



## 2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

### Provider impact report

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

This is a summary extract of the University's ambition and strategy from the agreed 19/20 Access and Participation plan as submitted to the OfS according to the guidance that was in place at the time in 2018.

The University of Birmingham is a proud civic institution with a strong reputation for offering an outstanding student experience and delivering high quality teaching and research. Our undergraduate offer is founded upon a full-time, campus-based, residential experience and the approach to access and participation is anchored within this context. Our vision can be characterised by the following broad objectives:

- In partnership with regional schools (including our own University School) and Further Education colleges we will work to ensure that all students with the potential to succeed at Birmingham have the opportunity to gain access, with a particular focus on growing participation from disadvantaged schools/FE colleges in our geographic region;
- We will offer the necessary additional support to ensure that all our students have the best possible opportunity to succeed and progress to graduate careers.

Our vision will be delivered through a strategy that has the following aims:

- (i) To broaden the reach of our existing and successful access programmes by supporting secondary schools and FE colleges to raise awareness and aspirations amongst their least engaged cohorts and finding new ways to remove perceived barriers to entry (social, cultural, accessibility financial);
- (ii) To offer additional support (including academic, pastoral and financial) to our students throughout their Birmingham journey to ensure they have an equal opportunity to succeed and progress;
- (iii) To deliver activities that will support all our students to develop the personal and social capital they need to make an informed choice about their futures;
- (iv) To continue to demonstrate leadership and innovation in regional and national collaborations and partnership activity.

In summary, the key aims, with the associated numeric targets in the supporting information spreadsheet, of our Access and Participation strategy as outlined in the 2019-20 plan were:

- Increased numbers of entrants to full-time undergraduate study from disadvantaged schools/FE colleges in our geographic region;
- Increased proportion of our full-time undergraduate population entering via our Access to Birmingham pathways;
- Increased proportion of entrants to full-time undergraduate study from key underrepresented groups, particularly white disadvantaged communities, and white disadvantaged boys;
- Reduction in the non-continuation 'performance gap', particularly for male BAME and white low-SEC students;
- Reduction of the BAME attainment gap;
- Increases in graduate employability for low-SEC BAME and low-SEC male students and across priority programmes where students from disadvantaged backgrounds have lower levels of graduate employability compared to the programme average.

## 2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by The University of Birmingham 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 Birmingham’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)	Increase the proportion of young people from our pre-16 progressive activity target group on level 3 programmes	2011-12	54%	60%	60%	Percentage	2019-20	60	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Access)	Proportion of young people from our pre-16 progressive activity target group applying to a FT place in HE is greater than local average for YP from socially disadvantaged groups	2013-14	50%	52%	52%	Percentage	2019-20	59	Expected progress
T16a_03 (Access)	Percentage of students engaged in our post 16 Outreach programmes applying to the University of Birmingham	2013-14	57%	62%	62%	Percentage	2019-20	65	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Access)	Percentage of entrants via our Access to Birmingham Programme	2013-14	5.7%	6.2%	6.2%	Percentage	2019-20	9	Expected progress
T16a_05 (Access)	Number of students entering Medicine via Access to Birmingham	2013-14	19	31	31	Headcount	2019-20	57	Expected progress
T16a_06 (Progression)	Progression of students who entered via A2B is comparable to overall cohort	2011-12	93%	96%	96%	Percentage	2019-20	97.8	Expected progress
T16a_07 (Student success)	Percentage of students who entered via A2B gaining 2.1 or above	2011-12	68%	75%	75%	Percentage	2019-20	89.7	Expected progress
T16a_08 (Student success)	Percentage of students who entered via A2B gaining a graduate level job within 6 months of graduating.	2011-12	76%	80%	80%	Percentage	2018-19	81.2	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)	Number of students engaged in on-campus WP activity (e.g tailored school visits, Raise Programme and Masterclass Programme)	2009-2010	5000	6000	6000	Headcount	2019-20	8043	Expected progress
T16b_02 (Access)	Volume of students engaged in Forward Thinking Progressive Programme	2010-2011	440	600	600	Headcount	2019-20	667	Expected progress
T16b_03 (Access)	Number of WP students engaged in summer schools	2010-2011	100	200	200	Headcount	2019-20	82	Limited progress
T16b_04 (Access)	Number of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds engaged in intensive activity with collaborative partnership using a basket of indicators.  Baseline year is 2010/11 to enable overall growth in beneficiaries since the inception of the project to be reported.	Other (please give details in Description column)	500	1000	1000	Headcount	2019-20	547	Limited progress
T16b_05 (Access)	Proportion of engaged young people from disadvantaged backgrounds attaining 5 x GCSE A* to C inc English and Maths (or attainment 8 equivalent) is greater than local average for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, using a basket of indicators	2013-14	FSM 60.2% (regional baseline 36.2%)	25% over baseline	25% over baseline	Percentage	2019-20		Expected progress

T16b_06 (Access)	Proportion of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in intensive activity target group applying for FT place in HE is greater than local average for YP from disadvantaged backgrounds, using a basket of indicators  Baseline year for overall longitudinal tracking remains 2010/11 but impact on each cohort passing this milestone will be reported against the relevant benchmarking data for the academic year in which they complete Key Stage 5.	2013-14	FSM6 31.6% (regional baseline 22%).  POLAR 3 Q1 40.0% (regional baseline 12.4%)	10% over baseline	10% over baseline	Percentage	2019-20	10.5	Expected progress
T16b_07 (Access)	Realising Opportunities Targets for progression of RO participants to a research intensive university	Other (please give details in Description column)	na	38%	39%	Percentage	2019-20	52	Expected progress
T16b_08 (Access)	Realising Opportunities Targets for progression of RO participants to an RO Partner university	Other (please give details in Description column)	na	25%	25%	Percentage	2019-20	38	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	£2,713,170.00	£2,665,000.00	-2%
Financial Support	£9,350,000.00	£9,071,000.00	-3%

### 4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected The University of Birmingham 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
T16b_03	<p>Performance against this milestone was directly and specifically impacted by the C-19 pandemic. Our summer school was cancelled as a result of the pandemic, and related activity was switched online where possible and appropriate. Understandably, the levels of engagement even with online activity was low given the challenges and uncertainty presented by the pandemic.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, we continued to meet all outcomes-based targets (i.e. entrants from WP backgrounds). Whilst we do not have an equivalent target for this activity in our 20/21 APP this activity is a key enabling activity in support of our access targets and commitments, as such, when we are able to do so, we will return to delivering this activity in the original way intended and we anticipate engagement levels will return to previous levels.</p>
T16b_04	<p>Performance against this milestone was directly and specifically impacted by the C-19 pandemic. AimHigher, were able to deliver the volume of mentoring, but were unable to replace activities that would have been face to face such as summer schools, "UniFest", and working with Year 8 pupils. Notwithstanding this, we continued to meet all outcomes-based targets (i.e. entrants from WP backgrounds). Whilst we do not have an equivalent target for this activity in our 20/21 APP this activity is a key enabling activity in support of our wider access commitments, as such, when we are able to do so, we will return to delivering this activity in the original way intended.</p>





## 5. Confirmation

The University of Birmingham 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 Birmingham 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 Sir David Eastwood
Position	Vice-Chancellor

## Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

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

<b>Target reference number: T16b_03</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to run our physical Year 10 Summer School, planned for 200 learners.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We developed and delivered a virtual summer with content informed by a survey of original applicants and current students. 82 learners engaged with the virtual event and event questionnaires showed shifts in knowledge and confidence around Higher Education

<b>Target reference number: T16b_04</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
As a result of the pandemic, a number of events and programmes (including Unifest Summer School programme) were cancelled which affected engagement figures for this strand of activity. The only activity that was carried out was mentoring.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No, AimHigher were unable to carry out additional or alternative activity because of the pandemic.

## Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

The University of Birmingham'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	
T16a_06	
T16a_07	
T16a_08	
T16b_01	
T16b_02	
T16b_03	
T16b_04	
T16b_05	<p>We are unable to report on our progress in terms of students GCSE grades for the 15/16 to 18/19 academic years due to changes in GDPR and delays in the NPD processing this request. The NPD have now approved access to this data. However, AimHigher are awaiting a secure room to access this data at the University of Birmingham.</p> <p>Data from OfS APP dashboard shows that in 18/19 for the University, the proportion of FSM eligible entrants had increase to 9.7%, and an all time high absolute number of 470 entrants.</p>
T16b_06	<p>We are able to report on HE entry rates (HESA) where there is available data (Sept 2018 entrants). This shows there are 450 POLAR3 Q1. FSM entry is 5.7% above benchmark. With AimHigher allowing a +-5% tolerance, this is therefore within range of the target.</p>
T16b_07	
T16b_08	