



## 2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

### Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by York St John 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

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

At the time of writing of the 2019-20 APP, York St John University was developing its institutional Strategy to 2026. One of the sub-strategies underpinning this is the Access and Participation enabling strategy, with the goal of "achieving a 'whole institution' approach to widening participation."

Our ambitions and strategy to affect this constituted:

a. Identifying target groups of students using evidence.

We work with the five key underrepresented groups [POLAR Q1/2, disabled, mature, minority ethnic, and care leaver students] and a range of other groups. Each group has a specific access, success and progression baseline and milestones for us to achieve by 2026.

b. Maintaining an effective resource model for all direct and indirect WP activities / spend.

We have a clear model for understanding our access and participation activities and spend. In addition to our direct expenditure on access and participation; for instance, through our financial support package; every area in the University is annually assessed in terms of its contribution to access, success, and participation.

c. Conducting a coherent range of interventions across the entire student lifecycle to enhance participation and success of underrepresented groups.

Our annual review of access participation touches every academic School and Professional Service in the University. These reviews enable us to understand the totality of our activities across the student lifecycle, thereby surfacing best practice and potential gaps where additional effort or resource is needed.

d. Engaging all parts of the University in WP efforts, providing opportunities to learn best practice amongst different teams and projects.

Our Access & Participation working group facilitates a cross-University dialogue on our strategy, resourcing, interventions and evaluation of access and participation activities. It also serves to share practice and become more effective at what we do.

e. Using data and evidence to inform strategy and to effectively evaluate activities.

As new data and evidence becomes available, we will use it to refine our strategic and operational intentions, developing our intersectional analysis further. Our evaluation framework assesses the impact of our activities.

## 2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by York St John 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 York St John 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)	% from state school	2012-13	95.3	95.9	96	Percentage	2019-20	96.7	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Access)	% from NS-SEC 4-7	2012-13	34.5	36.5	37	Percentage	2019-20		No progress
T16a_03 (Access)	% from LPNs	2012-13	16.7	17.8	18	Percentage	2019-20	19.8	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Student success)	Continuation rate	2012-13	94.4	95.6	96	Percentage	2018-19	91.5	No progress
T16a_05 (Access)	% Mature students	2014-15	41.7	42	42.1	Percentage	2019-20	54.9	Expected progress
T16a_06 (Access)	% UK BME students	2014-15	4.4	5.6	6	Percentage	2019-20	7.3	Expected progress
T16a_07 (Access)	% PT students	2014-15	16.2	16.5	16.6	Percentage	2019-20	18.3	Expected progress
T16a_08 (Access)	% Disabled students	2014-15	13.3	13.6	13.7	Percentage	2019-20	15.3	Expected progress
T16a_09 (Other/Multiple stages)	% overall student satisfaction	2014-15	88	89	89	Percentage	2019-20	85	Limited progress
T16a_10 (Progression)	% Into employment/study	2014-15	95.7	95.8	95.8	Percentage	2016-17	96.9	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)	Green Apples: a successful innovative partnership involving all local FE and HE partners as well as the Local Authority, the North Yorkshire Business and Education Partnership, Higher York and local primary and secondary schools. This is a progressive programme of interventions, mainly focused on Year 9-11 but also involving pupils from year 6 upwards.	2013-14	433	730	740	Headcount	2019-20	325	Limited progress
T16b_02 (Access)	Year 10 Aspiration raising residential	2012-13	60	80	80	Headcount	2019-20	0	No progress
T16b_03 (Access)	Part of a broader series of work with schools which are in the lowest POLAR quintiles, have high levels of FSM and a low GCSE attainment level	2016-17	0	40	45	Headcount	2019-20	0	No progress
T16b_04 (Access)	North Yorkshire work with schools negotiated through a consortia, expanded to include Selby (NYCHEC)	2013-14	11	15	15	Other	2019-20	3536	Expected progress
T16b_05 (Access)	Access to the professions and other taster day sessions	2012-13	83	105	110	Headcount	2019-20	100	Limited progress
T16b_06 (Access)	Improve data capture methods and build coherent longitudinal tracking	2015-16	0	75% participants included	95% participants included	Percentage	2019-20	100	Expected progress
T16b_07 (Access)	SPEAK UP a project targeting BME students involving English Language mentoring to support attainments delivered by current students	2016-17	0	100	120	Headcount	2019-20		No progress
T16b_08 (Access)	Game Theory - community project to use sport to create a sense of belonging and identity in learners	2016-17	0	35	40	Headcount	2019-20		No progress
T16b_09 (Multiple)	Expand the number of MATs the University is working with from 1 to 4 in 2017-18, with outcomes	2016-17	1	4	4	Other	2019-20		No progress

	targets in place for the 2019-20 Access Agreement.								
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### 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	£780,773.00	£1,305,000.00	67%
Financial Support	£1,385,000.00	£981,000.00	-29%

### 4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected York St John 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_02	None
T16a_04	None; this will be reviewed should our position relative to benchmark begin to slip
T16a_09	None; we no longer consider overall student satisfaction to be an appropriate measure of the impact of our work to widen participation for specific disadvantaged groups
T16b_01	An online programme has been put in place to work with ALL students within Year 9, 10 and 11 for 2020-21, improving reach, with a view for this to continue in the future alongside targeted work. For 2020-21 we will also be targeting 100 students who we and the school feel are in need of extra intervention. These students will receive extra subject content and 1:1 careers triage interviews. Work is being put in to change the structure of this project with the aim to increase school engagement.
T16b_02	The Year 10 summer school will take place online for 2020-21. We will approach schools who were due to attend the cancelled event to begin with. We can be more open with numbers as we will not be restricted to available accommodation rooms. The content of the event will move away from the residential themes as that is not appropriate for this year, and will look more at skills and future steps,

	with the thought that this will be more attractive to schools and therefore increase attendees numbers.
T16b_03	The Year 10 summer school will take place online for 2020-21. We can be more open with numbers as we will not be restricted to available accommodation rooms.
T16b_05	Many online activities have been put into place since the start of the 2020-21 academic year, as well as planned creation of 'Subject in a Box' which will allow us to send academic resources out to schools to re-create sessions in school.
T16b_07	N/A
T16b_08	N/A
T16b_09	N/A

## 5. Confirmation

York St John University 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	
York St John 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 Karen Bryan
Position	Vice Chancellor

## Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

York St John University's commentary where progress against targets was less than expected.

<b>Target reference number: T16a_02</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
This data is no longer published as a performance indicator by HESA, and so cannot be reported against. Relevant projects are the summer residential and taster sessions, which have been disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No

<b>Target reference number: T16a_04</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Although the target was not achieved, relevant commitments stated in the APP have been met. These include further development of our Inclusive Learning, Teaching and Assessment Framework with the introduction of anonymous marking in 2019-20. Our First in Family, Early Start and Care Leavers programmes of support as they relate to student continuation also continue as stated within our plan
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We have consistently performed at the level of or better than the HESA benchmark for non-continuation rates in recent years. Internal data suggests we have also improved in absolute terms for 2019-20, though this data will not be validated by HESA until next year. Given this, and the fact that our approved outcomes targets for our APP to 2025 do not include addressing overall student continuation as a priority concern for us, we have not prioritised this as an area for additional activity, and will focus future effort on specific disadvantaged groups

<b>Target reference number: T16a_09</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Our APP does not include any commitments directly related to improving student satisfaction
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We remain in the top quartile of English universities for student satisfaction as measured by NSS Q27. % agree for Q27 dropped by 1% between 2019 and 2020, but this mirrors the change in the sector. Given our maintained relative strength of position and weak correlation between overall student satisfaction and outcomes for disadvantaged groups, we have not prioritised this as an area for additional work from a widening participation perspective



<b>Target reference number: T16b_01</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
This project is now known as Roots to Success. The pandemic lockdown in 2019-20 severely disrupted this programme so projections have not been met. Only some Year 10 student life talks and the Year 9 parent and pupil launches took place. The Year 11 conference was cancelled due to lack of numbers rather than the pandemic.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No, all activity was forced to stop as of 23 March and no alternative activity was able to be organised due to coronavirus restrictions

<b>Target reference number: T16b_02</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
This summer residential has been unable to take place this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No additional steps taken.

<b>Target reference number: T16b_03</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
This summer residential has been unable to take place this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No additional steps taken.

<b>Target reference number: T16b_05</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
The pandemic lockdown meant that the large scale Subject Showcase Day was cancelled so projections were unable to be met. Some small scale onsite visits with subject tasters included did run prior to the lockdown.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?

No additional steps taken.

<b>Target reference number: T16b_07</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
This project has been discontinued
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No additional steps taken.

<b>Target reference number: T16b_08</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
This project was dependent on funding from Sport England, which has now lapsed
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No additional steps taken.

<b>Target reference number: T16b_09</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
We no longer measure our engagement with partner institutions in terms of number of MATs, adopting a school-level approach instead
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No additional steps taken.

## Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

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

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	
T16a_02	As HESA no longer publish data for SEC due to concerns about its use in evaluating widening participation, it is inappropriate and unfeasible to analyse our performance against this measure
T16a_03	Performance data uses POLAR4 methodology due to change in HESA reporting
T16a_04	
T16a_05	
T16a_06	
T16a_07	
T16a_08	
T16a_09	
T16a_10	These targets were calculated for the DLHE survey; the last available DLHE survey dataset was used for evaluating progress as the Graduate Outcomes survey is not considered comparable
T16b_01	
T16b_02	
T16b_03	
T16b_04	We now monitor the success of our engagement with this collaborative project in terms of students rather than schools; 3536 students were engaged in 2019-20. The more targeted approach previously identified as a longer-term goal has been implemented. Though NYCHEC was disrupted by the pandemic, the 2019-20 aims of participants improving their knowledge and understanding of key student finance issues and targets on students' self-reported value of the engagements were achieved.
T16b_05	
T16b_06	Process change implemented such that all projects captured in HEAT going forward
T16b_07	
T16b_08	
T16b_09	