



2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by Arden University 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

Arden University Limited's ambition and strategy as detailed in the 2019-20 access and participation plan:

The overall ambition described in the 2019-20 plan was for Arden University to remove the barriers to higher education, inspire new ways to learn and to enrich people and their lives; Arden University sought to be known as the University that makes higher education more accessible, engaging and beneficial to people everywhere.

As a flexible, access focussed and supportive provider, Arden university set out with the strategic ambition to:

Increase the proportion of students studying via full-time blended learning from low participation neighbourhoods to the level achieved for online distance learning provision

Improve BME student success rates on full-time blended learning programmes to be more comparable with the success rates for white students

Increase the number of students studying part-time with Arden University by 5% per annum and through it's contribution aim to increase the number of part-time higher education students studying in the UK.

Increase the level of employment of disabled graduates to be more comparable with employment levels of non-disabled students.

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by Arden University 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 Arden University 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)	To increase enrolment of students from low participation neighbourhoods on full-time programmes	2016-17	2.5%	4%	6%	Percentage	2019-20	11.2	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Access)	To increase enrolment of students from low participation neighbourhoods on full-time programmes	2016-17	3.9%	4%	6%	Percentage	2019-20	8	Expected progress
T16a_03 (Success)	To improve success rates for full-time students from BME backgrounds measured through credit attainment.	2016-17	85	87	89	Other	2019-20	84	No progress
T16a_04 (Success)	To improve level of attainment (grades achieved) for part-time students from BME backgrounds	2016-17	16%	17%	18%	Percentage	2018-19	45	Expected progress
T16a_05 (Success)	To improve retention of students who have declared a physical or mental disability	2016-17	24%	23%	23%	Percentage	2019-20	28	No progress
T16a_06 (Success)	To improve retention and success of students requiring flexible learning opportunities including mature students, care leavers, care providers and military families	2016-17	74%	75%	76%	Percentage	2018-19	40	No progress
T16a_07 (Progression)	To improve employment rates for BME graduates	2016-17	58%	59%	60%	Percentage	2017-18	82	Expected progress
T16a_08 (Progression)	To improve employment rates for graduates who have declared a mental or physical disability	2016-17	40%	42%	44%	Percentage	2017-18	73.3	Expected progress

T16a_09 (Progression)	To better measure career enhancement outcomes for enrolled part-time students	2016-17	0%	0%	50%	Percentage	2017-18	59	Expected progress
T16a_10 (Progression)	To increase the proportion of BME completers in 'graduate jobs'	2016-17	56%	57%	58%	Percentage	2017-18	52.5	No progress
T16a_11 (Progression)	To increase the proportion of disabled completers in 'graduate jobs'	2016-17	67%	68%	68%	Percentage	2017-18	55.6	No progress
T16a_12 (Access)	To increase the number of part-time students studying with Arden	2016-17	1964	2062	2165	Headcount	2019-20	3256	Expected progress
T16a_13 (Access)	To increase the proportion of students recruited directly from schools and colleges	2016-17	0%	0%	1%	Percentage	2019-20	99.5	Expected progress

Other milestones and targets

No data was returned for this section in Arden University Limited's 2019-20 [access and participation plan](#).

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	£60,000.00	£0.00	-100%
Financial Support	£15,000.00	£65,000.00	333%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected Arden University Limited 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_03	Major investment plan and request for variance to 2021-25 AP Plan during April 2021. Dedicated BAME Lead, introduction of Financial support Scheme and Digital Poverty initiative. (£1.1M in 2021 rising to £2.5M in 2023)
T16a_05	Major investment plan and request for variance to 2021-25 AP Plan during April 2021. Dedicated SEN Lead and SEN Support Team, introduction of Financial support Scheme and Digital Poverty initiative. (£1.1M in 2021 rising to £2.5M in 2023)
T16a_06	Major investment plan and request for variance to 2021-25 AP Plan during April 2021. Dedicated SEN Lead and SEN Support Team, introduction of Financial support Scheme and Digital Poverty initiative. (£1.1M in 2021 rising to £2.5M in 2023)
T16a_10	Major investment plan and request for variance to 2021-25 AP Plan during April 2021. Dedicated BAME Lead, introduction of Financial support Scheme and Digital Poverty initiative. (£1.1M in 2021 rising to £2.5M in 2023)
T16a_11	Major investment plan and request for variance to 2021-25 AP Plan during April 2021. Dedicated SEN Lead, introduction of Financial support Scheme and Digital Poverty initiative. (£1.1M in 2021 rising to £2.5M in 2023)

5. Confirmation

Arden University Limited 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	
Arden University 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	
Accountable officer sign off	
Name	Carl Lygo
Position	VC/CEO and Accountable Officer

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

Arden University Limited's commentary where progress against targets was less than expected.

Target reference number: T16a_03
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Yes
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?
need PT and FT
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No

Target reference number: T16a_06
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Yes
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No

Target reference number: T16a_10
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Yes
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No

Target reference number: T16a_11
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Yes
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

Arden University Limited'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	
T16a_06	Baseline data appears inflated for continuation rate of PT learners (benchmark is 38.1%)
T16a_07	
T16a_08	
T16a_09	
T16a_10	The proportion of BAME completers in professional jobs is heavily driven by the number of graduates in Health and Social Care, where the vast majority of our first graduates from the Full-Time 2016 cohort originate. This has led to a deflation of the proportion of graduates in professional jobs in this cohort. We expect rapid progress against this KPI once graduates from Business, IT and Computing begin to graduate from later cohorts.
T16a_11	The proportion of SEN completers in professional jobs is heavily driven by the number of graduates in Health and Social Care, where the vast majority of our first graduates from the Full-Time 2016 cohort originate. This has led to a deflation of the proportion of graduates in professional jobs in this cohort. We expect rapid progress against this KPI once graduates from Business, IT and Computing begin to graduate from later cohorts.
T16a_12	
T16a_13	