



2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by East Sussex College Group 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

East Sussex College Group's ambition and strategy as detailed in the 2019-20 access and participation plan:

The East Sussex College Group aims to provide outstanding, responsive and viable academic, professional and technical learning provision with excellent progression opportunities to benefit individuals, communities and employers in East Sussex. The

College Group will provide and grow a first class Higher Education offer to meet the needs of individuals, employers and the local communities of East Sussex.

Strategic Aim 1:

Provide a flexible, relevant and distinctive curriculum that supports and meets the needs of local people and employers.

Strategic Aim 2:

Increase and widen participation in Higher Education amongst local residents in East Sussex.

Strategic Aim 3:

Ensure Higher Education students benefit from a high quality learning and teaching experience, which meets their needs and those of local, regional and national employers and economies.

Our ambition

The College Group aims to target the following groups:

Students with disabilities

- Transition from level 3 college and local provision, building on the National Collaborative Outreach Programme work undertaken from 17/18, for students with disabilities and protected characteristics.
- Support during studies – Higher Education mentors, peer coaches, support for students to access Disabled Students' Allowance entitlement.
- Recognise and respond to a rise in mental health disabilities and the negative impact this has on entering, engaging and continuing in Higher Education.
 - Support to exit and gain employment.

Black and Minority Ethnic Students

- Increase participation of Black and Minority Ethnic Students.
- Investigate options to target local schools and 6th forms.
- Develop a marketing campaign to encourage interest in Higher Education.
- Work with the College's National Collaborative Outreach Programme to develop an outreach programme to identify barriers and possible solutions

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by East Sussex College Group 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 East Sussex College Group'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)	The aim will be to encourage and support a higher % of our existing level 3 students to progress onto our own Higher Education	2015-16	3%	15%	20%	Percentage	2019-20	48	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Access)	To retain and support mature students	2015-16	10	16	18	Percentage	2019-20	70	Expected progress
T16a_03 (Access)	Increase recruitment from students with a residual household income below £25,000	2015-16	33%	36%	37%	Percentage	2019-20	29	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Student success)	To reduce student drop out	2015-16	15	6	5	Percentage points	2019-20	9	Expected progress
T16a_05 (Progression)	Progression and other Statistic - Progression to Employment or further study.	2015-16	60%	64%	68%	Percentage	2019-20	43	Limited progress
T16a_06 (Access)	Raising attainment in schools	2017-18	15	19	21	Percentage	2019-20	37	Expected progress

Other milestones and targets

No data was returned for this section in East Sussex College Group'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	£15,000.00	£8,000.00	-47%
Financial Support	£39,000.00	£53,255.00	37%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected East Sussex College Group 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_05	To be part of the graduate Outcome Scheme

5. Confirmation

East Sussex College Group 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	
East Sussex College Group 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	Rebecca Conroy
Position	Principal & CEO

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

East Sussex College Group's commentary where progress against targets was less than expected.

Target reference number: T16a_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?
We are reviewing an approach that does not just target students after graduation, but contacts them at 6 month intervals to capture progression outcomes more effectively.

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

East Sussex College Group's commentary on any of the targets listed in [Section 2](#).

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	Number of students from L3 courses on Y1 FT Undergraduate courses compared with number of under 21 students on these courses
T16a_02	Proportion of Mature (21 and over) entrants
T16a_03	Deprivation (IMD2019) used as a proxy for Household income. Proportion of entrants in Quintile 1 (most deprived)
T16a_04	Based on HESA Non-continuation following Year of Entry UK Performance Indicator. This is not calculated for FECs. However HESA have noted that COVID-19 has had an impact on this PI.
T16a_05	Progress on this outcome has been impacted by the Covid Pandemic
T16a_06	Working with college's Uni Connect funded team and the colleges school liaison team we have added a range of alternative WP activities including online and virtual events given physical events were difficult due to Covid pandemic and lockdowns. HE also now has its own marketing Coordinator this year which has helped with focused marketing of specific groups.