2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by The University of Liverpool 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 Liverpool's ambition and strategy as detailed in the 2019-20 access and participation plan:

The University of Liverpool (UoL) has an excellent and long-standing track record both in attracting and retaining students from under-represented groups (termed WP students).

The Access and Participation Plan 2019-20 set out a vision to further develop this work, with a joined up 'whole university' approach to WP student access and success, across the student lifecycle, over 3 goals: improved use of access and success data, a seamless and transformative student experience and careers programme; and further engagement with internal and external stakeholders to support student outcomes for APP priority groups.

Delivery of this plan from early 2020 onwards was impacted by COVID-19.

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by The University of Liverpool 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 Liverpool'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)	To increase the number of registrations from students with disabilities (full time, first degree entrants)	2014-15	7.7%	9.5%	10%	Percentage	2019-20	10.2	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Access)	To increase the number of full time first degree entrants from ethnic minority groups	2014-15	14.3%	15.1%	15.4%	Percentage	2019-20	16.2	Expected progress
T16a_03 (Access)	To maintain Liverpool's performance relating to this benchmark	2014-15	15.2%	15.2%	15.2%	Percentage	2019-20	16.6	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Access)	To maintain Liverpool's performance relating to this benchmark	2013-14	87.7%	87.7%	87.7%	Percentage	2019-20	87.7	Expected progress
T16a_05 (Access)	To improve Liverpool's performance relating to this benchmark	2013-14	9.6%	10.4%	10.6%	Percentage	2019-20	8.6	Limited progress
T16a_06 (Student success)	To improve Liverpool's performance relating to this benchmark	2013-14	5.0%	4.5% 2016-17	4.5% 2017-18	Percentage	2017-18	5.6	Limited progress
T16a_07 (Progression)	To improve the employability outcomes of disabled undergraduate students at the University of Liverpool	2013-14	82.8%	84.5% 2016-17	84.5% 2017-18	Percentage	2019-20	87.5	Expected progress
T16a_08 (Access)	To increase the number of acceptees who have been in local authority care. Data relates to conversion from this cohort (offers to accept)	Other (please give details in Description column)	13%	18.5%	19%	Percentage	2019-20	27	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 proportion of Liverpool Scholars progressing onto HE	2013-14	70%	75%	75%	Percentage	2019-20	99.4	Expected progress
T16b_02 (Access)	Increase numbers of Liverpool Scholars progressing onto the University of Liverpool	2014-15	31	55	55	Headcount	2019-20	92	Expected progress
T16b_03 (Access)	Increase applications for entry to the University of Liverpool from Partner/Associate schools	2014-15	new target	n/a	n/a	N/A (see description / commentary)	2019-20	0	Expected progress
T16b_04 (Other/Multiple stages)	Maintain network of Partner/Associate schools/colleges. Target relates to number of schools/colleges	2011-12	18	40	40	Headcount	2019-20	40	Expected progress
T16b_05 (Access)	Realising Opportunities - collaborative target for % of RO participants to a research intensive university	Other (please give details in Description column)	new target	38%	n/a	Percentage	2019-20	52	Expected progress
T16b_06 (Access)	Realising Opportunities - collaborative target for % of RO participants reaching an RO partner university	Other (please give details in Description column)	new target	25%	n/a	Percentage	2019-20	38	Expected progress
T16b_07 (Access)	Bespoke service of outreach activity for Looked After Children, Care leavers and other vulnerable students. Target relates to number of learners engaging	2013-14	6	80	90	Headcount	2019-20	182	Expected progress
T16b_08 (Access)	Number of pupils in primary schools who take part in 'Professor Fluffy' and related primary curriculum	2012-13	2482	3150	3150	N/A (see description / commentary)	2019-20	0	Expected progress

T16b_09 (Access)	Delivery to primary and secondary schools using the Guild student volunteering model and curriculum delivery within UG modules	2012-13	12	35	35	Headcount	2019-20	18	Limited progress
T16b_10 (Access)	Year 7-11 activities on campus and in Central Teaching Labs for local Partner/Associate and other WP schools	2011-12	1968	3500	3500	N/A (see description / commentary)	2019-20	0	Expected progress
T16b_11 (Multiple)	Number of students being mentored by alumni or employers , to support career development	2011-12	29	100	100	Headcount	2019-20	109	Expected progress
T16b_12 (Access)	Number of summer schools offered each year	2014-15	3	5	5	Headcount	2019-20	1	Limited progress
T16b_13 (Access)	Year 7-11 activities off campus for local Partner/Associate and other WP schools. Target relates to number of young people	2014-15	2000	2150	2150	N/A (see description / commentary)	2019-20	0	Expected progress
T16b_14 (Access)	Sustained programme for students to support access to professions	2015-16	50	60	65	Headcount	2019-20	123	Expected progress
T16b_15 (Multiple)	Academic departments which offer peer mentoring to first year UG students	2016-17	80%	100%	100%	Percentage	2019-20	100	Expected progress
T16b_16 (Access)	School students receiving academic mentoring from UG/PG students to improve GCSE attainment against expected results. Mentoring will be implemented into the programmes for multiple groups including Looked After Children, BME groups and school-identified students in our Partner schools. (Access Agreement section 4.4.3)Target relates to number of students.	2016-17	New target	50	55	Headcount	2019-20	125	Expected progress
T16b_17 (Multiple)	University staff acting as Governors in state Primary and Secondary Schools	2016-17	new target	26	28	Headcount	2019-20	55	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	£1,195,245.00	£1,381,000.00	16%
Financial Support	£11,071,676.00	£10,836,000.00	-2%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected The University of Liverpool 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_05	Working to new APP 2020-25 POLAR access target (expressed as a ratio)
T16a_06	See impact report
T16b_09	Once physical delivery is possible we will be re-engaging with our target schools. We also continue to explore hybrid options for achieving these targets.
T16b_12	For delivery 2020/21, as staff and students are more comfortable with digitial working we are planning a virtual summer school.

5. Confirmation

The University of Liverpool 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 Liverpool 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 Dame Janet Beer
Position	Vice-Chancellor

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

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

Target reference number: T16a_05
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Yes - continued to provide supported access and contextual offer system to support Low Participation Neighbourhood student access
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
As previous

Target reference number: T16a_06
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
See commentary in column Y
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Renewed focus on student support (see impact report)

Target reference number: T16b_09
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Progress was hampered by the Covid-19 lockdown, as this target requires face to face engagement that was not possible.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
The target listed outlines the number of schools engaged, however we have engaged with the schools and learners multiple times and in different interventions digitally. For example the 18 schools engaged represents 45 individual visits, reaching 1232 learners.

Target reference number: T16b_12
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we could not offer this option.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?

We were able to create a digital option for one of the cohorts, however this was not possible for some other groups due to the short timescales and technological limitations.

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

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

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	
T16a_02	
T16a_03	
T16a_04	
T16a_05	The change from POLAR3 to POLAR4 means that previous performance and benchmarks are not directly comparable to the most recent values
T16a_06	POLAR3 - POLAR4 comparibility issue. In addition, small variations either way can affect the overall percentage significantly.
T16a_07	
T16a_08	
T16b_01	
T16b_02	
T16b_03	Target discontinued
T16b_04	
T16b_05	The RO Collaborative target is reframed in 2020-25 APPs to ensure a robust reporting of the impact RO is having on access to research-intensive universities (RIUs). For 2020-25 APPs RO will demonstrate maximum ambition for RO students and track two years of access to RIUs using HEAT data rather than UCAS end of cycle data. UCAS data has been used for all RO Collaborative targets prior to 2020-21. UCAS data reported here is for the 2020 UCAS cycle. Data used for reporting against the first milestone in the 2020-25 APPs will include those who accessed HE in the 2020 UCAS cycle but will include students from the 2021 UCAS cycle and will be confirmed entrants through HESA.
T16b_06	This RO Collaborative target has not been included in APPs 2020-25
T16b_07	
T16b_08	Target was discontinued in 2020-25 APP to focus on Outcome targets
T16b_09	
T16b_10	Target was discontinued in 2020-25 APP to focus on Outcome targets
T16b_11	

T16b_12	
T16b_13	Target was discontinued in 2020-25 APP to focus on Outcome targets
T16b_14	
T16b_15	
T16b_16	
T16b_17	