

2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by New College Durham 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

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

The College has made considerable progress to enhance its widening participation agenda over the previous four years. The ambition moving forward is to meet challenging targets across the student lifecycle.

Stages of the student lifecycle

In order to improve its Access and Progression to higher education, the College is committed to:

1. Continue to build on the current programme of outreach to local schools to support and encourage applications to higher education.
2. Build upon feedback from outreach activities and curriculum focused events to enhance the content of future activities aimed at progression to higher education.
3. Build upon feedback from progression activities and curriculum focused events to enhance the content of future activities aimed at progression to higher education.
4. Continue to monitor BME recruitment trends to ensure that HE recruitment numbers are a reflection of our local community.
5. Continue to monitor part-time student recruitment and retention trends to ensure that HE student numbers are a reflection of the local community.
6. Develop flexible routes into higher education, for part-time students and further develop the higher and degree apprenticeship provision.
7. Support employers, schools and internal stakeholders involved with student recruitment to understand the range of pathways into and through higher education.

In order to continue its Success in higher education the College is committed to:

1. Continue to monitor student data to ensure all students achieve their learning goals.
2. Commit to expanding the data analysis of performance to ensure all target groups within the HE cohort are identified, supported and monitored through regular team and formal meeting structures.
3. Continue to ensure all students are provided with regular access to Tutorial Support (TS) and when required (via the online booking system) a Personal Learning Coach (PLC) or HE Academic Support Tutor (HEAST).
4. Provide all essential academic resources to support success throughout the student's life cycle. Ensuring that students have access to resources outside of normal HE taught sessions such as bespoke curriculum resources, access to an effective VLE which supports learning and access to quiet study areas.
5. Maintain focus on the needs of BME students to ensure that the high levels of continuation and success are maintained.
6. Maintain focus on the needs of part-time students to ensure that the levels of continuation are further developed.
7. Continue to support improvements in the performance of full time white males to further develop performance from the current Addressing barriers to Student Success Project which is due complete in 2018/19.
8. Continue to evaluate and enhance student induction to support their preparation for study and ensure continuation rates remain high.

This investment commitment reflects a balance between supporting the relevant underrepresented groups and supporting the College's commitment to widening participation (WP). The distribution and effectiveness of investment funds beyond those identified in the 2019/20 Access and Participation Plan will continue to be reviewed by the College.

Underrepresented groups are supported through the College's inclusive activities, which are evaluated using a range of methodologies, depending upon the intended outcome. Findings from the evaluation inform future activities and are incorporated into the College's quality assurance cycle, which is used to further enhance future developments across the WP agenda, curriculum design, annual reports and overall HE strategy.

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by New College Durham 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 New College Durham'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 (Student success)	Increase retention rate across FT and PT provision over the duration of the agreement	2012-13	85	90	90	Percentage	2019-20	89	Limited progress
T16a_02 (Access)	Increase in the % internal progression (Level 3 to Level 4), for FT entrants from disadvantaged backgrounds, referenced to Postcode/IMD files	2012-13	44	55	55	Percentage	2019-20	69	Expected progress
T16a_03 (Student success)	Student Success. We are currently starting to analyse the data relating to degree and foundation degree and HNC/D classifications. We have set targets that have been agreed with corporation and teams are working to achieve this. We will be in a position to monitor from September 2016 onwards	2012-13	80	84	84	Percentage	2019-20	92	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Progression)	Positive Progression data	2012-13	70	74	74	Percentage	2019-20	97	Expected progress
T16a_05 (Access)	target of 15% year-on increase in community engagements with these categories	2012-13	1000	3162	4182	Other	2019-20	4659	Expected progress
T16a_06 (Access)	target of 33% of retained students from these categories	2016-17	20	30	30	Percentage	2019-20	100	Expected progress

T16a_07 (Access)	Raise attainment with KS4 and KS5, a structured skills programe, for incresed levels of progress through school activities / engagement / enhancements, referenced to Postcode for duration of the agreement	2016-17	83	85	86	Percentage	2019-20	88	Expected progress
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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 (Progression)	Introduction of additional Foundation Degrees based on market demand	2012-13	19	29	30	Other	2019-20	23	Limited 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	£103,432.00	£824,746.00	697%
Financial Support	£243,000.00	£40,835.00	-83%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected New College Durham 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	Robust analysis by course and WD circumstances to identify all key themes impacting on student withdrawals. Providing additional one to one support through Personal Learning Coaches when students identified as at risk, which can include time management, organisation and motivation, signposting to additional personal support services.
T16b_01	The college will continue to monitor LMI with the aim to meet both regional and national market demand through its mixture of Foundation Degrees, Apprenticeship and Higher Technical provision.

5. Confirmation

New College Durham 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	
New College Durham 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	Andrew Broadbent
Position	Principal and Chief Executive Officer

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

New College Durham'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?
The baseline data set in 2012/13 was 85% with a target of 90% for 2019/20. Good progress was made during 2019/20 with this target with actual performance being 89%, only 1% below the predicted target. Further analysis demonstrated a breakdown by mode study of FT at 89% and PT mode at 88%
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Regular checks of attendance data is followed up with offer of support for mature students struggling to remain on programme. Alternative learning and teaching strategies to support students have included: Schoology conference, Teams sessions with breakout rooms to ensure differentiation, Q&A in small groups debates, directed tasks and weekly reading tasks. Discussion boards via the student intranet for assessment Q&A which supported both tutorial and peer support.

Target reference number: T16b_01
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
NCD now has 42 HE programmes, of which 27 are level 4 and 5 across 3 awarding bodies. 23 with NCD, 1 Open University and 4 Pearsons. The College also delivers 17 level 6 & 2 Level 7 qualifications with the awarding body Open University.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No additional steps required. The college is meeting the changing market demands through a mixture of Foundation Degrees, Apprenticeship and Higher Technical provision based on employer needs, therefore while the actual performance for the self assessment identifies limited progress the college believes the target should be closed due to the changing educational landscape.

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

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

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	Current analysis by course and WD circumstances for mature students in 2019/20 identified 43% of student withdrawals were due to own personal health reasons. however 57% haven't stated reasons.
T16a_02	
T16a_03	
T16a_04	
T16a_05	based on contact hrs for engagement within the community there was an 11.4% increase above predicted 2019-20 figures.
T16a_06	There was 49 students within this category of which 91% (45) were from LPN, young and FT category. Of the 45 students identified within these categories 100% were retained.
T16a_07	KS4 attainment finished in 2019/20 at 88.2% and KS5 at 92.9%
T16b_01	Change of Focus from original target set in 2012.