



2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by Royal Holloway and Bedford New College 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

Royal Holloway and Bedford New College's ambition and strategy as detailed in the 2019-20 access and participation plan:

Our 2019-20 access and participation plan described our overall ambition and strategy as follows:

Royal Holloway, University of London is committed to widening participation and fair access, and recognises the benefits that an inclusive and representative student population brings to individual students and the university as a whole. This was reflected in Royal Holloway's Strategic Plan (2013 – 2020), which highlighted widening participation and equality of opportunity as two of the institutions' core strategic priorities. Our widening participation activities seek to support students from underrepresented backgrounds to gain access to higher education by raising aspirations and attainment, and are supported by our fair admissions policies. Once they join our university, students will be appropriately supported throughout their university journey and beyond into employment or further study.

Our 2019-20 Access and Participation Plan had the following priorities for access and participation within the College at each stage of the student lifecycle:

a) Access targets

To continue to identify and support students with the potential to succeed at Royal Holloway, regardless of their background, through a range of access and outreach interventions. Specifically, by 2022-2023 we will aim to:

- i.) increase the number of state school entrants from 85.4% to 88%
- ii.) increase the number of entrants from low participation neighbourhoods from 6% to 7.8%
- iii.) investigate the reasons for any drop below the baseline for underrepresented groups during the admissions cycle, taking actions to improve these where possible

b) Success targets

To continue to develop inclusive practice interventions that aim to reduce gaps in the non-continuation and attainment between different student groups, with particular consideration given to the support required for mature students and those classified as BAME. Specifically, by 2022-2023 we will aim to:

- i.) decrease the non-continuation rates amongst all undergraduate students from 3.6% to below 3.2%
- ii.) decrease the non-continuation rates amongst mature students from 18.4% to below 11%
- iii.) increase the percentage of BAME students achieving a good honours degree from 72.1% to 82%

c) Progression targets

To continue to support all students into graduate employment or further study, with particular consideration given to the support required for students from low participation neighbourhoods and mature students in progression to further study. Specifically, by 2022-2023 we will aim to:

- i.) ensure that the percentage of widening participation students progressing into graduate level employment remains above 74% (most recent performance was 77.9% in 2015/16)

The objectives and priority groups identified above at each stage of the student lifecycle align with the priorities identified by the Office for Students in access, success and progression, across the stages of the student lifecycle.

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by Royal Holloway and Bedford New College 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 Royal Holloway and Bedford New College'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)		2013-14	81.8	85	86	Percentage	2019-20	86.9	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Access)		2013-14	26.3	28.3	28.8	Percentage	2019-20	-	No progress
T16a_03 (Access)		2013-14	6.6	7.8	8	Percentage	2019-20	5.5	No progress
T16a_04 (Access)		2013-14	5.2	7	7.5	Percentage	2019-20	2.1	No progress
T16a_05 (Student success)	All undergraduate students	2012-13	4.5	3.5	3.5	Percentage	2018-19	5.5	No progress
T16a_06 (Student success)		2012-13	17.5	14	13	Percentage	2018-19	12.8	Expected progress
T16a_07 (Progression)	Students classified as 'WP combination' on admission to Royal Holloway (see paragraph 1 of APP) progressing into graduate-level employment	2013-14	66.9	71	73	Percentage	2017-18	79.5	Expected progress
T16a_08 (Success)	BAME students achieving a good (1st or 2:1) honours degree	2017-18	72.1	74	76	Percentage	2019-20	89	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)	Deliver 3 residential activities a year in a range of subjects for targeted pupils in years 9-12	2012-13	100	180	180	Headcount	2019-20	98	Limited progress
T16b_02 (Access)	Number of pupils engaging in events with us through our collaborative partnerships (e.g Brilliant Club, ARK academies)	2013-14	800	1100	1200	Headcount	2019-20	1126	Limited progress
T16b_03 (Access)	Number of targeted pupils engaging in either mentoring or e-mentoring	2015-16	25	50	50	Headcount	2019-20	31	Limited progress
T16b_04 (Access)	Number of pupils on our Long Term Outreach scheme	2014-15	25	125	150	Headcount	2019-20	66	Limited progress
T16b_05 (Access)	Number of schools participating in our Schools Partnership Scheme	2014-15	5	15	20	Other	2019-20	20	Expected progress
T16b_06 (Access)	Number of pupils attending UTC partnership schools receiving interactions (one intervention for targeted pupils in each year group each academic year)	2015-16	70	150	150	Headcount	2019-20	-	No progress
T16b_07 (Access)	Number of Access Course providers targeted for work with Access to HE students	2014-15	2	10	10	Other	2019-20	5	Limited progress
T16b_08 (Student success)	Number of targeted students with specific needs attending a pre-HE transitional support event	2013-14	27	30	35	Headcount	2019-20	43	Expected progress
T16b_09 (Student success)	Number of targeted students with specific needs attending on-course support and social integration activities	2016-17	22	30	30	Headcount	2019-20	288	Expected progress
T16b_10 (Access)	Number of schools in which evaluation shows partnership with Royal Holloway has increased attainment in GCSE and/or A-Level studies for engaged students	2016-17	1	2	3	Other	2019-20	0	No progress

T16b_11 (Access)	Number of pupils at Target T16b_10 schools for whom evaluation shows engagement with Royal Holloway has increased their attainment in GCSE and/or A-Level studies	2016-17	0	20	30	Headcount	2019-20	0	No progress
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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	£1,690,000.00	£1,666,000.00	-1%
Financial Support	£2,980,000.00	£4,870,000.00	63%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected Royal Holloway and Bedford New College 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_02	N/A
T16a_03	We are actively engaging with the schools and have delivered a number of activities. We are working in collaboration with the schools identified to work on a sustained programme of activities. For example, our partnership with Reach Academy in Feltham has enabled the Widening Access team to develop a series of sessions with young learners from year 7 through to year 13. Through this partnership we are now working with 4 other Feltham high schools (all in POLAR Q1/Q2 areas) and plan to replicate the programmes.
T16a_04	We will work with FE colleges to help identify key areas of support we can deliver for mature learners - for example extra support regarding student finance.
T16a_05	We have stepped up our Peer Guidance scheme with all new undergraduate students now receiving a 'peer guide' from their department / school, in order to provide additional transition support. We are also planning a pilot Peer Assisted Study Session (PASS) scheme for academic year 2021/22 which will aim to provide additional and sustained academic support to first year students via collaborative learning and role modelling, with the aim of improving student retention and attainment levels.

T16b_01	If we are unable to deliver 3 face to face residential in summer 2021 we plan to run all residential online.
T16b_02	The Brilliant Club have moved their activities online. We have also invested in a webinar platform to enable the team to deliver a series of webinars to schools and colleges.
T16b_03	Mentoring will form an integral part of the Long Term Outreach scheme, so all students who are part of the LTO will receive mentoring
T16b_04	We are partnering with local schools and developing our long term outreach scheme in conjunction with them to ensure the scheme meets the needs of the schools.
T16b_06	N/A
T16b_07	This year we will continue to contact more Access course providers and are planning a programme of activities tailored to their needs in order to support additional uptake.
T16b_10	The plan also includes delivering similar provision to schools in the locale of Feltham and utilising Reach Academy as a hub.
T16b_11	The plan also includes delivering similar provision to schools in the locale of Feltham and utilising Reach Academy as a hub.

5. Confirmation

Royal Holloway and Bedford New College 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	
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College 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	Paul Layzell
Position	Principal

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

Royal Holloway and Bedford New College's commentary where progress against targets was less than expected.

Target reference number: T16a_02
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
N/A
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
N/A

Target reference number: T16a_03
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We have been actively targeting schools within POLAR4 Q1 & Q2 areas. From this targeting we have identified over 100 new schools and have begun to work closely with their students. We are also now emailing applicants from POLAR 4 Q1/Q2 introducing them to the Widening Access team; this allows applicants to have a named contact for queries, who will support them throughout the application cycle.

Target reference number: T16a_04
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We are working with local FE colleges to help support their Access to HE students. This has resulted in a number of HE related online activities. We also email all mature learner applicants to highlight the support available to them and to give them a point of contact in the recruitment team.

Target reference number: T16a_05
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Yes, we have continued with our inclusive practice interventions.

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

We have implemented a Peer Guide Caller programme in which all new UK undergraduate students receive a phone call from a current student after gaining a place, with the aim of identifying (digital, financial etc) shortfalls early and signposting students accordingly, as well as providing reassurances to students and resolving queries before students begin their studies.

Target reference number: T16b_01

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

No

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

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the national lockdown imposed in March, all schools activities both on and off campus were cancelled. As a result we were unfortunately unable to deliver three residentials, however we combined our year 12 summer residentials and were able to deliver an online residential to 98 students.

Target reference number: T16b_02

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

We worked with 1,126 students through our collaborative partnerships. In addition we worked with 79 parents.

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

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the national lockdown imposed in March, all schools activities both on and off campus were cancelled. We quickly moved all of our activities online. Unfortunately the Brilliant Club were unable to deliver a number of key events in the Summer which have subsequently moved online to the Autumn term.

Target reference number: T16b_03

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

31 students participated in the Brightside ementoring project, and all these students participated in our 2019 summer residential. Unfortunately some students did not participate with the platform and dropped out.

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

N/A

Target reference number: T16b_04
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
We did not meet the target number of 150 but did have 66 pupils on our Long Term Outreach scheme.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We are launching a new long term outreach scheme, RH Link, in 2021. This will have a subject specific focus and see us working with years 10-13 multiple times over consecutive years. Additionally we have increased the range of year groups that we work with to include years 7-10 in order to facilitate longer term interactions with young people.

Target reference number: T16b_06
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
N/A
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
N/A

Target reference number: T16b_07
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
We have not increased the number of providers we work with but have worked with 5 local FE colleges to deliver talks to Access course students (mature learners). We have worked with Richmond-Upon-Thames College, West London College, Reading College, Bracknell & Wokingham College and City & Islington College.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We contacted local Further Education providers via email and phone to offer a range of services including campus visits, UCAS workshops on a variety of topics such as; how to choose a university degree, personal statements & student finance. Unfortunately we received a disappointing response from a number of FE providers. We eventually worked with five FE Access to HE providers and had a number of sustained engagements with their students.

Target reference number: T16b_10

How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We are in process of establishing a partnership with Reach Academy School in Feltham to deliver a programme of activity to their students (as well as parents/carers) that will raise aspirations and attainment.

Target reference number: T16b_11
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We are in process of establishing a partnership with Reach Academy School in Feltham to deliver a programme of activity to their students (as well as parents/carers) that will raise aspirations and attainment.

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

Royal Holloway and Bedford New College's commentary on any of the targets listed in [Section 2](#).

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	
T16a_02	It has not been possible to track this target as NS-SEC data is no longer published by HESA
T16a_03	NOTE 2019/20 'actual performance' data is for POLAR4 as POLAR3 not published by HESA for this year
T16a_04	NOTE - this percentage is for mature students from POLAR4 Q1 only, as this is what is supplied by HESA. The overall percentage of mature students enrolling in 2019/20 was 5.6%
T16a_05	HESA benchmark is 5.6 so actual performance is just below the benchmark level for entry in 2018/19.
T16a_06	
T16a_07	
T16a_08	
T16b_01	
T16b_02	
T16b_03	This target will be discontinued and included in the LTO scheme going forwards, as agreed with OFFA in 2017.
T16b_04	
T16b_05	
T16b_06	This target has been discontinued, by agreement with the OfS.
T16b_07	
T16b_08	
T16b_09	To note: 16 students attended the social club, 138 students accessed study skills and 179 students accessed mentoring arranged by the Disability Service. 45 students accessed both study skills and mentoring so the total has been adjusted to reflect this and avoid duplication, with a total of 288 individual students accessing one or more elements of the provision.
T16b_10	
T16b_11	