2013-14	36	42	42	Headcount	2019-20	32	Limited progress

T16a_10 (Access)	Seek to increase the proportion of white economically disadvantaged males accepting a place at the University of Hull. (Defined as having an ethnicity of white, sex of male, and from a 1st quintile POLAR3 area) (no of students)	2015-16	7.6%	8.0%	8.2%	Percentage	2019-20	8.1	Expected progress

Other milestones and targets

Reference Number (lifecycle stage)	Description	Baseline year	Baseline data	2018-19 milestone	2019-20 milestone	Units of target	Comparison year	Actual performance in comparison year	Target self-assessment
T16b_01 (Access)	Increase the number of outreach activities involving schools with a high proportion of BME pupils	2013-14	5	15	15	Other	2019-20	19	Expected progress
T16b_02 (Access)	Provide financial support to under-represented students to access applicant days and interviews	2013-14	260	300	300	Headcount	2019-20	261	Limited progress
T16b_03 (Progression)	Provide financial advice and guidance to support progression onto PGT to students from under-represented backgrounds (no of students)	2013-14	0	200	200	Headcount	2019-20	186	Limited progress
T16b_04 (Student success)	Support engages with increasing numbers of under-represented students to provide support at key induction & transition points.	2013-14	250	360	360	Headcount	2019-20	*	Limited progress
T16b_05 (Progression)	Increase the percentage of Widening Participation students undertaking course of study that includes professional/industrial experience.	2013-14	6.8%	7.2%	7.3%	Percentage	2019-20	30.7	Expected progress
T16b_06 (Student success)	Increase the proportion of students undertaking European study abroad who are from a Widening Participation background.	2013-14	18.2%	19%	19%	Percentage	2019-20	32	Expected progress
T16b_07 (Progression)	Increase the number of widening participation students who receive financial support to access an international internships.	2013-14	8	25	25	Headcount	2019-20	0	Limited progress
T16b_08 (Student success)	Support engagement with increasing numbers of under-represented students who have been identified as being at risk.	2015-16	300	400	450	Headcount	2019-20	590	Expected progress
T16b_09 (Access)	Increase the level of progression into Higher Education for Individuals involved in the University of Hull Community Programme. (no of students)	2016-17	0	5	10	Headcount	2019-20	4	Limited progress

T16b_10 (Access)	Develop and embed an attainment raising progression pathway with local institutions that engages with Key stage 4 pupils (number of pupils)	2016-17	0	60	-	Headcount	2019-20	0	Expected progress
T16b_11 (Access)	Develop and embed an accredited attainment raising progression pathway with local institutions that engages with Key stage 5 pupils (number of pupils)	2016-17	0	70	-	Headcount	2019-20	0	Expected progress
T16b_12 (Access)	Use the University of Hull Principal Partnership programme to increase the percentage of 1st Quintile POLAR3 students involved who progress into Higher Education. (% students)	2015-16	39%	41%	42%	Percentage	2019-20	41.1	Expected progress
T16b_13 (Access)	Increase the engagment of parents of under-represented pupils (no of activities)	2016-17	0	10	15	Other	2019-20	16	Expected progress
T16b_14 (Access)	Engage with primary age pupils from widening particapation schools through the Children's University in Hull and Scarborough	2014-15	18	20	20	Other	2019-20	34	Expected progress

3. Investment commitments

3.1. Access and participation investment for the last audited year

Please note that some differences in predicted vs actual spend may be due to reporting differences between academic and financial years.

Financial year	2019-20		
	Predicted spend (£)	Actual spend (£)	Difference (ppt)
Access investment	£1,519,750.00	£1,262,000.00	-17%
Financial Support	£2,916,500.00	£2,705,000.00	-7%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected The University of Hull has made the following commitments to increase the rate of progress against their targets.

Reference Number	Steps that will be taken in the future to make expected progress against target
T16a_03	In addition, we are looking to expand our engagement with mature students and design an open day programme tailored specifically to their needs. We are also committed to conducting further research into the barriers faced by mature learners to inform our furture practice.
T16a_04	Students are now signposted to guidance and content when considering their study options in an effort to improve non-continuation. The Student Life Team (formally Student Engagement and Transition) offer support and guidance so that students can investigate their options and to ensure any additional needs can be considered.
T16a_05	The overhaul of our eInduction platform means we can provide tailored content to support outcomes as part of the student journey, in addition to a number of modules to support student success. Realignment of teams and their roles/purpose/priorities will also contribute towards this target.
T16a_07	Delivery of our new discussion group outreach programme for Asian students will commence in 21/22, and a further project is being designed which is intended to be a residential.
T16a_09	We are continuing with our outreach programmes which we feel are relevent and effective. We have exceeded our 20/21 target

T16b_02	Provision of the travel grant will resume once on-campus vistis/applicant days resume
T16b_03	We are looking to expand our student finance IAG offer by increasing our promotion of Blackbullion and we are exploring employment of Money Mentors - student ambassadors trained to support fellow students
T16b_04	Students have tailored content released via the eInduction platform to coincide with Induction, with additional support and signposting to other content held within the platform. We continue to develop and expand this content and continue to work with personal supervisors to cascade relevant, timely information to better support students.
T16b_07	International internship support will resume once international travel resumes safely following the pandemic
T16b_09	Delivery has recommenced earlier this year (2021) and is due to run until July 2021.

5. Confirmation

The University of Hull confirms that:

Student engagement	
Have you worked with your students to help them complete the access and participation plan monitoring student submission?	
Yes	
Have you engaged with your student body in the design, evaluation, and monitoring of the plan?	
Yes	
Verification and sign off	
The University of Hull has confirmed that the information included in this impact report is accurate, that it has been compiled in line with OfS guidance, and that it is being submitted on behalf of the governing body of the provider.	
Yes	
Accountable officer sign off	
Name	Professor Susan Lea
Position	Vice-Chancellor

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

The University of Hull's commentary where progress against targets was less than expected.

Target reference number: T16a_03
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Although we met the commitments outlined in our Access and Participation Plan, performance against our target was lower than we hoped.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Working with our Schools and Colleges Engagement team we have developed a new mature student engagement programme which is a sustained outreach programme specifically for mature students at college, with a plan to expand the project into the community setting.

Target reference number: T16a_04
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Although we met the commitments outlined in our Access and Participation Plan, performance against our target was lower than we hoped. However the non-continuation rate has improved from 11.2% (2017 entrants) to 8.9% (2018 entrants).
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Processes around non-continuation and access to information have been reviewed.

Target reference number: T16a_05
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
It is unfortunate that we have not made as much progress as we had hoped against the commitments outlined in our Access and Participation Plan. There have been a number of changes to team structure in addition to Covid-19 complications and we need to continue investigations as to correlational factors to make progress towards 20/21 targets and beyond.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Our 20/21-24/25 APP identifies that we need to understand the challenges we experience with our projected outcomes as a major priority. At this time we have not taken any additional steps due to changes to the operational delivery of key student facing teams student and Covid-19.

Target reference number: T16a_07
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?

Although we met the commitments outlined in our Access and Participation Plan, performance against our target was lower than we hoped. However we have seen significant progress in 20/21 in this regard (19.7%)

Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?

We used data to drill further into our gaps at the Access stage relating to ethnicity to enable a more disaggregated approach. Using data to identifiy specific cross sections of our gaps (eg. Ehtnicity, gender and POLAR quintile). This informed the design of a new outreach project for Asian students, delivery will commence in 21/22

Target reference number: T16a_09

How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?

Although we did meet all of commitments in this regard, performance was lower than target in 19/20. However please note the small numbers involved in this target which can lead to high fluctuation. Furthermore in 20/21 we have exceeded our target.

Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?

No we did not implement further steps, given factors explained in column V, we didn't feel this was necessary.

Target reference number: T16b_02

How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?

A significant proportion of applicant and interview days had to be cancelled or moved online, negating the need for travel costs.

Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?

NA

Target reference number: T16b_03

How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?

Yes, financial IAG for postgraduate study was provided at PG open events, graduate careers events and webinars, unfortunately some in-person events had to be cancelled due to the pandemic

Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?

In 19/20 we invested in Blackbullion which is an online platform providing finance and budgeting IAG to students

Target reference number: T16b_04
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
We do not have the data for 19/20 following the platform overhaul.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Our eInduction platform and content has been significantly overhauled with student partners for 20/21.

Target reference number: T16b_07
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
International opportunities weren't feasible in 19/20 due to Covid
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
NA

Target reference number: T16b_09
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Delivery of this programme for academic year 19/20 commenced in March and was due to run to the end of July, however the programme had to be postponed due to the pandemic.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
NA

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

The University of Hull's commentary on any of the targets listed in Section 2.

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	
T16a_02	Please note that we have transitioned to using POLAR4 instead of POLAR3
T16a_03	Please note that we have transitioned to using POLAR4 instead of POLAR3
T16a_04	
T16a_05	
T16a_06	
T16a_07	Percentage for 20/21 is 19.7 - exceeding the 19/20 target
T16a_08	Please note that we have transitioned to using POLAR4 instead of POLAR3
T16a_09	Headcount is 49 for 20/21 - exceeding the 20/21 target
T16a_10	Please note that we have transitioned to using POLAR4 instead of POLAR3
T16b_01	Unit is number of schools
T16b_02	
T16b_03	
T16b_04	
T16b_05	
T16b_06	
T16b_07	
T16b_08	
T16b_09	
T16b_10	This target was discontinued
T16b_11	This target was discontinued
T16b_12	Please note that the Principal Partner Colleges Network has been expanded and now includes 8 colleges, whereas the baseline data reflects just 4 colleges
T16b_13	Unit is number of activities
T16b_14	Unit is number of schools