



2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by Loughborough University 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

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

Loughborough University's mission includes the following key components:

- i) To provide a high quality, comprehensive educational experience that prepares our graduates for their future lives and the global workplace
- ii) To influence the economic and social development of individuals, businesses, the professions and communities

With these principles in mind, we want all our students to reach their full potential regardless of their background before joining the University. We are committed to ensuring that finance and other aspects of disadvantage do not present barriers to admission to Loughborough or the success and progression of those studying with us.

The overall strategy of our 2019-2020 Access and Participation plan was a focus on increasing the number of students from low participation neighbourhoods, whilst maintaining our excellent track record of student retention.

Fair access work at Loughborough is delivered through a partnership between Student Recruitment, Marketing and Admissions, academic Schools, the Sport Development Centre and Loughborough Students' Union (LSU). This work focuses on:

- i) General achievement, attainment and aspiration-raising work with Years 7 to 13
- ii) Information, advice and guidance on subject choice and progression opportunities for young people in schools and colleges, particularly in Years 10 to 13
- ii) Fair access work with Years 12 and 13, including the use of contextual data

Access activity is predominantly focussed within the East Midlands and the University works collaboratively with other institutions in the region through a number of established partnerships. We have now joined the national Realising Opportunities programmes which has broadened our geographical reach.

Loughborough is proud of the student experience it offers, recognised as outstanding on multiple success measures. The University's strong track record is a result of the ongoing investment in student support services, both academic and pastoral, as well as our close partnership working with the Students' Union.

We will continue to closely monitor non-continuation rates, awarding gaps and student progression as our access initiatives roll forward. The University is committed to introducing new initiatives and adjusting existing projects and support services as our student profile changes or gaps emerge by student characteristic.

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by Loughborough University 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 Loughborough University'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)	Percentage of total first degree applications which are from low participation neighbourhoods	Other (please give details in Description column)	6.6%	7.3%	7.4%	Percentage	2019-20	7.2	Limited progress
T16a_02 (Access)	Percentage of low participation neighbourhood first degree applications where an offer is made	Other (please give details in Description column)	66.6%	73%	75%	Percentage	2019-20	66.9	Limited progress
T16a_03 (Access)	Percentage of new first degree students who are from low participation neighbourhoods	Other (please give details in Description column)	5.9%	6.6%	6.8%	Percentage	2019-20	5.7	Limited progress
T16a_04 (Student success)	Non continuation of young first degree students from low participation neighbourhoods	Other (please give details in Description column)	5.5%	4.3%	4.3%	Percentage	2018-19	4.4	Expected progress
T16a_05 (Access)	Percentage of mature students with no experience of Higher Education and from low participation neighbourhoods (rolling three year average)	Other (please give details in Description column)	8.6%	8.6%	8.6%	Percentage	2019-20	7.6	Limited progress

T16a_06 (Student success)	Non continuation of mature first degree students with no experience of Higher Education (three year rolling average)	Other (please give details in Description column)	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	Percentage	2018-19	14.1	Limited progress
T16a_07 (Student success)	Percentage of students in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowances	Other (please give details in Description column)	7.4%	6.2%	6.2%	Percentage	2019-20	8.6	Expected progress
T16a_08 (Other/Multiple stages)	Percentage of ITT entrants from BME groups	Other (please give details in Description column)	6.0%	9.0%	9.0%	Percentage	2019-20	15	Expected progress
T16a_09 (Other/Multiple stages)	Percentage of ITT entrants declaring a disability during the admissions process	Other (please give details in Description column)	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	Percentage	2019-20	14	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)	Series of collaborative events/initiatives organised in conjunction with De Montfort, Leicester and Loughborough Universities as part of the Leicestershire REACH Partnership.	2015-16	5	12	15	Other	2019-20	15	Expected progress
T16b_02 (Access)	Number of local schools and colleges with which we interact as part of local WP initiatives	Other (please give details in Description column)	15	25	25	Other	2019-20	30	Expected progress
T16b_03 (Access)	Number of local school and colleges with which we interact multiple times (three or more interventions) as part of a local WP initiatives	Other (please give details in Description column)	4	13	15	Other	2019-20	5	Limited progress
T16b_04 (Access)	Number of hours of mentoring provided to WP students at Loughborough University events to support them with GCSE revision.	2017-18	50	75	100	Other	2019-20	108	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	£2,597,600.00	£2,340,000.00	-10%
Financial Support	£5,272,685.00	£5,153,000.00	-2%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected Loughborough University 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	<p>As well as joining Realising Opportunities which supports the progression of students from under-represented group to research-intensive universities, Loughborough has launched a pilot of its own multi-intervention outreach scheme, known as 'LUDUS'. Successful completion of specific strands of the LUDUS scheme will make participants eligible for a concessionary offer on application to the University.</p> <p>Through market research, we have identified potential opportunity to increase LPN student recruitment from specific geographical regions and our School and College Liaison Team are reviewing outreach activity with this in mind.</p> <p>Opportunities to increase LPN applications through the introduction of new academic programmes are being carefully considered and driven at a senior level.</p>
T16a_02	<p>Further enhancements are planned to the University's Contextual Admissions Policy. The results of market research in collaboration with our Uni Connect partners have enabled the University to understand how prospective students interpret terminology around contextual admissions and this will be used to improve promotional activity and IAG offered in this area. Similarly the CRM communication strategy for applicants and offer-holders is being reviewed and enhanced.</p>

T16a_03	As outlined above, the work on Realising Opportunities and LUDUS, the developments to our contextual admissions policies and processes, the review of our programme portfolio and the increased focus on LPN recruitment within the East Midlands, are all designed to increase the proportion of students from under-represented groups joining the University. In addition specific access action plans are also being drawn up for all of our Academic Schools to facilitate a 'whole institution' approach to meeting targets in the future.
T16a_05	Investment of resource in this area has been sustained but as outlined in our plan, additional resource is unlikely to be effective due to the challenges we face in appealing to the mature student market as a result of our subject mix and geographical location. For this reason we are primarily focussing on increasing the intake of young LPN students at Loughborough.
T16a_06	<p>We are currently piloting a Success Coaching project to support all students and to help minimise withdrawals, particularly those identified as experiencing challenges with their academic studies.</p> <p>The Market Research Team has also launched a Student Opinion Panel and this will be used to carry out qualitative research with current students on why they may / may not know where to go for help if struggling either academically or with other aspects of student life.</p>
T16b_03	As lockdown restrictions ease, we anticipate being able to resume some in-person outreach events, alongside a menu of virtual options. The School and College Liaison Team are working closely with teachers/advisers to understand how to best develop sustained initiatives that will support students in ways that are helpful and viable for all in the current climate.

5. Confirmation

Loughborough University 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	
Loughborough University 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 Robert Allison
Position	Vice Chancellor and President

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

Loughborough University'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 University has continued in its commitments to work on widening access through both our own initiatives as well as through collaborative outreach in the local area with partner institutions. As outlined in our plan, this involves operating a contextual admissions policy, provision of IAG to post-16 students and attainment/aspiration raising work with Years 7-13.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Loughborough is now a Realising Opportunities partner institution, joining the award-winning partnership that promotes fair access and social mobility of students from groups under-represented in HE in 2019-20. We anticipate that the University's involvement in the collaborative initiative will raise our profile amongst students from LPNs across the country and lead to an increase in applications in the future.

Target reference number: T16a_02
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
As outlined above, Loughborough has continued to meet its commitments regarding widening access to the University.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
In addition to joining the Realising Opportunities partnership, as referenced above, the University has invested in a full-time position within the Admissions Office dedicated to reviewing and enhancing our contextual admissions policies and processes in order to support the recruitment of students from under-represented groups. Following an extensive review of the Contextual Admissions Policy, the University has introduced additional flags that have increased the number of applicants highlighted for additional consideration at the offer-making stage of the application process.

Target reference number: T16a_03
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
As outlined above, Loughborough has continued to meet its commitments regarding widening access to the University.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
In addition to steps referenced above, the University has invested in transition and induction support for new entrants. A 'Welcome to Loughborough' checklist structured around key

milestones in the lead up to the start of term has been launched and new School-wide induction programmes have been piloted in specific disciplines.

Target reference number: T16a_05
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
In 2019-20 we continued to offer a dedicated package of financial support for mature students. A member of our School and College Liaison Team has prospective mature student liaison as a defined responsibility within their remit and in the admissions process, mature students are automatically flagged within the Electronic Admissions System and given additional consideration.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
n/a

Target reference number: T16a_06
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
We continue to use the Personal Tutor system and offer Wellbeing Advisers within our academic Schools to support student success. Dedicated academic support in mathematics, English language and peer mentoring are also available to all students. The University monitors and has conducted statistical analysis on non-continuation to identify common factors that may contribute to withdrawals.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Alongside the commitments made in our APP, the University has made enhancements to the support available to all students. This includes, for example, the creation of a 'first contact' team within Student Services and the introduction of the '#me' initiative intended to equip and empower students with their mental health, wellbeing and resilience.

Target reference number: T16b_03
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
As a result of the pandemic, the School and College Liaison Team quickly moved to offering digital interventions focussed on IAG, as well as aspiration and attainment raising thus continuing to meet the commitments in our APP.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Virtual alternatives were offered to local schools and colleges. Uptake has been successful but ability to offer repeated interventions has been impeded by a combination of digital poverty and lack of time in core school hours as teachers prioritised the core curriculum and catch-up programmes.

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

Loughborough University's commentary on any of the targets listed in [Section 2](#).

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	
T16a_02	
T16a_03	
T16a_04	Whilst we very narrowly missed our non-continuation target of 4.3%, the longer term picture has been positive. We have consistently performed better than the HESA benchmark since 2013/14 and in both 2016/17 and 2017/18, our targets in this area were met.
T16a_05	
T16a_06	With the exception of 2018/19, our historical performance in this area has been either better or in line with the HESA benchmark. The targets have proved challenging to meet but the fluctuations can in part be explained by the relatively small numbers of students involved. The most recent HESA PIs showed improved performance on 18/19, moving much closer to our target for 19/20.
T16a_07	
T16a_08	
T16a_09	
T16b_01	
T16b_02	
T16b_03	Whilst we did not meet the 2019/20 target as a result of Covid-19, in previous years this annual target has always been exceeded.
T16b_04	