



2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by Walsall 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

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

The Access and Participation Plan for Walsall College for 19/20 states that the College must be a centre and catalyst for social inclusion and change; that welcomes all students from all backgrounds; including students who may not come from a traditionally formal education pathway, or would not be well represented in higher education. The ambitions of the APP (and within professional and statutory requirements) is to ensure equality of opportunity for all applicants to the College; irrespective of their protected characteristics, family background, household income, care status, or estranged from their families. This regulation and associated procedures are framed within the College's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

We pride ourselves that our quality systems ensure that where we can, we are able to be comparable to the national position. Living in an area of social deprivation does not prevent successful outcomes for the HE students at Walsall College. Student achievement continues to be high in 19/20; despite external pressures and changes in delivery models across all HE curriculums.

We have adapted delivery and assessment methods in accordance to Awarding Body requirements, being mainly Pearson guidance.

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by Walsall 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 Walsall 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)	Increase uptake from low participation postcodes / listed as deprived areas according to IMD	2013	58%	62%	63%	Percentage	2019-20	55	Limited progress
T16a_02 (Access)	Increase the number of students progressing from L3 provision to HE with the College	2012	5%	10%	10%	Percentage	2019-20	8	Limited progress
T16a_03 (Progression)	Increase progression for students into higher levels of study or employment	2016-17	60%	60%	60%	Percentage	2019-20	87	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Access)	Improve and expand outreach to encourage Walsall based students above HESA POLAR3 group 1 benchmark	2015-16	15%	18%	19%	Percentage	2019-20	20	Expected progress
T16a_05 (Success)	Nationally, white males from lower socio-economic groups are among the most underrepresented in higher education. For Walsall College, they are well represented. In 2016-17 there were 48% male students in HE provision and achievement was -18.1%, compared to their female counterparts.	2016-17	-18%	Close gap by 3%	Close gap by 3%	Percentage	2019-20	13	Expected progress
T16a_06 (Success)	HE provision predominantly consisted of 19+ (87.2%), and achievement was -6.2%, when compared to their younger counterparts.	2016-17	-6.2%	Close gap by 3%	Close gap by 3%	Percentage	2019-20	81	Expected progress

T16a_07 (Success)	In 2016-17 there were 24.25% BME students in HE provision and their achievement was -13.5%, compared to their non-BME counterparts.	2016-17	-13.5%	Close gap by 8%	Close gap by 3%	Percentage	2019-20	10	Limited progress
T16a_08 (Access)	Increase recruitment of pupils from disadvantaged and under-represented groups	2015-16	see note	see note	see note	N/A (see description / commentary)	2019-20	0	Expected progress
T16a_09 (Progression)	Raising attainment of % students attaining GCSEs in order to expand progression choices	2016-17	Students without GCSEs	Increase % attainment	Increase % attainment	Percentage	2019-20	0	Expected progress
T16a_10 (Progression)	Raising attainment of % students attaining L3 Vocational programmes	2016-17	courses with 85%	Increase achievement 3%	target 90% min for all vocational courses	Percentage	2019-20	89	Limited progress
T16a_11 (Progression)	Wider raising attainment: Increase employer engagement targeted towards disadvantaged students	2016-17	40% of students reflect on impact on work experience	Increase by 20%	Further increase by 10%	Percentage	2019-20	55	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)	In year retention and career progression activities for students	2016-17	80%	80%	80%	Percentage	2019-20	87	Expected progress
T16b_02 (Access)	Students activity for level 4 allowing them to consider progression to 5	2016-17	60%	60%	60%	Headcount	2019-20	61	Limited progress
T16b_03 (Other/Multiple stages)	Number of schools visited in the Walsall area that have underrepresented socioeconomic groups – outreach activities to encourage participation	2016-17	10	15	15	N/A (see description / commentary)	2019-20	17	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	£17,300.00	£15,772.00	-9%
Financial Support	£95,000.00	£34,775.00	-63%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected Walsall 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_01	Progress against this target will now increase; as our student body has now changed from over 600 students; back to 200. This will see the IMD proportion of entrants for Quintile 1 slowly increase. We will introduce HE Parent events for potential WP students who are risk adverse for taking a student loan, to dispell any queries they may have surrounding HE at the College.
T16a_02	The progression data that we collect regarding the 19/20 college cohort is currently at 8.18% of progression of our FE students into HE. We targeted 10% by 19/20 and will continue to use various techniques of engagement to ensure further uptake to HE courses.
T16a_07	Collect data surrounding progression and achievement of all ethnicities of students, and have now included E and D and HE progression into the College's quality processes; including Self Assessment Reports (once a year), and Quality Summits (once a term) for each curriculum area.
T16a_10	To ensure the 1.2% gap closes; Level 3 tutors will further address progression to HE in tutorials. This will be underpinned by the Walsall College Graduate online platform; that charts student progress, work experience and 1-2-1 tutorials; that discuss student's future employment plans.

T16a_11	The Quality Alert and EDIMS (Equality Diveristy Impact Measures) are now sent to all memebbers of staff; and findings reported in Quality Summit processes (once a term); and the Self Assessment Report (SAR) for each area at the end of the academic year.
T16b_02	The Black Country Colleges group, Aspire to HE, schools attending graduation, and HE fair will remain. We are planning to supply extra Maths and English sessions, and use the HE Enhancement budget for more online visiting speakers and/or small trips (within covid restrictions). We have also provided HE Hardship funding for students to support with connectivity and rent over the past academic year.

5. Confirmation

Walsall College confirms that:

Student engagement	
Have you worked with your students to help them complete the access and participation plan monitoring student submission?	
No	
Have you engaged with your student body in the design, evaluation, and monitoring of the plan?	
Yes	
Verification and sign off	
Walsall 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	Jatinder Sharma OBE
Position	Principal and Chief Executive

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

Walsall College'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?
No - Targets reflect the College's internal data sets. Since publication we have also adopted the refreshed OfS dashboard data, which also indicates a decline in proportion of entrants from Quintile 1 who have entered into HE at Walsall College.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
A new Aspire to HE manager has been employed as an additional step to reach into the local postcoded community to increase the proportion of students involved with HE activity around Walsall. We have seen the amount of Aspire students who are targeted and taking part in events increase as the Aspire project has progressed each year.

Target reference number: T16a_02
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
We are only 2% below target for progression numbers for HE.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Additional steps to encourage students into HE have included Facebook Live and You Tube Virtual Open Days.

Target reference number: T16a_07
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
HE BAME achievement for 19/20 is 80.77%; which is -9.9% below non-BAME HE students. This reflects closer to the 8% target reflected as an 18/19 target. The gap is closing; but not quickly enough.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
The Equality and Diversity Impact Report (internal documentation) and OfS data dashboard have been used to highlight the differences in achievement of these identified groups. The College have now introduced a refreshed Operational Equality and Diversity Team to provide a new ambition for change throughout the college environment, and they will use the APP targets to drive new E and D ambitions and evaluation techniques; college wide (FE and HE combined). This will holistically involve changes to student personal development; workforce development, and new EDI objectives for 21/22.

Target reference number: T16a_10
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Limited progress has been made. Level 3 attainment in 19/20 is 88.8%; which is a reflection of the milestone figure for 18/19. We need to achieve a further 1.2% to get to the 19/20 target of 90%.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Further curriculum planning and development has taken place for level 3 students across college; to ensure that level 3 qualifications are up to date and viable for student future career choices. (For example, the move from QCF to RQF qualifications; and new T Level qualifications; also).

Target reference number: T16a_11
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
The mature target of 55% display that we are near our 18/19 target; and have not hit the 90% as expected for mature students to reflect on their work experience.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
The College have developed an accurate 'Quality Alert' system that is used as the central information data tool to examine courses that have not fulfilled their Walsall College Graduate reviews for individual students. This information is sent to all Curriculum Managers and tutors to identify which students have not completed their 1-2-1's or documented their work experience.

Target reference number: T16b_02
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
The percentage has remained static at 61% of Level 4 students progressing to Level 5. Internal data from registers were used to source this information.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
The plan articulates that collaborative working and sustained outreach activities include being part of the Black Country College's group, schools attending graduation, Aspire to HE, and the Walsall College HE fair.

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

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

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	Our internal data from the Equality and Diversity Impact report states that students from Widening Participation areas is 55% currently. The OfS data dashboard specifies that since 18/19; access for IMD for Quintile 1 (the most deprived) has decreased from 33% to 30% in 19/20.
T16a_02	Data comes from external MiDES RCU reports that shows 6% of Level 3 students continue to a higher level within the college.
T16a_03	Destinations data report used for 19/20 leavers from J2Profit. This target has been exceeded with 87% of HE students contacted going into a positive destination after Walsall College.
T16a_04	OfS Data dashboard states that Quintile 4 from POLAR groups have increased from 14% in 15/16 to 20% in 19/20. HESA POLAR 3 Group 1 does not exist on the OfS data dashboard.
T16a_05	The EDI (Equality and Diversity Impact Report) 19/20 Report specifies that we have 56% female to 44% male split of college HE students. Achievement of females is 82%; and 95% for male counterparts. The 18% has decreased to a 13% gap. This has decreased by 5%; however we predict a gap will remain next year; and will be closed as we have forecasted here; for 20/21.
T16a_06	Including LCCA achievement; the internal March Pro Achieve data displays that achievement is 80.8%.
T16a_07	Information taken from the 20/21 EDI Report.
T16a_08	The Aspire to HE programme has seen rising engagement from Level 3 students across college. 17/18 has 55 students engaged with Aspire activities; 18/19 had 120 students; and 19/20 has 234 students.
T16a_09	GCSE attainment has increased from years 18/19 to 19/20. GCSE achievement for English has increased from 86.9% in 18/19; to 94.3% in 19/20 (7.4% increase). GCSE Maths has also seen an increase - in 18/19 achievement was 87.5%, and has increased to 96.45% (8.95% increase).
T16a_10	Level 3 attainment information has been taken from the internal data source, ProAchieve Report for 19/20.
T16a_11	The internal EDIMS data capture tool (Equality and Diversity Impact Measures) has been used to gather achievement/attainment data, and the internal 'Quality Alert' tool.
T16b_01	Destinations data report used for 19/20 leavers from J2Profit. This target has been exceeded with 87% of HE students contacted going into a positive destination (employment or further study) after Walsall College.

T16b_02	The HE fair did not run in year 20/21 due to lockdown restrictions. Students have been advised to book online advice and guidance individually, with a careers officer, or the Aspire to HE manager.
T16b_03	We now outreach to 17 schools in the local Walsall area to tell them about the Walsall College HE offer.