



2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by School of Oriental and African Studies 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

School of Oriental and African Studies's ambition and strategy as detailed in the 2019-20 access and participation plan:

In our 2019-20 access and participation plan, we articulated the following ambitions:

1. To recognise and maintain our improving performance in access, whilst also seeking to reduce specific gaps where these exist, and to continue to contribute to sector-wide improvements in access to higher education by students from underrepresented backgrounds
2. To reduce gaps in student success, with those for students from particular ethnicities as the highest priority, as this is where large and persistent gaps exist
3. To continue to deliver our existing commitment to improve the progression outcomes of students from underrepresented backgrounds
4. To increase our evidence base for existing gaps in all three phases of the student lifecycle at SOAS through the means of qualitative and quantitative co-created research, and to continue to use an evidence-led approach of evaluation and reflection to reduce these gaps

We committed to developing a whole-School Access and Participation Strategy to build on progress made to date, and to ensure best practice from across the School and within the sector is reflected upon. The strategy would connect with the SOAS Strategy, as well as other high-level strategies such as learning and teaching, and would bring together various strands of existing activity and practice. The new Access and Participation Strategy would identify specific aims and objectives and associated measures of success, and will play a key role in shaping future Access and Participation Plans. A new evaluation protocol was developed for the team. It makes explicit the connections between our Theory of Change, objectives from the NERUPI framework and the OfS' Standards of Evidence in each activity and gives coherence to the whole programme.

In addition a commitment was made to target our access, student success and progression activities (including financial support) at the most underrepresented students.

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by School of Oriental and African Studies 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 School of Oriental and African Studies'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 the proportion of young LPN students from this group to 5.4% by 2019/20	2013-14	4%	4.9%	5.4%	Percentage	2019-20	2.8	No progress
T16a_02 (Access)	To increase the proportion of mature LPN students from this group to 4% by 2019/20	2013-14	2.2%	3.5%	4%	Percentage	2019-20	0.9	No progress
T16a_03 (Access)	To increase the proportion of this group to 7% by 2019/20	2013-14	6.3%	6.9%	7%	Percentage	2019-20	8.1	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Access)	To maintain the proportion of students from this group by 2019/20	2013-14	31%	31%	31%	Percentage	2019-20	35	Expected progress
T16a_05 (Access)	To maintain the proportion of students from this group by 2019/20	2013-14	82%	82%	82%	Percentage	2019-20	85.3	Expected progress
T16a_06 (Student success)	To reduce the non-continuation rate of young students to 5% by 2019/20	2012-13	6.4%	5.5%	5%	Percentage	2017-18	8.8	Expected progress
T16a_07 (Student success)	To reduce the non-continuation rate of mature students to 15% by 2019/20	2012-13	20.6%	16%	15%	Percentage	2017-18	15.6	Expected progress
T16a_08 (Student success)	To reduce the non-continuation rate of the overall population to 7% by 2019/20	2012-13	9.7%	8%	7%	Percentage	2017-18	10	No 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)	To increase the number of school and FE college students engaged in extended programmes to 100 by 2019/20	2012-13	60 students	90 students	100 students	Headcount	2019-20	34	No progress
T16b_02 (Access)	To increase the number of students attending subject-based summer schools	2012-13	160 students	180 students	200 students	Headcount	2019-20	175	Limited progress
T16b_03 (Access)	To increase the proportion of outreach attendees who apply to SOAS to 35% by 2019/20	2012-13	25%	33%	35%	Percentage	2019-20	20.4	No progress
T16b_04 (Access)	To increase the conversion rate of outreach attendees who gain a place at SOAS to 35% by 2019/20	2012-13	25%	32%	35%	Percentage	2019-20	35.7	Expected progress
T16b_05 (Progression)	To increase the number of mature students attending the Bridging Course to 75 by 2019/20	2012-13	44 students	65 students	75 students	Headcount	2019-20	30	No progress
T16b_06 (Progression)	To increase the number of first generation students attending the Bridging Course to 60 by 2019/20	2012-13	34 students	55 students	60 students	Headcount	2019-20	35	No progress
T16b_07 (Progression)	To increase the progression rate of mature Bridging Course attendees into year two to 80% by 2019/20	2012-13	72.7%	77%	80%	Percentage	2019-20	92	Expected progress
T16b_08 (Progression)	To increase the progression rate of first generation Bridging Course attendees into year two to 85% by 2019/20	2012-13	79.4%	84%	85%	Percentage	2019-20	86	Expected progress
T16b_09 (Access)	To increase the number of students engaged in activities that raise attainment	2018-19	0	60 students	75 students	Headcount	2019-20	257	Expected progress
T16b_10 (Access)	To see 40 learners from POLAR3 Quintile 1 progress to HE	2018-19	0	30	40	Headcount	2019-20	25	No progress
T16b_11 (Success)	To reduce the Black attainment gap for first class honours degrees to 10%	2015-16	30%	26%	22%	Percentage	2019-20	11.2	Expected progress

T16b_12 (Access)	To increase the number of strategic partnerships we have with schools to 10 by 2022-23	2017-18	1	2	4	Other	2019-20	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	£436,810.00	£335,000.00	-23%
Financial Support	£896,518.00	£1,530,000.00	71%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected School of Oriental and African Studies 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 continue to deliver on the measures outlined previously. We have committed to conducting focus groups with students from this group.
T16a_02	Whilst this target does not feature in our APP 2020-25, we will continue to work extensively with community groups and FE colleges as part of our work in improving access for mature students.
T16a_08	We have established leading indicators in non-continuation and have developed targeted work with academic departments in reducing gaps in non-completion at module level.
T16b_01	We have redesigned our activities to ensure, where possible, participants have multi-engagements with attainment-raising programmes. This target will no longer be applicable in 2020-21 onwards
T16b_02	We have increased substantially the number and range of summer schools on offer in 2020/21 to engage greater numbers of participants. This target will no longer be applicable in 2020-21 onwards.
T16b_03	We are working to make our contextual approach to Admissions clearer to applicants so that they are more informed when they make their decision to apply. This target will no longer be applicable in 2020-21 onwards.

T16b_05	Issues with regards to staff turnover resorted in difficulties with comms affecting attendance numbers, although there was an increase the following year, progress was still haltered by the pandemic and late move to online provisions. The learnings from this academic year have been incorporated into developments for 2020-21 onwards.
T16b_06	The programmes for these courses have been further developed to ensure higher levels of engagement with offer holders.
T16b_10	We will continue to deliver on the measures outlined previously. We have committed to conducting focus groups with students from this group. In addition recent analysis shows the gap in access for this group closing.

5. Confirmation

School of Oriental and African Studies 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	
School of Oriental and African Studies 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 Claire Ozanne
Position	Interim Director

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

School of Oriental and African Studies'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
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Yes. We have invested in partnerships with schools outside London in areas of low HE participation. We continue to target students from this group in all activities.

Target reference number: T16a_02
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We established new relationships with community groups and FE colleges to improve access from this group.

Target reference number: T16a_08
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We continue to place significant efforts in to understanding and responding to the causes of non-continuation. This has focused on the analysis of data and developing leading indicators in this area.

Target reference number: T16b_01
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?

Impact evaluation results led us to stop the long-term programme which provided the majority of the headcount in the baseline year; evaluation suggested that greater impact could be had from focussing on summer schools and school partnerships as alternatives. Stopping this programme has meant that we haven't met the headcount milestone in 2019/20 though we continue to pilot innovative long-term programmes alongside our summer school offer.

Target reference number: T16b_02

How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?

No

Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?

We moved our entire summer school offer online in 2019/20 so that we could continue engaging with participants in this high impact way

Target reference number: T16b_03

How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?

No

Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?

We have continued to refine our approach to contextual offers, as well as in our recruitment and selection of participants in our outreach activities.

Target reference number: T16b_05

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?

Earlier and more frequent communications - this has already resulted in an increase for year 2002/21.

Target reference number: T16b_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?

Earlier and more frequent communications - this has already resulted in an increase for year 2002/21.

Target reference number: T16b_10

How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?

No

Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?

Yes. We have invested in partnerships with schools outside London in areas of low HE participation. We continue to target students from this group in all activities.

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

School of Oriental and African Studies'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	
T16a_07	
T16a_08	
T16b_01	
T16b_02	
T16b_03	
T16b_04	
T16b_05	
T16b_06	
T16b_07	
T16b_08	
T16b_09	
T16b_10	
T16b_11	
T16b_12	