



2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by Solihull College and University Centre 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

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

Solihull College and University Centre's Access and Participation Planning is integral to the College's mission "to make significant contributions to the local and regional economies and beyond, by providing high quality vocational education and training for individuals, employers and the wider community" and is a constituent factor in our vision "to be the organisation of choice for learning for young people, adults and employers through their recognition of our excellent and distinctive experiences in vocational education and training."

The College's strategic direction has therefore evolved towards providing higher education which is both realistic and achievable for all sectors of our local communities by ensuring that where possible tuition fees are affordable for all under-represented and disadvantaged groups, and that any higher fees are only applied to high-cost provision, if at all.

This has resulted in a year on year increase in APP countable Full Time student numbers, with first year enrolment increasing from 220 (110 Mature) in 2017 to 330 in 2019 (170 Mature). However, as many of these are apprentices on provision which was previously included in our Part-Time numbers, this categorisation of part of our cohort has reduced it in size by approximately 40 Young students over the last three years (PT Mature shows only minor annual variations of around 5%).

This change to the categorisation of many students on HNCs in Construction, Engineering and Built Environment purely because of their mode of employment has, when using the official OfS data, had the effect of showing the college as having not achieved one of its stated targets, although if those students are considered consistently in line with the equivalent status three years ago (i.e. as attending Solihull College and University Centre one day a week for approximately 36 weeks), all targets as articulated in the 2019/20 APP have been met.

As our 2019/20 plan states, the college's Higher Education Programmes have been developed with the intention of providing educational, professional and academic opportunities which are accessible to all members of the local community and in particular to those from disadvantaged areas and non-traditional backgrounds, with our annual cohort analysis consistently identifying around 50% of the total HE student body to be from at least one of the following categories:

- lower socio-economic groups,
- families where there is no tradition of higher education,
- low participation neighbourhoods,
- minority ethnic groups,
- individuals with caring responsibilities for children/adult dependents,
- adult returners,
- work-based learners including Higher and Degree Apprentices

We are therefore confident that our on-going commitment to keep course fees as low as possible, raise the aspirations of college leavers and returners to study locally, and provide support for all HE students. Our Access Planning is approximately only a third of our total HE curriculum offer, but our annually increasing Apprenticeship provision is reducing this proportion while conversely improving the college's student numbers from under-represented groups). We will continue our success rates across multiple Widening Participation demographics without the need to specifically target certain groups, especially since reporting numbers are so low, however our internal performance evaluations in 2017/18 identified White Males from low POLAR3 regions (the classification grouping used at the time the plan was written), and Part Time students from low income families as priority targets for support in 2019/20, both of which benefit from Solihull College and University Centre's move towards delivering programmes for apprentices.

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by Solihull College and University Centre 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 Solihull College and University Centre'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)	The College is committed to removing the barriers for mature students accessing HE and has set a target to increase their recruitment, and as part of this strategy has increased the amount of financial support available to low income backgrounds from 2018	2016-17	208	216	216	Headcount	2019-20	220	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Access)	As above	2016-17	201	220	220	Headcount	2019-20	217	Expected progress
T16a_03 (Progression)	Changes to curriculum content to suit employer needs as highlighted in 2016 QAA Review	2016-17	91%	93%	93%	Percentage	2019-20	93	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Progression)	Outreach to North Solihull & inner city Birmingham	2016-17	74	80	80	Headcount	2019-20	80	Expected progress
T16a_05 (Student success)	Support measures targetted at early intervention	2016-17	89%	91%	91%	Percentage	2019-20	91	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)	"Buddy" system where current HE students are paired with (pupils from) the schools they attended	2017-18	0	6	9	Headcount	2019-20	9	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	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	0%
Financial Support	£85,250.00	£85,250.00	0%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected Solihull College and University Centre has made the following commitments to increase the rate of progress against their targets.

No data was returned for this section in Solihull College and University Centre's monitoring return submission.

5. Confirmation

Solihull College and University Centre 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	
Solihull College and University Centre 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	John Callaghan
Position	Principal & Chief Executive

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

Solihull College and University Centre's commentary where progress against targets was less than expected.

No data was returned for this section in Solihull College and University Centre's monitoring return submission.

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

Solihull College and University Centre's commentary on any of the targets listed in [Section 2](#).

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	Overall number of Mature Students at the college has increased each year since 2016, but not necessarily on provision articulated in the 2019-20 Access Plan. This figure includes Higher and Degree Apprentices (on non-Franchised courses only) who attend the college one day a week.
T16a_02	When the 2019/20 plan was written, students on our HNCs in Construction, Built Environment and Engineering were considered to be Part Time, and this was the provision we intended to grow through the Institute of Technology. However, while the college has been particularly successful in increasing the number of students on all these courses as planned, the majority of these students are apprentices and therefore categorised as Full Time in the official OfS data set. In order to show consistency in line with the college's original definition of Part Time (i.e. attending one per week), this figure is an addition of 64 "traditional" PT + 153 Apprentices
T16a_03	Measured internally, 19/20 is consistent with the last four years
T16a_04	Original targets were set using POLAR 2, but current evaluation methodology using POLAR 4 shows that numbers are increasing year on year from quintiles 1 & 2, but some of these are apprentices not covered by this plan.
T16a_05	Internal evaluations of performance across the entire cohort are consistent with previous years
T16b_01	Although mentors were identified/recruited, first year student participation declined compared to 18/19