



2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by Plymouth College of Art 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

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

Our overall ambition and strategy described in our 2019-20 Access and Participation Plan comprised a number of strands, described below.

Access

The ambition was to support people from underrepresented groups in higher education particularly from Low Participation Neighbourhoods in Plymouth and the wider local region to achieve their full potential by being both inspired and prepared to enter HE by:

- working with schools and colleges delivering our own engagement activities alongside broader impact through our role as a partner with all regional universities and other HE providers in the Next Steps South West consortium of the ongoing National Collaborative Outreach Programme
- collaborating with Plymouth School of Creative Arts (now transformed to Millbay Academy) to raise awareness of and aspiration for HE and improved (creative arts) subject knowledge
- providing the opportunity for young people from the age of 9 to 18 to explore art with a range of Young Arts Clubs at PCA and ultimately develop their portfolios for entry to HE
- supporting our own Further Education students in their ambition to progress to HE
- improving access to HE for mature students by promoting and preparing potential candidates for entry to PCA including through extended BA programmes (4 years) and, additionally,
- aiming to ensure the local and national marketing of our higher education programmes appeals to people from all ethnic backgrounds to increase the ethnic diversity in entrant cohorts to PCA.

Student success

Our ambition was to support underrepresented groups in higher education to progress successfully from entry to and graduation from undergraduate study at PCA. The aim was to operate across all categories of disadvantaged and underrepresented groups of students in HE, but our strategy was to specifically target students involving the greatest need and largest numbers: mature students, students with disabilities, and students from low income backgrounds. Our ambition also included support for underrepresented groups to progress from graduation into employment or further study, in particular for students from Low Participation Neighbourhoods.

Strategies comprised:

- orientation and welcome events for underrepresented new entrants to promote sense of belonging and community
- high level of pastoral support and tutor contact time
- identifying as swiftly as possible those underrepresented students most at risk in terms of achievement and retention
- individualised support tailored to specific needs of underrepresented students alongside comprehensive support through student wellbeing services
- developing fully inclusive learning environments, enhancing study skills support, introducing mentoring programmes and reviewing of curricula to support inspirational and inclusive learning
- subsidising a strong programme of educational visits across all undergraduate programmes

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by Plymouth College of Art 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 Plymouth College of Art'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)	Improving participation in Higher Education from deprived groups in Plymouth, concentrating in the LSOAs as identified by the Local Authority. We will measure our success by the number of our Level 3 students who progress to Higher Education, either at the College or to another institution	2013-14	70%	80%	85%	Percentage	2019-20	74	Limited progress
T16a_02 (Student success)	Student success in terms of overall retention/progression of students with declared learning disability/difficulty, compared to full cohort statistics	2013-14	84%	87%	88%	Percentage	2019-20	88	Limited progress
T16a_03 (Student success)	Student success in terms of overall retention/progression of students from low income backgrounds, compared to full cohort statistics	2013-14	86%	89%	90%	Percentage	2019-20	89	No progress
T16a_04 (Student success)	Student success in terms of overall retention/progression of mature students, compared to full cohort statistics	2013-14	86%	89%	90%	Percentage	2019-20	87	No progress
T16a_05 (Progression)	Total progression to employment and/or further study for students from LPNs, compared to full cohort statistics	2016-17	79%	82%	83%	Percentage	2019-20	88	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)	Working with Next Steps South West regional partnership to deliver impartial advice and guidance to Devon schools. Success will be measured by the number and type of schools visited throughout academic year.	2016-17	16	20	22	N/A (see description / commentary)	2019-20	25	Expected progress
T16b_02 (Access)	Number of learners receiving mentoring and preparation for Higher Education activities, within the NSSW visited schools. Success will be measured by documenting the number of learners receiving internal and external opportunities through portfolio reviews, interactive workshops and Higher Education experience sessions.	2016-17	250	270	280	Headcount	2019-20	300	Expected progress
T16b_03 (Access)	Student attainment - measure of impact with our sponsored school, Plymouth School of Creative Arts (PSCA) by proportion of total students participating in activities with PCA	2017-18	20%	25%	30%	Percentage	2019-20	20	No 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	£370,000.00	£277,000.00	-25%
Financial Support	£440,000.00	£393,000.00	-11%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected Plymouth College of Art 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	We will follow the measures set out on our APP for 2020-2025
T16a_02	We will follow the measures set out on our APP for 2020-2025
T16a_03	We will follow the measures set out on our APP for 2020-2025
T16a_04	We will follow the measures set out on our APP for 2020-2025
T16a_05	We will follow the measures set out on our APP for 2020-2025
T16b_03	We will resume our full activities when Covid-19 has eased sufficiently to be able to resume our collaborative work with the school

5. Confirmation

Plymouth College of Art 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	
Plymouth College of Art 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 Brewerton
Position	Principal and Chief Executive

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

Plymouth College of Art'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. Progression to HE from our own students completing UAL Extended Diplomas in summer 2020 in art, design and media subjects and the UAL Foundation Art & Design Diploma improved to 74% from 71% the previous year. This is below the original target of 85% in our APP for 2019/20, hence 'limited progress' is selected, but very much on track with the revised targets agreed for the APP for 2020-25.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No

Target reference number: T16a_02
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Yes. We have met commitments relating to this target, but this achievement represents a drop of 1% from the previous year (albeit that we count students who defer as not retained, until they return). However, taking into account those students who stated Covid-19 as their reason for deferring, the performance increases to 90% which exceeds the target and is an increase on the previous year. Overall retention for all students was 91%.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No

Target reference number: T16a_03
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No. 89% is 1% below target and the same as achieved the previous year. However, taking into account those students who stated Covid-19 as their reason for deferring, the performance increases to 90% which meets the target and is an increase on the previous year. Overall retention for all students was 91%.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No

Target reference number: T16a_04

How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No. Overall retention for mature students fell from 90% to 87%, or to 88% excluding students deferring for reasons stated as being due to Covid-19 although a number of other reasons stated for deferral were also Covid-related. Overall retention for all students was 91%.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No

Target reference number: T16a_05
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Comparison of performance against target indicates this is expected progress, but the assessment is for limited progress because progression to highly skilled employment and further study has not increased as well, remaining at 40%. The College continues a strong focus on improving progression to employment, both within the curriculum and through central careers support as set out in our accompanying return, and is firmly committed to ongoing improvement.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No

Target reference number: T16b_03
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Due to the impact Covid-19 we have been unable to achieve the targeted amount of engagement with learners at the school
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

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

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	.
T16a_02	
T16a_03	
T16a_04	
T16a_05	
T16b_01	
T16b_02	
T16b_03	