2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by Ravensbourne University London 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

Ravensbourne University London's ambition and strategy as detailed in the 2019-20 access and participation plan:

> • To promote social mobility, reflecting the diversity of our local community and enabling change beyond Ravensbourne to the socio-economic profile of practitioners in the creative industries.
> • To be inclusive, ensuring that every student is able to succeed whatever their background, and to support each individual as best suits their needs.
> • To contribute positively to maintaining and expanding the pipeline in Creative Industries Higher Education, given the impact of recent changes to school curricula on our subject-areas. The Creative Industries sector is the UK's fastest growing economically, employing 9 percent of the workforce and with an annual worth of £91.8 billion (Government economic estimates for 2015-16).

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by Ravensbourne University London 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 Ravensbourne University London'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)	Target now discontinued - see Column N. (Descriptor was previously "exceed local adjusted benchmark".)	2014-15	39.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A (see description / commentary)	2019-20	0	No progress
T16a_02 (Access)	Exceed local adjusted benchmark	2014-15	8.4%	11.1%	12.1%	Percentage	2019-20	5.9	No progress
T16a_03 (Student success)	Target relates to non-continuation.	2014-15	9.1%	7.6%	7.1%	Percentage	2018-19	10.1	No progress
T16a_04 (Access)	Increase proportion of mature students (figure given as "percentage who are mature" in HESA Table T2a)	2014-15	12.7%	15.7%	16.0%	Percentage	2019-20	17	Expected progress
T16a_05 (Access)	Exceed local adjusted benchmark	2014-15	96.2%	95%	95%	Percentage	2019-20	95.2	Expected progress
T16a_06 (Access)	Maintain the proportion of students that declared a disability (data from HESA Student record: proportion of cohort with known disability status)	2014-15	14.6%	16%	16%	Percentage	2019-20	18	Expected progress
T16a_07 (Access)	Number of looked-after children and care leavers worked with in outreach.	2014-15	8	14	15	Headcount	2019-20	3	No progress
T16a_08 (Multiple)	Recruitment of UK domiciled BME groups: maintain current proportion from BME, and remain above sector average (data from HESA Student record: proportion of cohort with known ethnicity)	2014-15	35%	35%	35%	Percentage	2019-20	33	Expected progress

T16a_09 (Other/Multiple stages)	Overall Student Satisfaction Level	2014-15	80%	81%	82%	Percentage	2019-20	67.5	No progress
T16a_10 (Progression)	Exceed institutional benchmark for Employment Performance Indicator E1a	2014-15	95.3%	96.0%	96.5%	Percentage	2017-18	90	Expected progress
T16a_11 (Access)	Increase proportion of white male UG students from Low-Participation Neighbourhoods (POLAR 3) in our population	2014-15	3.4%	4.9%	5%	Percentage	2019-20	8	Expected progress
T16a_12 (Access)	Increase overall proportion from Low-participation Neighbourhoods (POLAR 3).	2015-16	8.5%	9.0%	9.2%	Percentage	2019-20	5.9	Limited 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)	Move towards a greater number of longer term sustained outreach programmes for example the Extended Project and Saturday Study Clubs (measured on number of participants)	2014-15	12	50	60	Headcount	2019-20	55	Limited progress
T16b_02 (Access)	Holiday taster programme to be refined and targeted to our partners	2014-15	360	200	180	Headcount	2019-20	195	Limited progress
T16b_03 (Access)	To maintain and review the number of students applying for pre UCAS interviews through formal progression agreements with schools and colleges	2014-15	227	300	300	Headcount	2019-20	241	Limited progress
T16b_04 (Other/Multiple stages)	To continue to deliver a series of part time digital skills (GDS) courses in partnership with the Royal Borough of Greenwich to act as a progression route for mature learners to up skill for Further or Higher Education	2014-15	253	200	200	Headcount	2019-20	268	Expected progress
T16b_05 (Access)	To strategically develop partnerships with Access courses and learners across London through a number of workshops and activities	2014-15	36	40	40	Other	2019-20	38	Limited progress
T16b_06 (Access)	To work with looked after children and care leavers promoting creative higher education	2014-15	8	14	15	Headcount	2019-20	3	Limited progress
T16b_07 (Access)	Establish student mentoring and a teacher CPD offer to schools and colleges at Key Stages 4 and/or 5	2016-17	0	3	3	Other	2019-20	3	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	£300,000.00	£293,000.00	-2%
Financial Support	£596,000.00	£506,000.00	-15%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected Ravensbourne University London 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_01	N/A - target discontinued.
T16a_02	We will continue to utilize our online channels, in addition to our existing ones, to reach low POLAR4 students in London and beyond. This includes doing lots of targeted engagement work with students in POLAR4 postcodes.
T16a_03	We will continue to implement these additional measures in future, and expect to see a significant improvement in the continuation rate going forward.
T16a_07	We intend to run either a small scale in-person summer school for looked after children in 2021, or an online version if this isn't possible. We continue to increase our targeted outreach work for this group, and are exploring opportunities for partnerships with virtual schools and other organizations specifically working with this group.

T16a_09	We plan to implement the following: - Increase opportunities for students to provide feedback; - Revise our unit review surveys based on feedback received; - Improve opportunities for students to engage and provide feedback by continuing with online Student Voice and Parliament meetings; - Potentially repeat analysis of the written comments from the NSS survey, to further indentify less satisfactory areas; - Implement and exit survey at Level 5 and 6, the ascertain and monitor the success of our hybrid courses, and inform future course planning.
T16a_12	We will continue to utilize our online channels, in addition to our existing ones, to reach low POLAR4 students in London and beyond. This includes doing lots of targeted engagement work with students in POLAR4 postcodes.
T16b_01	We will continue to deliver a number of our programmes online, and for the whole of the academic year, with the view of adding these to our programme offering for the long-term. We are hopeful that these steps will enable us to meet our target in future years.
T16b_02	We will continue to develop our long-term outreach programme, remaining flexible and adapting our offer as restrictions change. We are focusing our 'Make it Ravensbourne' programme on supporting learners to explore and develop subject-specific skills, and also offering high quality information, advice and guidance for careers in the CreaTech industries.
T16b_03	There is a huge amount of anxiety from young people that they haven't been able to access practical teaching so we are also bridging this skills gap through our online outreach work; so they have creative project work to show at future university interviews.
T16b_05	We intend to run a specialist summer school for Mature learners, and to continue to collaborate with our partners to taget and support this group.
T16b_06	We intend to run either a small scale in-person summer school for looked after children in 2021, or an online version if this isn't possible. We continue to increase our targeted outreach work for this group, and are exploring opportunties for partnerships with virtual schools and other organizations specifically working with this group.

5. Confirmation

Ravensbourne University London 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
Ravensbourne University London 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	Andy Cook
Position	Vice Chancellor

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

Ravensbourne University London's commentary where progress against targets was less than expected.

Target reference number: T16a_01
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
N/A - target discontinued.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
N/A - target discontinued.

Target reference number: T16a_02
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
During 2019-20 we targeted our outreach work at geographical areas identified as low POLAR as well as those identified by the OfS as "opportunity areas." We made links with sixth form schools and colleges in local (commutable) low POLAR4 areas such as Bexley and Dartford, and formalised a progression agreement with a large college in this area, London South East College, that spans Bexley, Greenwich, Bromley and Orpington.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Engaging with more learners from low POLAR4 postcodes is one of our main Access objectives, and we are continuing this work in lockdown, seizing on an opportunity to deliver online engagement activities and programmes beyond London.

Target reference number: T16a_03
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
We were disappointed that our efforts to meet our commitments have not yet reflected in our continuation rate.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Ravensbourne has taken additional steps to review all support processes to help improve retention across our student community. These include the allocation of key staff time to support retention and the additional offer of individual student reviews, to help deal with the challenges of a growing student population.

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

Historically performance against this target has been varied as the true number of students in this target group are difficult to ascertain due to non-disclosure. Furthermore, this is a very difficult demographic to engage with online.

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

We had planned to run a bespoke summer school for looked after children in 2020, but this wasn't possible due to COVID related lockdown.

Target reference number: T16a_09

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

We continue to adjust and improve our monitoring of student satisfaction, both overall and at course level, and take our lower-than-expected results seriously.

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

Additional meetings were held for lower scoring courses, and additional and/or amended targets set, as deemed appropriate to each course. A detailed analysis of students' comments was undertaken at course-level, which allowed for greater scrutizing of results, an investigation into problem areas, and also helped to inform a specific plan of action to address satisfaction for each course. Finally, the Student Union set up a series of online event for students, specifically aimed at addressing areas of concern.

Target reference number: T16a_12

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

During 2019-20 we targeted our outreach work at geographical areas identified as low POLAR as well as those identified by the OfS as "opportunity areas." We made links with sixth form schools and colleges in local (commutable) low POLAR4 areas such as Bexley and Dartford, and formalised a progression agreement with a large college in this area, London South East College, that spans Bexley, Greenwich, Bromley and Orpington.

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

Engaging with more learners from low POLAR4 postcodes is one of our main Access objectives, and we are continuing this work in lockdown, seizing on an opportunity to deliver online engagement activities and programmes beyond London.

Target reference number: T16b_01

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

Due to activity re-prioritization, focusing our actitives on those that enabled us to have a greater impact on other Access targets, we scaled down our programme offerings in this area. We hope to reintroduce these again in future.

Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We have moved a number of our programmes online, and launched an additional programme that runs through the academic year. We are seizing the opportunity online programmes present to reach and engage with a larger number of young people, both within and beyond London.

Target reference number: T16b_02
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
We continue to move towards our ambition of a more long-term, sustained Outreach delivery.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We have focused our efforts on developing and strengthening our online programmes this year. We have launched a new 18 month progression programme called 'Make it Ravensbourne' which we have offered to our existing school, college and outreach partners, as well as targeting this programme to younger audiences that might want to explore and develop their creative skills in lockdown. We are being flexible with our programme of activities and delivery model as covid restrictions are changing.

Target reference number: T16b_03
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
We have made good progress on the previous year's figure.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Our work in this area has been hugely impacted by COVID related lockdowns, and engagement with learners from our partner schools and colleges has been considerably less since March 2020. We have moved our offer online, and continue to try and engage with young people to provide good quality information, advice and guidance and support them to put together portfolios for university interviews.

Target reference number: T16b_05
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Our work continues to develop partnerships with Access courses and work with Mature learners.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We reached out to Access courses in London and the wider UK to form collaborative nextworks that allowed us to engage with their learners through our online 'Make it

Ravensbourne' progression programme of creative workshops, specifically targeted to the Mature learner group. In addition, we continue to invest in a mentoring programme for students studying on Ravensbourne's Access to HE course to ensure they have the skills and confidence to progress to Higher Education.

Target reference number: T16b_06

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

Historically performance against this target has been varied as the true number of students in this target group are difficult to ascertain due to non-disclosure. Furthermore, this is a very difficult demographic to engage with online.

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

We had planned to run a bespoke summer school for looked after children in 2020, but this wasn't possible due to COVID related lockdown.

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

Ravensbourne University London's commentary on any of the targets listed in Section 2.

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	N/A - target discontinued.
T16a_02	
T16a_03	
T16a_04	Milestone surpassed.
T16a_05	Exceeded 2019-20 Local Adjusted Benchmark (93.1%).
T16a_06	
T16a_07	Target set intentionally high to maintain ambition and may need to be revised.
T16a_08	
T16a_09	
T16a_10	The target of 96% was based on the old DHLE survey, which has been replaced by the Graduate Outcomes survey. The two surveys are not comparable and the national average for the last year of DHLE was 95%, whereas for GO (2017/18) the figure is 90% showing that under the new survey the 'headline' figure - and therefore the target - has significantly reduced. On the basis of Ravensbourne achieving a figure of 90%, we believed that this did show we were making expected progress in this area.
T16a_11	
T16a_12	
T16b_01	
T16b_02	
T16b_03	Activity was severly hampered by Covid-19. This target is also very ambitious even under more normal circumstances and may need to be revised.
T16b_04	Milestone surpassed.
T16b_05	
T16b_06	Target set intentionally high to maintain ambition and may need to be revised.
T16b_07	