



## 2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

### Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by NCH at Northeastern Limited 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

NCH at Northeastern Limited's ambition and strategy as detailed in the 2019-20 access and participation plan:

The 2019-20 Access and Participation Plan (Plan) sets out how New College of the Humanities (the College) maintains fair access to its programmes, and how it will sustain and improve access, student success and progression among people from underrepresented student groups.

Access to education regardless of socio-economic background has always been at the core of the College ethos; therefore, the College focused on providing excellent outcomes for all its students, and by default to underrepresented student groups, rather than a metrics based approach as outlined in the 2019-20 Plan.

A significant step in the College's development was taken in May 2019, when the College was granted Approved (fee cap) status. Subsequently, the ability for students to access student loans for the full fee removed a significant barrier that inhibited many underrepresented students from considering the College a place for study. In addition, it opened a door of opportunity for the College to take an in-depth and strategic approach to improving widening participation for fair access.

The College made commitments in the 2019-20 Plan to take action in improving access to higher education in the following ways:

- Implement contextual admissions.
- To increase the percentage of students at the College from the least represented groups
- To maintain a trajectory of continuous improvement in enrolment of BAME students and increase the total percentage of undergraduate BAME students.

As such, the 2019-20 Plan identifies the specific activities that the College believes will have the greatest impact on increasing access, success and progression by underrepresented student groups in the immediate future. The Plan is ambitious but geared to the current proportions of the College, thus prioritising initial actions where there can be the most impact given staff and student numbers.

As such, not every underrepresented student group is the subject of a specific initiative, however, students from all underrepresented groups should benefit from these initiatives and, as always, all students are very much welcomed in the College.

Moving forward, and with the College becoming part of the Northeastern University (Northeastern) global network, the College's widening participation ambition and strategy will develop to reflect the scope and size of the combined institutions. Within this overall context and given that the transaction has only just taken place, the details of future initiatives will form the subject of future Plans.

## 2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by NCH at Northeastern Limited 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 NCH at Northeastern Limited'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)	Baseline data is average of all past intakes - POLAR 3, quintiles 1 & 2. External data source for the purpose of comparison - HESA, 2016-2017, Table B - Percentage of UK domiciled entrants from low participation neighbourhoods by location of HE provider and academic year	Other (please give details in Description column)	5.6% of intake	N/A	12% of intake	Percentage	2019-20	18	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Access)	Baseline data is average of past 3 intakes. External data source for the purpose of comparison - HESA, 2016-2017, Figure 4 - HE student enrolments by personal characteristics, Full time students on first degree	Other (please give details in Description column)	15.9% of intake	N/A	17% of intake	Percentage	2019-20	34	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Success)	To ensure that students from this underrepresented group (POLAR 3, quintiles 1 & 2) have the same or better continuation rate as the College's student body	2017-18	6.7% non-continuation rate	N/A	At or better than the College average	Percentage	2018-19	0	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 (Multiple)	Completion of SIS and CRM projects	Other (please give details in Description column)	N/A	N/A	Completion	N/A (see description / commentary)	2017-18	100	Expected progress
T16b_02 (Progression)	To ensure training identifies needs and that implementation is fully completed by 2020	Other (please give details in Description column)	N/A	N/A	Training needs identified	Other	2019-20	100	Expected progress
T16b_03 (Multiple)	To identify and implement indirect engagement with mature students through collaboration with other institutions, including validating partners	Other (please give details in Description column)	N/A	Identification of relevant institution(s)	Work up of collaborative strategies	N/A (see description / commentary)	2019-20		Expected progress
T16b_04 (Progression)	FAPSG to collect, analyse and use data on access, success and progression (as it becomes available) to inform and develop widening participation strategies relating to underrepresented groups	Other (please give details in Description column)	N/A	Review of available data	Review of available data	N/A (see description / commentary)	2019-20		Expected progress
T16b_05 (Access)	FAPSG to monitor continuing and expand experiential outreach/raising attainment programmes with state schools - visit to College - bespoke taster days/open days/applying to university/university awareness	2018-19	3 visits	3 visits	5 visits	Headcount	2019-20	15	Expected progress
T16b_06 (Access)	FAPSG to identify and develop relationships with external organisations and other HE providers in support of the College's widen participation initiatives and development of internal know-how	Other (please give details in Description column)	0 relationships	1 relationship	2 relationships	Headcount	2019-20	6	Expected progress

T16b_07 (Multiple)	FAPSG to ensure that NU expertise and resource are employed to promote and fulfil widen participation targets and ambitions	Other (please give details in Description column)	N/A	Ongoing engagement with NU		N/A (see description / commentary)	2019-20		Expected progress
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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	£18,000.00	£6,000.00	-67%
Financial Support	£54,000.00	£9,000.00	-83%

### 4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected NCH at Northeastern Limited has made the following commitments to increase the rate of progress against their targets.

No data was returned for this section in NCH at Northeastern Limited's monitoring return submission.

## 5. Confirmation

NCH at Northeastern Limited confirms that:

<b>Student engagement</b>	
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	
<b>Verification and sign off</b>	
NCH at Northeastern Limited 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	
<b>Accountable officer sign off</b>	
Name	Rob Farquharson
Position	CEO

## **Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets**

NCH at Northeastern Limited's commentary where progress against targets was less than expected.

No data was returned for this section in NCH at Northeastern Limited's monitoring return submission.



## Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

NCH at Northeastern Limited's commentary on any of the targets listed in [Section 2](#).

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	The College is using POLAR4, the most updated metric. 23% of 2019 entrants were from POLAR Quintile 1&2.
T16a_02	
T16a_04	The College is using the 18-year-old student population and POLAR 4 Quintiles to calculate the continuation rate. 100% of POLAR4 Quintile 1&2 (18 year old) entrants had a 100% continuation rate (or 0% non-continuation).
T16b_01	Implementation of CRM and SIS is complete
T16b_02	
T16b_03	<p>The College has expanded study opportunities to include apprenticeships, allowing mature students the flexibility to work and earn while they study, making it a desirable and alternative method of entering higher education.</p> <p>The College's apprenticeship programmes have been co-designed with leading technology partners to deliver programmes in Digital &amp; Technology Solutions and Data Science, suitable for up-skilling and re-skilling individuals looking to retrain, restart careers or enter the world of work</p>
T16b_04	<p>FAPSG is fully functioning and monitoring the delivery of Access commitments and the whole-provider strategic approach.</p> <p>An additional working group, the Diversity &amp; Equality strategy group (DESG), have been appointed with the aim of increasing and retaining College diversity amongst staff and students.</p>
T16b_05	
T16b_06	
T16b_07	NU expertise has helped the College launch summer programmes focusing on WP outreach and development of Co-op's.