

Norwich University of the Arts

Access agreement for 2017-18

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1. Context

- 1.1 Norwich University of the Arts is a specialist university with around 2,000 undergraduate, taught postgraduate and postgraduate research students that comprise its learning community. Our vision is to be the best specialist university for art, design, architecture and media in Europe, producing graduates of the highest quality. We are committed to excellence in learning, teaching and the wider student experience, to give our students the best possible preparation for their future lives and careers.
- 1.2 We have continued to experience a strong demand for our courses in recognition of the quality of work undertaken by our staff and students. We are committed to fair access, equality of opportunity for applicants and support for all of our students, particularly those applicants attracted from groups under-represented in Higher Education (HE). We welcome students from a diverse range of backgrounds and previous educational and professional experiences and encourage applications from all those who wish to develop their creative practice in the context of Norwich University of the Arts.
- 1.3 We recognise that there is no single definition of widening participation (WP), for the purposes of our OFFA/Access Agreement. The term 'WP' is used with reference to engaging target groups that have been identified as under-represented in UK Higher Education and in keeping with our proposed actions to ensure the success of such groups and individuals when they embark on a course of Higher Education through to its completion. This pluralistic approach to WP is emblematic of the University's commitment in terms of both finance and resources, to supporting and promoting fair access to its specialist courses in arts, design, architecture and media. Based on evidence through our recent entry profiles, and premised on our history of success in Widening Participation (WP), we continue our planning on the basis that the greatest potential impact of the post-2012 fee regime will be on prospective young entrants to higher education from lower socio-economic (NS-SEC groups 4 – 7) applicants, applicants from Low Participation Neighbourhoods (LPNs) and mature applicants with more established life and financial commitments and constraints.
- 1.4 The University's approach to the OFFA Access Agreement and to its strategy for widening participation continues to weigh the imperatives of delivering effective outreach and robust retention in support of the continued success of our students. The quality and breadth of the University's course offer, its level of fee, and the targets and milestones for widening participation for 2016-17 onwards are, we believe, aspirational and challenging.
- 1.5 We will continue to engage in collaborative activity with other organisations. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), schools and other public and private sector partners in order to maximise the beneficial impacts of our work and reduce duplication of effort. As well as participating in existing collaborative activity we are also part of the Suffolk and Norfolk Collaborative Outreach network (SNCO) comprising the University of East Anglia (UEA), University Campus Suffolk (UCS), Norwich University of the Arts (NUA), City College Norwich and regional HE providers (UCS Centres for HE, Easton and Otley College and College of West Anglia). This network aims to reach out to every school in the region, ensure best practice and facilitate collaborative working aimed at increasing engagement of schools in the east.
- 1.6 Collaborative working for NUA involves collaboration with national as well as regional partners who are specialist providers within the HE sector. We continue to be an active member of the National Arts Learning Network (NALN) now incorporated as part of UKADIA (the UK Arts and Design Institutions Association) and have recently

signed up to a new UKADIA project targeted at WP students. The University also works with other partners such as the Museums Service, Arts Council and a commercial television company in terms of taking its HE offer to (primarily) mature learners within workplace environments. The University is optimistic that this work will reach out to target groups who currently have little or no contact (or aspiration) with UK HE.

2 Assessment of performance to date and identification of areas to focus on in future

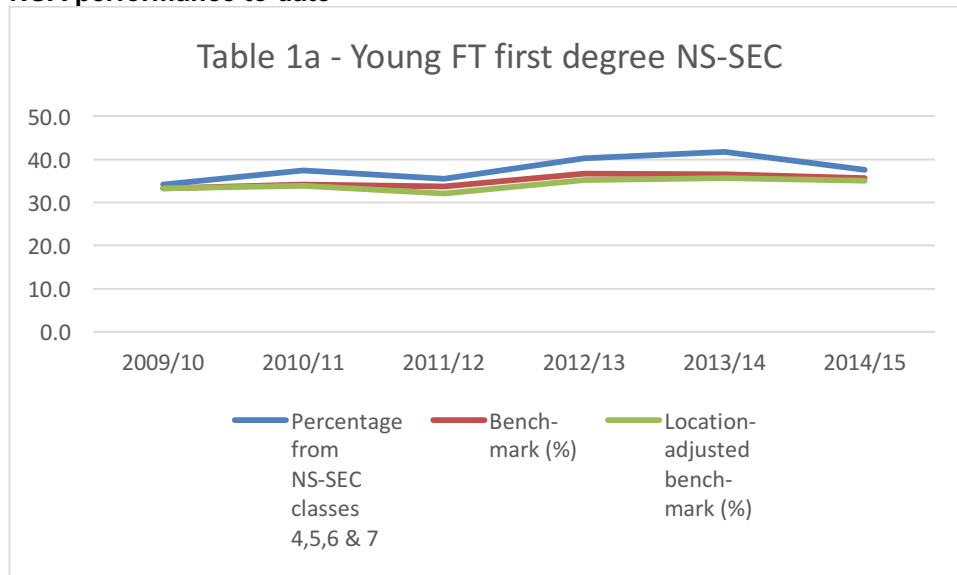
The University continues to perform strongly in attracting and retaining students from a diverse range of backgrounds including those from under-represented groups. The following sections outline our performance in key areas identified by us as priorities for our outreach, retention and employability activities; mature students, students from Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, students from low participation neighbourhoods (LPNs), students from NS-SEC 4-7 and students with disabilities.

In analysing the University's performance in supporting the success of our students, we have undertaken regular monitoring of the retention in the first year of transition to higher education and attainment at final degree of students from widening participation backgrounds. Each group is compared with peers outside the group under analysis. The following tables summarise our performance to date.

2.1 Access for young full-time undergraduate entrants from low socio-economic backgrounds (NS-SEC 4-7)

2.1.1 We aim to increase the proportion of young full-time undergraduate entrants from lower socio-economic backgrounds, with a focus on NS-SEC 4-7 and to remain above the location adjusted benchmark in all years (HESA Performance Indicator Table T1a).

NUA performance to date



2.1.2 The University has increased the proportion of students from NS-SEC 4-7 backgrounds over the last 5 year. In 2014-15 the University recorded a slight drop in percentage terms but it is not clear whether this is a one year change (as experienced in 2011-12) or the start of a downwards trend.

2.1.3 The government has identified a gap in access and attainment of white male students

from disadvantaged backgrounds, and as part of our evaluation exercise we have observed the following over the past 3 years. Whilst the overall percentage of female students from NS-SEC 4-7 backgrounds has remained roughly consistent, the percentage of male students from similar backgrounds has declined from 46% in 2013/14 to 33% in 2015/16.

New entrants by gender and NS-SEC

		Year of entry		
		2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Female	Number of new entrants	347	392	393
	% Known data	76%	75%	82%
	% 4-7	43%	35%	44%
Male	Number of new entrants	216	255	253
	% Known data	79%	76%	81%
	% 4-7	46%	44%	33%

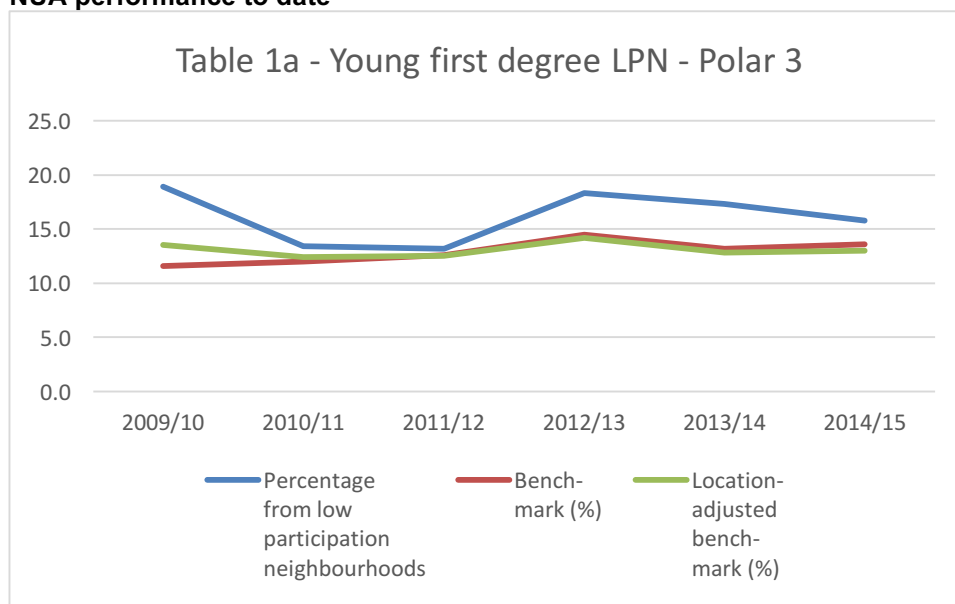
2.1.4 Whilst we acknowledge that the use of NS-SEC as a future Performance Indicator will be of limited use in the future, this is the nearest approximation that we can get to ascertain the population of students that has been identified by the Government. In the absence of any agreed alternatives which can be established through readily accessible data, the University will continue to utilise this as a measure pending further guidance from OFFA on alternative measures and data sources.

2.1.5 The University will continue to focus activities on schools and colleges with larger proportions of underrepresented groups to encourage applicants from diverse groups.

2.2 Access for young entrants from Low-Participation Neighbourhoods (LPNs)

2.2.1 We aim to increase the proportion of young full-time undergraduate entrants from low participation neighbourhoods (LPNs) and to remain above the location adjusted benchmark in all years (HESA Performance Indicator Table T1a)

NUA performance to date

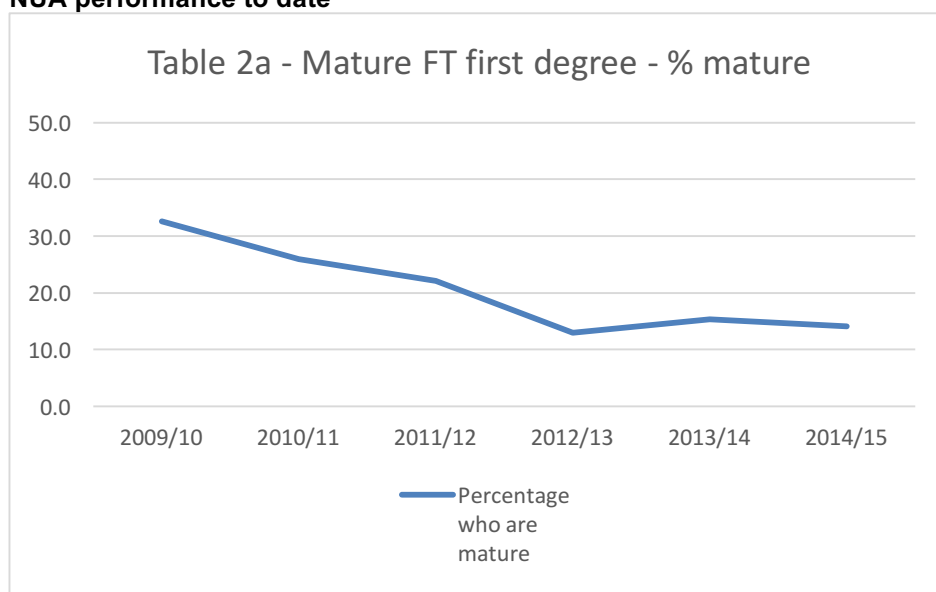


2.2.2 Since 2011/12 the proportion of students from LPNs has increased although this has declined from 18.3% in 2012/13 to 15.8% in 2014/15. Data for applications from Norfolk schools with high proportions of widening participation pupils show that the actual number of applications to NUA increased from 281 in 2012 to 287 for 2014-15 entry and to 330 for 2015/16 entry (as a result of outreach activity undertaken during 2014-15 and in previous years). This will remain an area of focus for the University.

2.3 Access for mature entrants to undergraduate courses

2.3.1 We aim to increase the proportion of mature full-time undergraduate entrants aged 21 or above on entry who are studying on an NUA course (HESA Performance Indicator Table T2a - Mature, full-time, first degree entrants).

NUA performance to date

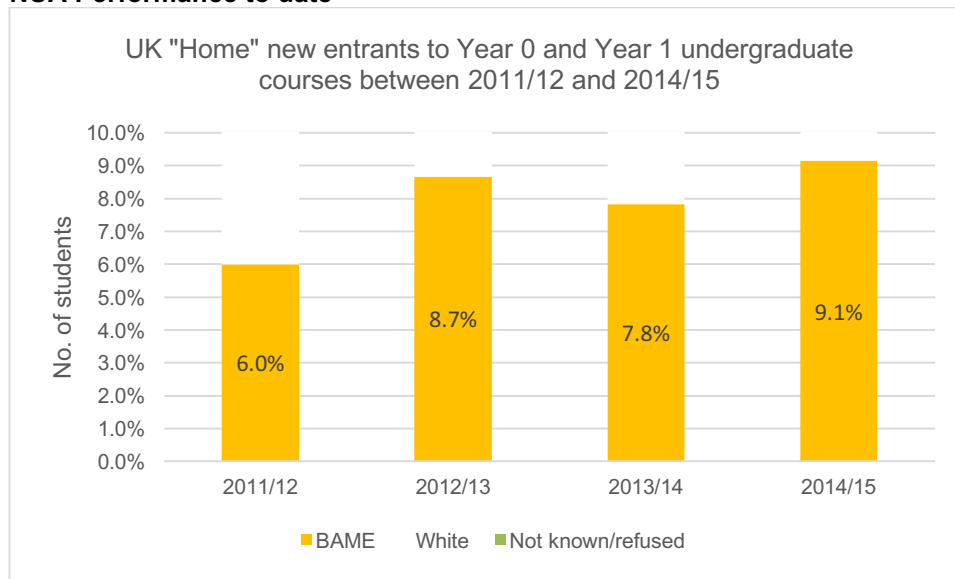


2.3.2 The graph above shows the proportion of undergraduate entrants starting an undergraduate course between 2009/10 and 2014/15. The percentage of mature applicants who enrolled on a course at NUA decreased between 2009/10 and 2012/13. We had previously identified this as an area for focused widening participation activity in our previous Access Agreements, and since 2012/13 we have experienced an increase in the percentage of mature entrants from 13% in 2012/13 to 14% in 2014/15. During this same period the percentage of mature applicants applying to art and design subjects nationally decreased from 16% to 14% (UCAS End of Cycle Report, 2015). In absolute terms the number of mature entrants aged 21 and above actually increased from 47 in 2012-13 to 62 in 2014-15. Whilst this represents an early indication that the University's outreach activity in this area may be beginning to work, we remain committed to strengthening the opportunities for mature entrants to study art, design, media or architecture subjects at NUA.

2.4 Access for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) entrants to undergraduate courses

2.4.1 The University continues to be committed to increasing the proportion of students from BAME backgrounds. Our stated aim is to increase the proportion of UK domiciled students from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) origin and will continue to provide targeted outreach in regional areas with larger numbers of students from BAME backgrounds.

NUA Performance to date



Source: NUA Student Records System

2.4.2 The percentage of new entrants from BAME ethnic origins has been steadily rising over the past three years, from 6% in 2011/12 to 9% in 2014/15. This continues to be an area of challenge for us both in terms of the regional demographics (a relatively low proportion of people usually resident in the East of England are from BAME backgrounds compared with the rest of England¹), and our specialist subject mix. A recent benchmarking exercise conducted by the University noted that BAME students accounted for 22% of new entrants to all subjects, however the proportion of BAME students recruited to art and design subjects in 2013/14 accounted for just 6% of all students recruited to courses in this subject area².

2.4.3 Our progress to date indicates that we are seeing the beginning of an increase in the proportion of BAME students studying at NUA, and we will continue to focus targeted outreach and recruitment activity aimed at increasing the number of BAME students studying and succeeding at NUA.

2.5 Student Success targets

2.5.1 One of the key commitments of the University, as expressed through the Mission and Core Values and the Student Agreement is to ensure equality of opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds, providing support where need is identified. In analysing our performance to date, we have focused our analysis on two key indications of success; retention and degree classification outcomes.

2.5.2 We have undertaken monitoring of our retention record over a number of years which has provided us with a good record of data on which to focus our widening participation activity. In analysing our retention record, we have considered young and mature student populations separately in acknowledgement that the challenges facing students in each group can be very different. We have also looked at the comparative data between different groups within the University's undergraduate population, and have been monitoring relative performance through our Access Agreement targets for a number of years.

¹ Comparative data provided by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and made available through Norfolk Insight (www.norfolkinsight.org.uk).

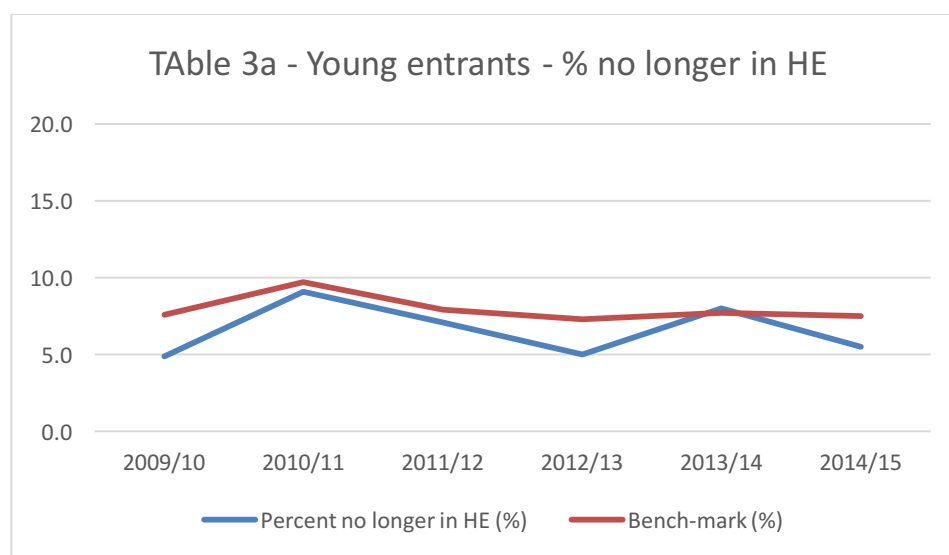
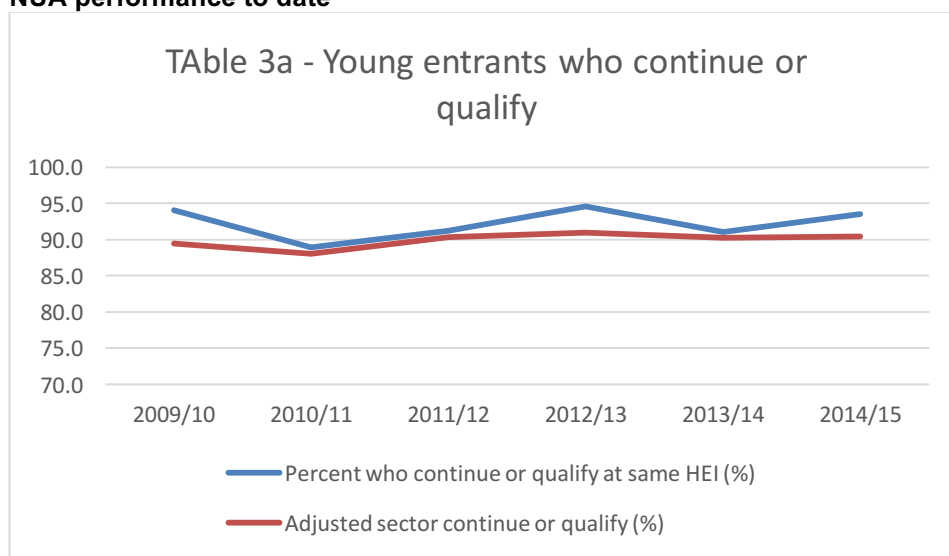
² Source: HESA statistical release, Table 6a: **Full-time students by subject, level, sex, age, disability and ethnicity**, 2013-14, <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/free-statistics>

2.5.3 Similarly, in considering measures for determining successful outcomes for students, we have been monitoring the differential outcomes for students in different populations by analysing the degree classifications for different groups within each graduating cohort.

2.6 Student success: retention of young entrants

2.6.1 We aim to continue to ensure that the percentage of young entrants who drop out of Higher Education is below 5% and the percentage is lower than the HESA benchmark (HESA performance indicator table T3a). Through a range of retention initiatives we are seeking to ensure that the percentage falls from 8.0% in 2013-14 to 5.0% by 2017/18 and falls to 4.0% by 2019/20.

NUA performance to date



2.6.2 The charts above summarise the percentage of students who are projected to continue or qualify at the University between 2009/10 and 2014/15 (HESA Performance Indicator Table *Non-continuation following year of entry: full-time first degree entrants*) and the percentage of students who leave one of our courses during their first year and who do not continue at another institution. The University has

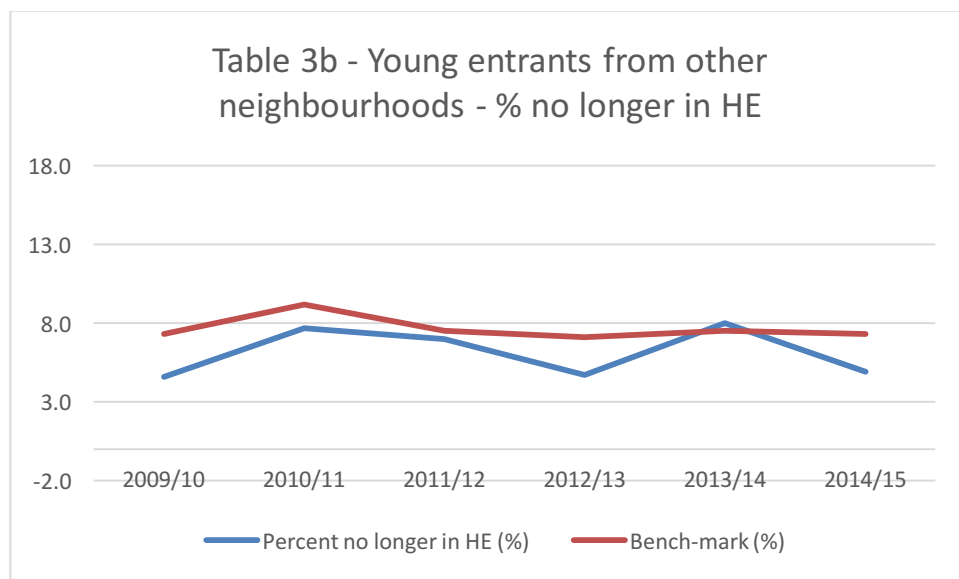
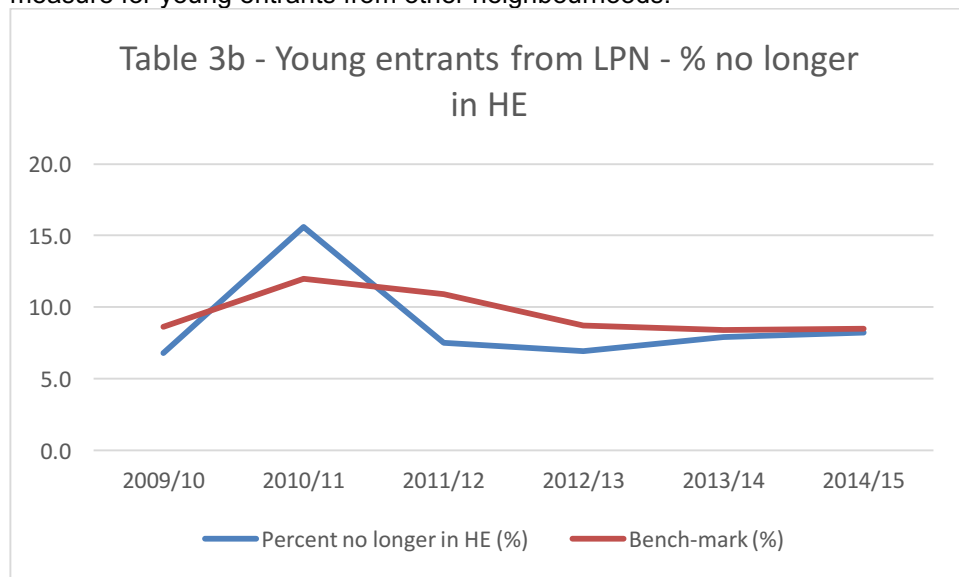
demonstrated a strong track record in retaining its students with over 90% retention since 2011/12. Results for 2013/14 indicated a slight decrease in the percentage and whilst there was no one obvious factor to explain this, we believe that some of the targeted work aimed at retention, for example expanding the number of PAL Mentors, has contributed to a reverse in 2014/15.

2.7 Student success: retention of young entrants from low participation neighbourhoods

2.7.1 We are committed to reducing the percentage of young entrants from Low Participation Neighbourhoods who drop out of Higher Education to 5% and remain below the HESA benchmark (HESA Performance Indicators Table T3b). From baseline data in 2013/14 of 8% we aim to ensure that this is reduced to 5% by 2019/20.

NUA performance to date

2.7.2 The tables below show the percentage of young entrants from low participation neighbourhoods who leave higher education in their first year, compared to the same measure for young entrants from other neighbourhoods.



2.7.3 The University continues to perform well in this area. The percentage of young entrants from LPNs who are projected to continue or qualify at this HEI has remained above 90% in the past for years and is consistent with performance from young entrants from other neighbourhoods.

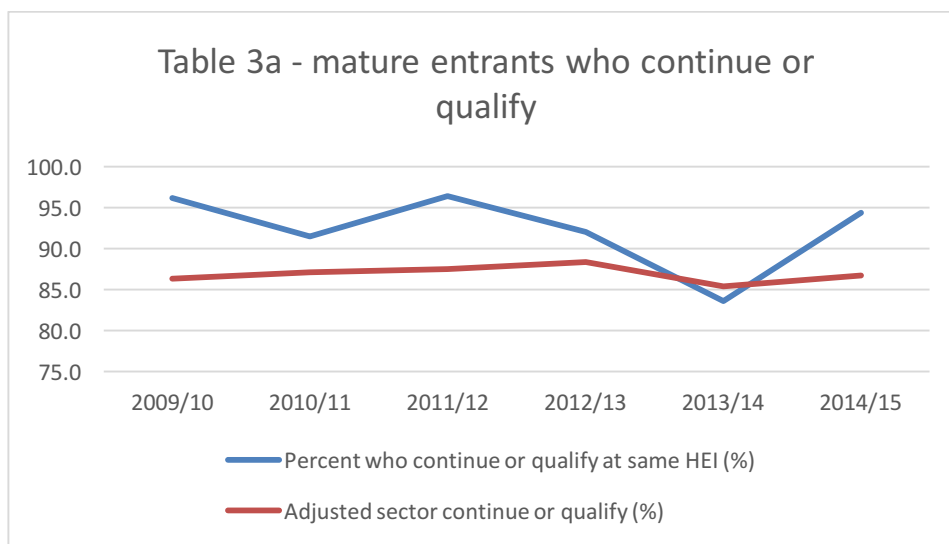
2.7.4 The targets set for student success are ambitious and the University will continue to focus on retention initiatives through its inclusive curriculum and PAL Mentor scheme to influence the numbers of new entrants who withdraw from HE altogether. The University has also reviewed its undergraduate provision within its Award and Credit Scheme and has introduced revisions to the delivery of taught units in 2015-16, which we believe will enhance the learning opportunities for students to improve engagement and encourage students to stay on course. The University has also increased its studio and workshop opening times with qualified staff in support during the evenings, to offer students more flexibility for planning their learning activity around personal commitments.

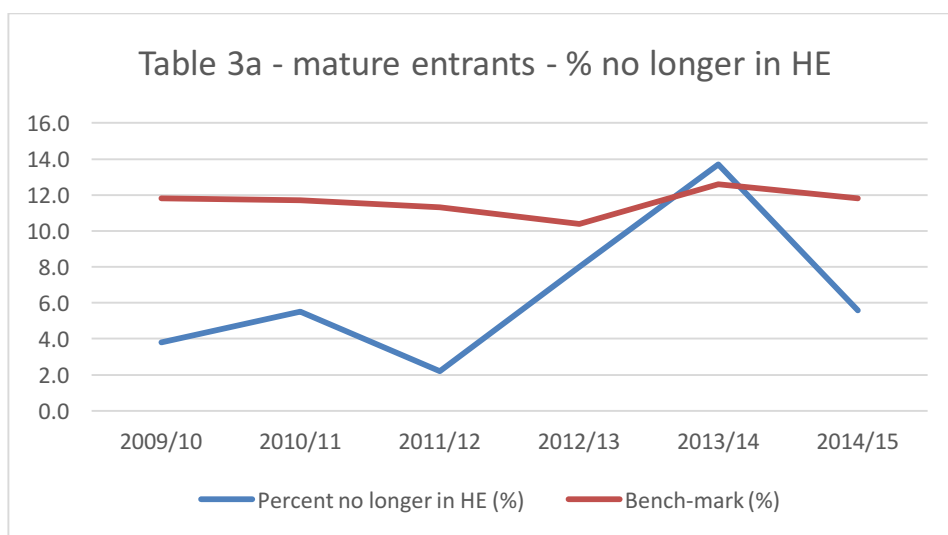
2.8 Student success: retention of mature entrants

2.8.1 Retention: to continue to ensure that the percentage of mature entrants who drop out of Higher Education falls below 10% and the percentage is lower than the HESA benchmark (HESA performance indicator Table T3a). In 2013/14 this was 13.7% and we are seeking to reduce this to 10% by 2018/19 and to 9.0% by 2019/20.

NUA performance to date

2.8.2 The tables below show the percentage of mature entrants who are projected to continue or qualify at the University and the percentage of mature entrants who leave higher education in their first year and who are no longer in higher education.





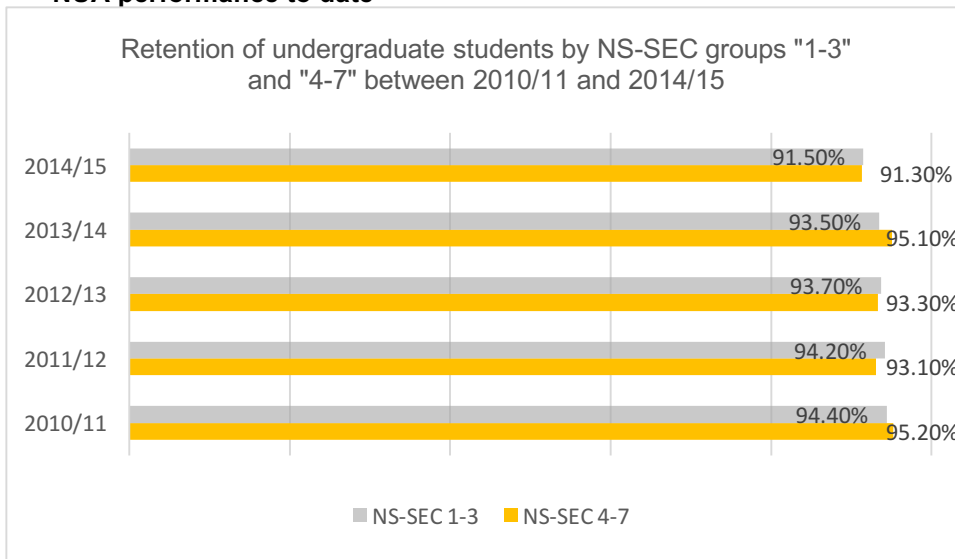
2.8.3 As part of the 2014-15 Access monitoring return, we noted that there had been an increase in the percentage of mature entrants who were no longer in Higher Education in 2013/14. Whilst this could be partially explained by the small numbers of mature entrants relative to the student body as a whole we noted that this area would be kept under review to establish whether this was a trend or a one year anomaly. We are pleased to note that this does not appear to be a trend and in 2014-15 the percentage of mature entrants who leave higher education altogether within their first year has fallen to suggesting that this has been a one year anomaly.

2.9 Student success: Retention of students from different socio-economic backgrounds

2.9.1 Since 2010/11 we have been monitoring the relative retention of students from different national socio-economic classifications (NS-SEC) to test that our courses and support are ensuring equality of opportunity for all students. For the purposes of this monitoring we have analysed the retention results for students in two distinct groups, NS-SEC 1-3 (professional/managerial occupational background), NS-SEC 4-7 (non-professional occupational background). Students with an unknown socio-economic classification are excluded from this analysis.

2.9.2 Our aim is to ensure that the margin of difference in the retention of students from NS-SEC 4-7 backgrounds does not fall below 5% of the retention figure for students from NS-SEC 1-3.

NUA performance to date

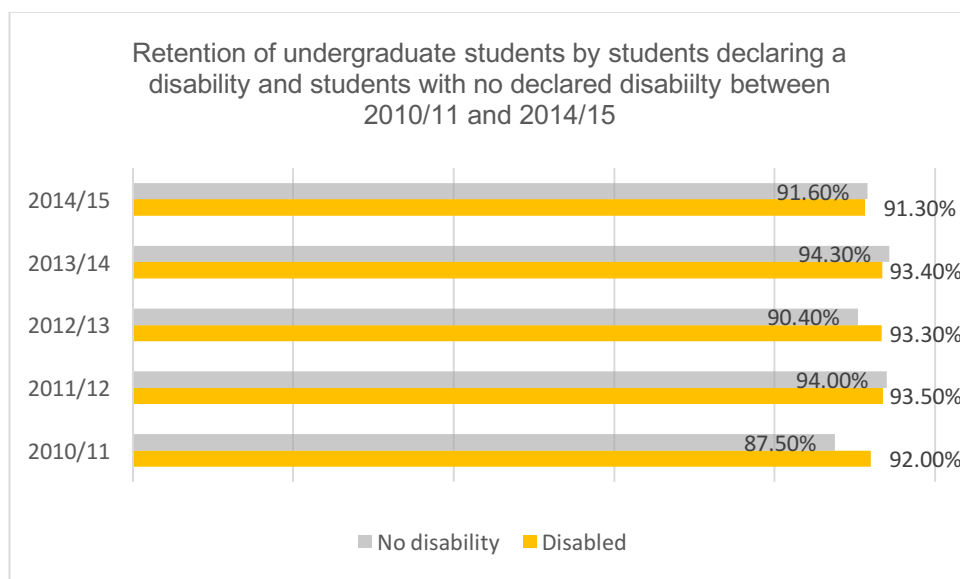


2.9.3 The chart above indicates the relative retention measures for students from socio-economic groups NS-SEC 4-7 (yellow) compared with measures for students from NS-SEC 1-3. Retention of both groups is comparable and well within the 5% tolerance band set for the purposes of measuring the success of our retention initiatives.

2.10 Students success: retention of students declaring a disability

2.10.1 Our aim is to ensure that the margin of differential in the retention of students from under-represented groups and the remainder of the cohort does not fall below -5% for students declaring a disability.

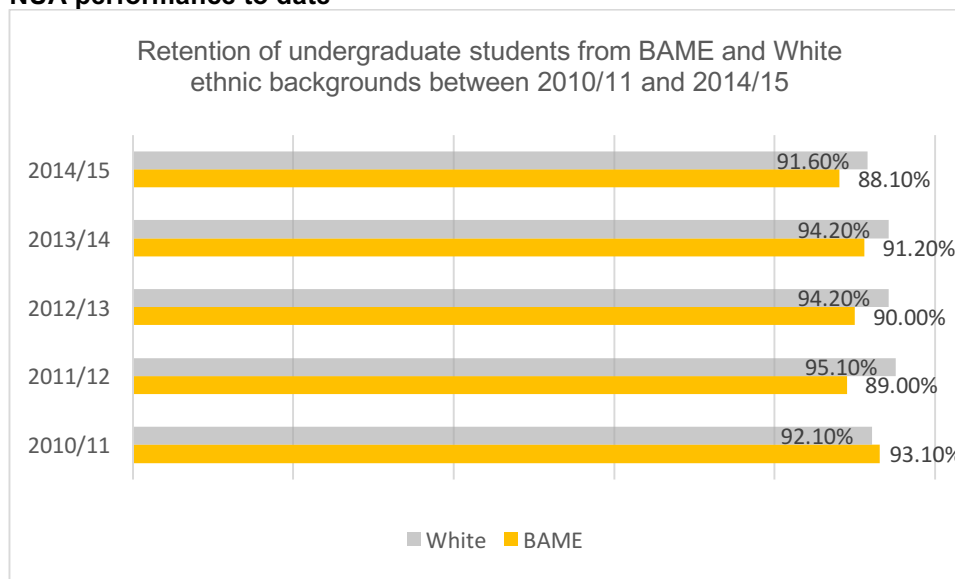
NUA performance to date



2.11 Students success: retention of students from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds

2.11.1 We aim to ensure that the margin of differential in the retention of students from under-represented groups and the remainder of the cohort does not fall below -5% for students from BAME origins. The following chart indicates that whilst the University has remained within its 5% target over the past 5 years, BAME students are more likely to have a lower retention rate than their white peers. This remains an area of focus for us in designing our future retention initiatives.

NUA performance to date



2.12 Multiple targets – student success and progression

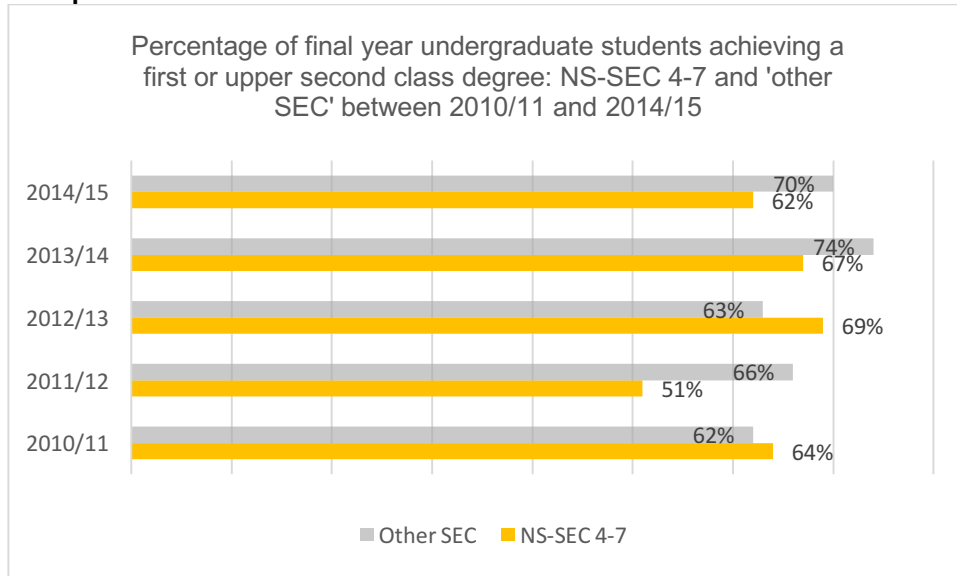
2.12.1 The University considers that the degree classification outcome of its student body is a key measure of both out course success and successful progression into employment. We have been routinely measuring and analysing the degree classifications of students from widening participation backgrounds when compared with their peers for a number of years and see this as a key indicator. In each scenario we have set our aspiration to achieve and retain a margin of differential of within 5% between the achievements of a first class, or higher second class, honours degree.

2.12.2 The following tables outline the targets and future milestones together with a summary of performance to date.

2.13 Success and progression: degree classification of students from socio-economic group NS-SEC 4-7

2.13.1 Our aim is to ensure that the margin of differential in the percentages of students from socio-economic group NS-SEC 4-7 achieving a First or Upper Second Class degree classification, does not fall below -5% compared with peers from other socio-economic groups.

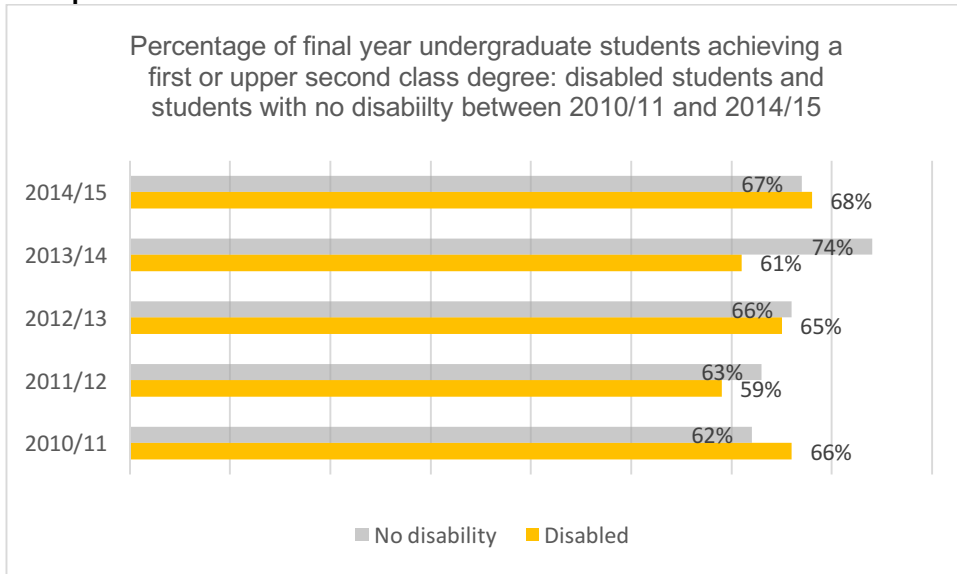
NUA performance to date



2.14 Success and progression: degree classification of students with a declared disability

2.14.1 We aim to ensure that the margin of differential in the percentages of students with a declared disability achieving a First or Upper Second Class degree classification, does not fall below -5% compared with peers who have not declared a disability.

NUA performance to date

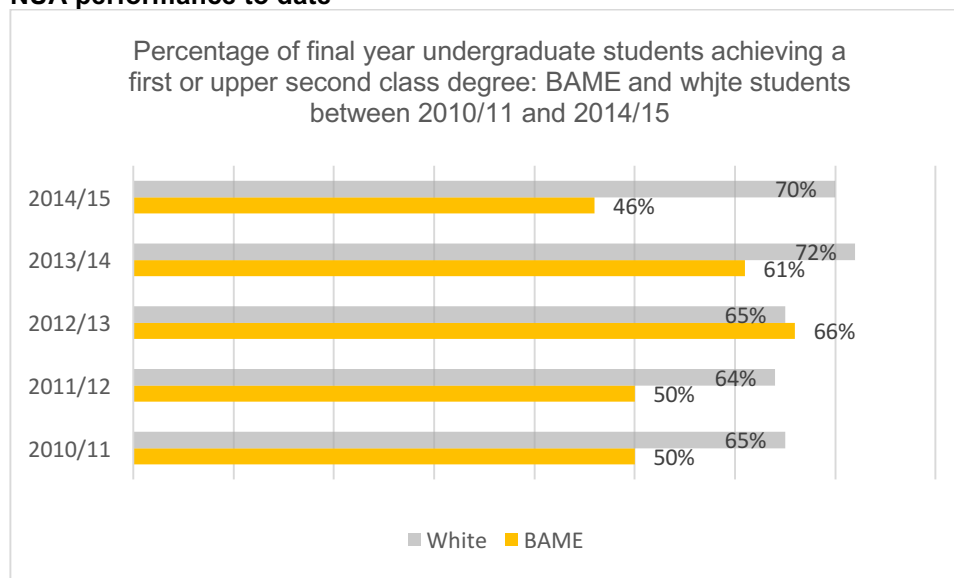


2.14.2 Through its inclusive curriculum and teaching practices, and range of support provided for disabled students, the University is maintaining the margin of differential that meets its targets. The anomaly to this set of results is those of graduating cohorts in 2013-14, where students with disabilities under-performed in relation to their peers with no declared disability. This graduating cohort would have largely been made up of 2011/12 entrants who were the last intake before the new fees were introduced in 2012/13. There is anecdotal evidence that students who might have normally completed an additional preparatory courses after A-levels, such as a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, had chosen to apply for a degree course without doing this in order to avoid paying the higher fees under the revised fee regime.

2.15 Success and progression: degree classification of students from BAME backgrounds

2.15.1 Again our aim to ensure that the margin of differential in the percentages of students from BAME backgrounds achieving a First or Upper Second Class degree classification, does not fall below -5% compared with peers from a predominantly white background.

NUA performance to date

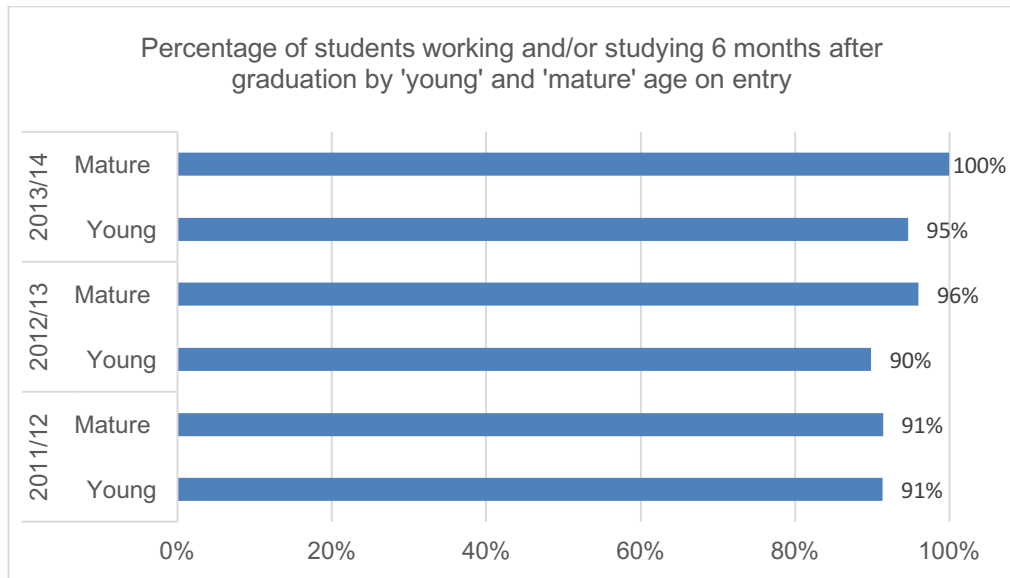


2.15.2 The achievement of a First or Upper Second class degree for BAME students compared to their white peers is an area that has already been identified as one requiring enhanced intervention by us through our own monitoring processes. Whilst the numbers of BAME students is small in each graduating cohort, the performance to date has resulted in a greater degree of fluctuation than anticipated. We are continuing to monitor the performance of BAME students compared to their White peers. In 2015-16 we have improved our in-year reporting and introduced in-year monitoring reports to enable early intervention based on provisional results from Year 0 onwards should results indicate a divergence in performance.

2.15.3 This will remain a key area of focus for our student success initiatives in order to further explore the challenges that may be impacting on BAME students at NUA and support measures that we are able to introduce in an effort to reverse this trend and improve the relative performance of BAME students.

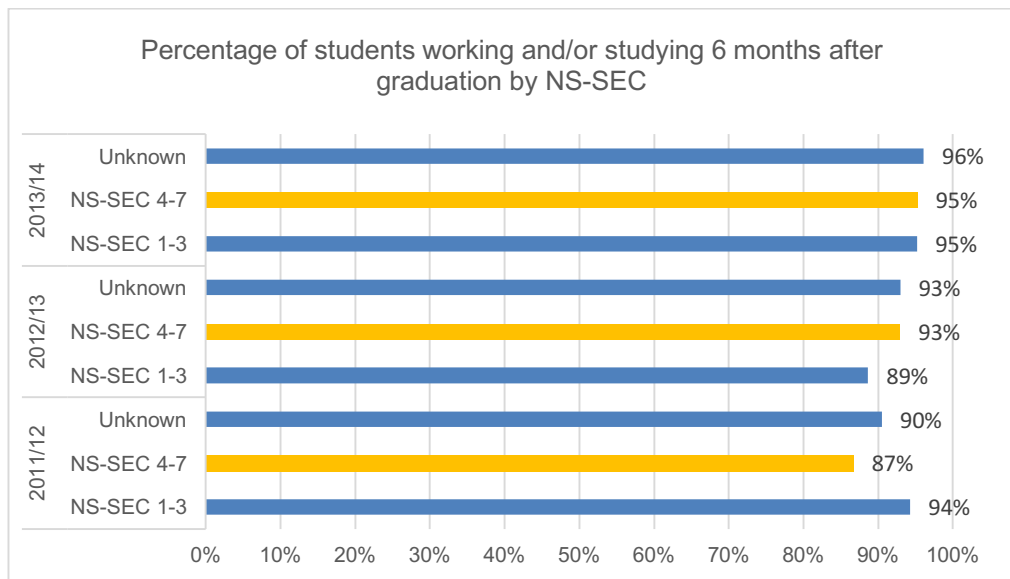
2.16 Progression: employment indicators for students six months after graduation

2.16.1 In taking an indicator of success for graduates of the success or otherwise of the various groups of WP students we have provided an analysis on the employment data obtained through the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey (DLHE) conducted on 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 graduates. The following charts show the percentage of survey respondents who were in work and/or further study 6 months after graduating for young and mature entrants, students from different socio-economic backgrounds, students with disabilities and students from Black, Asian, or Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds.



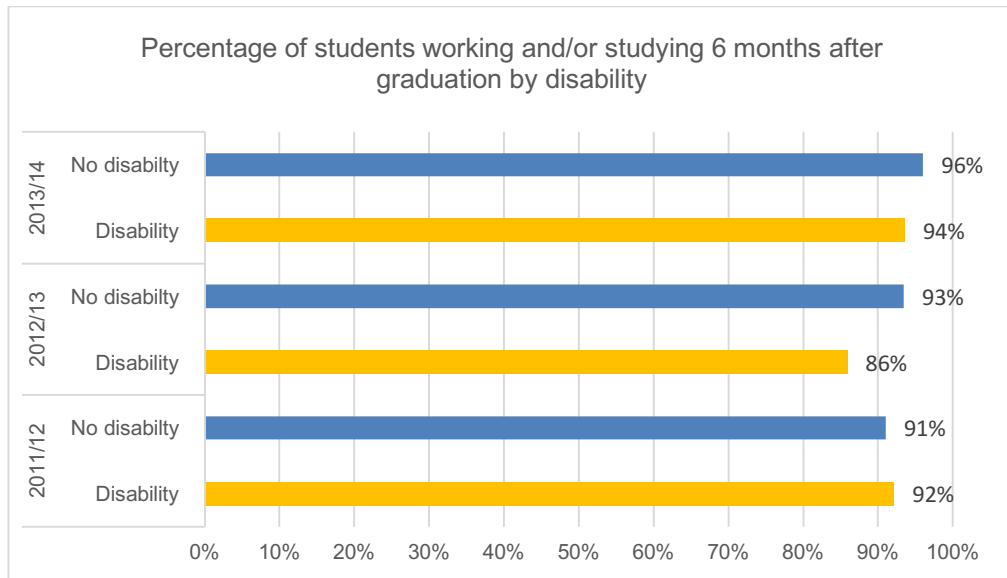
Source: Student Records System DLHE data

2.16.2 From our DLHE results mature entrants do not appear to be at a disadvantage in obtaining employment or further study after graduating. When looking into the type of job that each group are reporting, mature applicants appear to be more likely to obtain professional or managerial employment (Standard Occupational Class (SOC) 1, 2 or 3) with 80% of mature graduates obtaining employment in SOC 1-3.



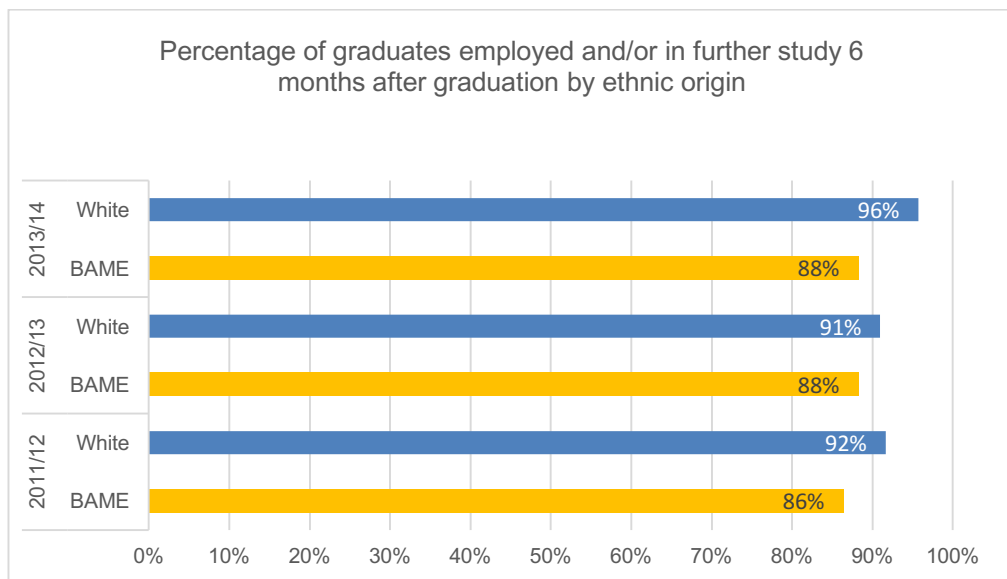
Source: Student Records System DLHE data

2.16.3 When viewing the employment results for students from different socio-economic backgrounds, our results have shown that results for the 2013/14 graduating cohort are evenly distributed with 95% of graduates from NS-SEC 4-7 either employed or in further study 6 months after graduation. This shows an improvement since 2011/12 when 87% of graduates from NS-SEC 4-7 backgrounds were in further study or employment, compared to 94% of graduates from NS-SEC 1-3. The 2013-14 results also showed that 62% of graduates from NS-SEC 4-7 were in professional or managerial employment compared to 65% of graduates from NS-SEC 1-3.



Source: Student Records System DLHE data

2.16.4 The 2013/14 DLHE data also indicates that there are relatively small differences in the percentage of graduates with disabilities in employment or further study at the time of the survey. There is slightly more fluctuation when we consider the type of employment. In January 2015, 57% of graduates with a disability were in professional or managerial employment compared to 68% with no disability. In January 2014 this relative performance was reversed, with 65% of students with disabilities being in professional or managerial employment compared to 60% of non-disabled graduates in the same category.



Source: Student Records System DLHE data

2.16.5 The 2013/14 DLHE results indicate that the percentage of students from BAME backgrounds is slightly lower than their white peers from the same graduating cohort. As with mature graduates, the numbers of BAME graduates are small making percentage indicators less reliable than for the larger population of white students. When considering the type of employment, BAME graduates appear more likely to be in professional or managerial employment categories; in 2013/14 73% of BAME respondents were in employment classed as professional or managerial compared to 65% of their white peers. Similarly in 2012/13 71% of BAME graduates were in professional or managerial employment compared with 65% of white graduates.

3 Fair Admissions

- 3.1 Admissions procedures at the University are designed to offer equal access to all applicants. The University works closely with SPA (Supporting Professionalism in Admissions) to ensure currency of admissions practice and to facilitate professional updating with regard to its admissions processes. The University also continues to engage with UCAS, GuildHE (Admissions Network), specialist art and design admissions fora and CHEAD to enhance its admissions procedures in keeping with current and emerging best practice in the sector. Revisions to entry profiles, published information, and procedures for assessing the needs of applicants with disabilities fully engage with SPA advice and Competition and Market Authority guidance.
- 3.2 In common with the majority of art, design and media HE providers, applicants are invited to interview and their potential is assessed on the quality of their portfolio of creative work. Applicants access information on the application and interview process, portfolio preparation and other services provided by the University through the on-line Applicant Portal. The University has continued to improve the information delivered through this portal which we believe enhances the experience of applicants enabling them to make arrangements for interviews online, at their convenience. This assists applicants from all backgrounds in simplifying the application and entry process and providing contact information for further queries. Feedback from applicants collated from the 2015/16 admissions round indicated that 97% of respondents agreed that the Applicant Portal was easy to use and 97% agreed that the information was clear and useful to them.
- 3.3 The University has in place specific provision for applicants who declare a disability; an initial offer is made on the basis of the academic judgment of the interview panel, and support needs are further assessed by the Disability Support Group to ensure that the University can meet students' individual requirements and facilitate reasonable adjustment where appropriate. The Applicant Portal contains information on how to access disability support for the interview and an explanation of the application process.
- 3.4 The University continues to maintain and extend its Progression Agreements with FE colleges, schools and academies, employing the principles and protocols developed by lifelong learning networks such as the National Arts Learning Network. We maintain our active engagement in the National Arts Learning Network, as an integral part of the UK Art and Design Institutions Association (UKADIA), who continue to help disseminate good practice within the sector.

4 Fees

- 4.1 Tuition fees for new entrants from 2017-18

The University will charge the maximum level of fees for new entrants on its undergraduate courses, as specified by Her Majesty's Government. At the time of writing this is £9,000 per annum, but this may rise by inflation within parameters permitted by the government. The exact fee will be confirmed on the University's website (www.nua.ac.uk) as soon as it is known.

In later years, fees will rise by no more than inflation and within permitted parameters from Her Majesty's Government.

The same fee level will be set for all undergraduate courses offered by the University.

5 Expenditure on access, student success and progression

- 5.1 The University expects to spend approximately £1,348,000 in 2017-18 on financial support, access, and student success and progression measures. This equates to approximately 23% of the forecast higher fee income.
- 5.2 This expenditure will be broadly split between direct financial support for students (£733,000) and access, student success and progression measures targeted at under-represented groups (£615,000).
- 5.3 All of this expenditure is countable under the definition provided by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA).

6 Expenditure on financial support

- 6.1 To maximise support from students from under-represented backgrounds the University will provide additional financial support. The University remains committed to the provision of bursaries for students with low household incomes as an effective measure in encouraging students to remain on their course.
- 6.2 Whilst some research has shown that financial support does not have a significant impact on students' choices of institution, or on retention rates, evidence routinely monitored by the University shows that the percentage of students withdrawing from their course who are eligible for bursaries is lower than the percentage of students withdrawing who are not eligible for financial support. In 2012-13 the percentage of bursary recipients who withdrew was 3% compared with 5% of students who were not in receipt of a bursary. The figures for 2013-14 continue to bear this out with 2.1% of students eligible for a bursary withdrawing compared with 4.3% of students who did not get a bursary. Likewise, for 2014-15 the percentage of bursary recipients who withdrew was 3.8% compared with 6.2% of students who were not in receipt of a bursary. We acknowledge that this will be attributable to a range of retention measures in operation of which the bursary is but a part. However, evidence from a survey of bursary students indicates that 100% of respondents were clear that the bursary has had a positive impact on their ability to study and make the best use of the learning opportunities available. The University will continue to monitor this data to ensure that it is effectively targeting its bursary provision.
- 6.3 In 2017-18 the University will offer a bursary of £1,000 per annum to new entrants if household income is assessed at £25,000 or less. The University will also offer a bursary of £500 per annum to new entrants if household income is assessed as £25,001 to £42,875. The bursary will be payable in February 2018. Students who withdraw prior to 1 February 2018, or who are not in regular attendance at this date, will not receive the bursary payment.
- 6.4 The affordability of this financial support is based on our estimates of additional fee income and our assumption that we will continue to receive the HEFCE Student Opportunity grant in 2017-18 onwards. If the latter is reduced, we will have to consider which areas of activity should be prioritised, which may mean a reduction in funds available for bursaries.
- 6.5 We will continue to honour existing bursary commitments for continuing students in 2017-18. These students should refer to the earlier years Access Agreements for the terms of these bursaries, which can be found at www.offa.org.uk.

7 Access – overview of planned activities

- 7.1.1 The University's access and outreach activities are normally planned in the light of entry and admissions data but always with a view to addressing the targets and benchmarks related to fair access, equality and diversity. Therefore our plans to reach out to those groups under-represented in HE over the forthcoming period are based on statistical evidence and our measurement of success against these. As a mature institution, our outreach practices are well-established, but to temper these, we are continually refining, revising and risk-managing admissions processes and the University seeks to strike an appropriate balance of activities divided between providing learner opportunity, recruitment and retention. Emerging practices in reaching WP students are informed by sector partners and peers, national references and data and more regional feedback from schools, colleges, individual applicants and other public and private sector organisations. Our re-stated intention is to continue to build on such activities, which are concentrated around WP learner constituencies in the wider community.
- 7.1.2 Whilst the British Art Show 8 and its ancillary outreach will be hosted by NUA in June-September 2016, it is anticipated that the outreach and other community engagements facilitated by this will continue far beyond the duration of the events. This has been the experience of other cities, but amongst the many KPI's associated with the show, outreach and community engagement with hard-to-reach groups and audiences features substantially. The outreach work to accompany this event will focus on rural communities, mature learners and potential young applicants identified from the IMD/NUA and Arts Council LPN map.
- 7.1.3 Evidence gathered in relation to our targets, milestones and activities has been obtained through questionnaires and semi-structured interviews, with views and evaluations systematically gathered and weighed from participants in 'taster' sessions, portfolio advisory sessions where pre- and post-activity evaluations were conducted with participants from Low Participation Neighbourhoods (LPNs). In a significant number of cases participants who stated that they were not considering applying to Higher Education prior to the session had changed their minds as a result of experiencing a 'taster' or other outreach session. It should be noted that this decision to apply did not solely pertain to the University, but that many then had a wider aspiration to enter UK HE both within and often beyond the region.
- 7.1.4 For 2016-17 the University aims to work towards its targets by revisiting and revitalizing its Progression Agreements and to re-examine its approaches to curriculum matching for effective outreach and progression. Most of the PA partners were identified as prioritised at a time when AimHigher and NALN were extremely active in the HE/FE environment, and with the changes in school curriculum and learning opportunities for potential mature applicants the agreements now seem ripe for review or recasting. In the forthcoming period, particular focus will be placed on local schools and other partner organisations where art and design remains a key learning opportunity. The University continues to support its Student Success Fund (SSF) of around £30k per annum to support and enhance the access, retention and attainment for WP students and the University's Learning and Teaching Fund makes an important contribution to supporting staff in understanding issues around fair access and fair opportunity.
- 7.1.5 In addition to a continued presence at key Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) events across the region and beyond, the University works closely with an ever increasing range of feeder institutions, schools, colleges and community groups to engage with those groups who would not naturally consider Higher Education as a future prospect. It is likely that the legacy of the British Art Show 8 will give greater profile and add momentum to these outreach initiatives.

- 7.1.6 The Schools and Colleges Day in June each year has been expanded further to incorporate practical subject demonstrations to demystify and democratise subject practice. This initiative has been increasingly well attended over the years and is now a real feature of the Schools and FE calendar. This is hugely important in terms of the engagement of the University with teachers, advisors and education and industry professionals from secondary and tertiary partner institutions and is key to encouraging informed progression to HE. In addition, in terms of 'reaching in' to schools at all levels, the Schools and Colleges Day and other associated events represent vital opportunities to provide accurate, clear and essential information to those (influencers) whose opinions carry great weight in terms of career and subject choices for pupils from Primary to Tertiary level and adult education.
- 7.1.7 Taster sessions and short courses are frequently geared to attract mature learners with no prior HE experience into the University environment, and these continue to be extremely popular. The University has built strong links with regional local adult education providers over the past five years and provide bespoke portfolio workshops and other subject/HE transition sessions for mature applicants to ensure additional support through the pre-application and application process. The University continues with its commitment to the established and very successful Student Ambassador Scheme as an effective tool for communicating with prospective applicants, interviewees and other visitors to the University. The Student Ambassador Scheme is in its 10th year and continues to grow in importance, maturity and stature in relation to outreach and external engagement.
- 7.1.8 The University continues to strive to enhance its engagement with potential applicants of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) origin, and this has included outreach sessions at a number of feeder sources with BAME and WP demographic. This, as mentioned before, is an area of challenge in terms of subject and geography for the University; but it is also a challenge that we recognise and are working hard to make progress. Over the past 4 years, the University has built on existing outreach activity with schools/colleges in Greater Manchester, Bedford, Hertfordshire, Leicester, Kingston and Greater London and the South East to pro-actively reach out to students from BAME backgrounds. The impact and effectiveness of these initiatives will continue to be monitored.
- 7.1.9 The University will also be participating in a number of events run jointly by partners in the Suffolk & Norfolk Collaborative Outreach network (see paragraph 1.5). This includes a Teachers Upskilling event, a summer school for Year 11 (held over 4 days), and an event for Looked-after children. NUA will also create some digital marketing materials for all of the partners to offer to school leavers, which will provide practical advice on challenges faced when transitioning from school to university.

8 Student success – overview of planned activities

- 8.1.1 Our retention and accompanying data generally confirm that we continue to exceed our adjusted sector benchmark for young, mature, Low Participation Neighbourhoods and overall aggregated entrants, but the University also acknowledges that there are areas for improvement and some areas where progress is incrementally and increasingly challenging within the current operating context for HE, but for specialist universities, transport communications and our location as reflected in our targets and measures.
- 8.1.2 The retention activities outlined in this section are specifically intended to support those HE students originating from WP backgrounds who are statistically more prone to withdraw from higher education during their course of study, but will, by the inclusive nature of our delivery, incidentally benefit all students.

- 8.1.3 In order to maintain current levels of retention, the University anticipates it will need to continue to increase its ongoing support to students from under-represented groups in various forms. The demands on student support, the expanding scale and importance of the PALs Scheme and the increasingly complex profiles of individual learner support needs mean that this area of work is continuing to grow and develop apace.
- 8.1.4 As mentioned previously, one of the keystones of the University's pro-active approach to retention is its continuing – and expanding - support for the Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Mentoring Scheme. The PAL Mentoring scheme provides training for undergraduate and postgraduate students to become subject-based mentors for students in successive year groups. The Scheme is been implemented across all undergraduate courses at NUA since 2006, and in conjunction with refinements to student support, finance, disability support, pastoral guidance and counselling, retention has steadily risen to its current level of 95% average across all years of study.
- 8.1.5 PAL Mentors are supported by a dedicated PAL Mentor Coordinator and for 2016-17 some additional hourly paid support whose responsibility is to organise training for the mentors and to provide an academic and pastoral lead for the scheme. The PAL Mentor Coordinator will continue to focus retention initiatives and support on students from under-represented groups in HE and will be supported by the Academic Registry in terms of relevant data sets where appropriate. The University is also investing in a new senior Head of Library and Learning Support role to ensure best service to those students within the academic community who are not necessarily or habitually accustomed to the rigours and conventions of academic study (this in itself is a challenge to retention).
- 8.1.6 The University will continue its specific retention initiative aimed at better supporting first year undergraduate students which is specifically targeted at students within the priority groups (see 2.6 – 2.11). Additionally, work is in progress to see what measure might be usefully put in place to facilitate a smoother transition for WP learners into HE. The NUA Coordinated Support Group comprises senior academics, managers and professional services staff and targets support specifically towards learners from WP backgrounds. The NUA Coordinated Support Group has proven itself as a mechanism which effectively identifies and supports WP students who statistically, are more likely to withdraw from their HE course of study. This project concentrates on enhancing the effective coordination of existing student support in all its aspects, working closely with the SU Student Welfare Committee and the NUA Coordinated Support Group, to better understand some of the more subtle, underlying issues that face students entering into, and adjusting to, Higher Education. Complementary work is taking place through periodic reviews of awards to ensure that the transition from school, FE or adult education is supported through curriculum design and terminology.
- 8.1.7 The University is committed to making reasonable adjustments, wherever possible in order to encourage and accommodate learners from WP backgrounds. The integrated approach to the identification and support of students with additional needs was recognised as a feature of good practice by the QAA (QAA Institutional Audit Report, November 2010). Particular initiatives developed by the SU and NUA in partnership include and exhibition highlighting Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) continued work on Black History Month and Mental Health Awareness campaigns.
- An expanded programme of CPD for academic and professional services staff has served to better support the integration of study skills delivery to WP students has been implemented but also enhanced and routinely updated to include new staff at the University. This consisted of additional funding for extra

taught sessions delivered specifically to WP students to ensure that the skills of study and cultural capital required for academic success were appropriately reinforced. This evidence is visible through retention rates and achievement statistics for student from WP backgrounds.

- As mentioned elsewhere, during 2014-15 the University developed HEA Accredited CPD and PG Cert HE provision which is focused around pedagogy and reflection on professional practice. One of the key outcomes of the Scheme is that individuals and groups of staff are required to carry out sanctioned, evidence-based classroom interventions to specifically support WP learners. These interventions are evaluated. Equality and diversity and the equalization of cultural capital are key elements of the Scheme which enables staff achievements to be recognised against the UKPSF at categories D1-D3.

9 Progression – overview of planned activities

- 9.1.1 NUA graduate progress to careers or further study where they can exercise their creativity. Employability and progression in all its aspects, whether through the transition to HE from school or through academic years is viewed as a key indicator of support and success. Professional Practice is a vital and common strand within our academic framework as embodied in the Award and Credit Scheme, with live project briefs and projects undertaken throughout the course, many through our creative consultancy Ideas Factory^{NUA}. This enables students to develop commercial, client-facing skills; to work to a specific brief and timetable. These projects may be delivered via entrepreneurial routes in their own business or through funded projects, or indeed through employment within the creative economy or within other businesses or organisations delivering creative thinking.
- 9.1.2 The University has long recognised the importance of targeted support for WP students to facilitate success during study but also progression into employment and/or further study. The University will offer a number of particular initiatives to promote entrepreneurship for WP learners and continues to invest in its project to bring graduating students through business start-up and to provide the necessary support until they are ready to grow their businesses and take up commercial premises. These initiatives and support are provided by the University in the form of its Digital Creative Incubation Unit for digital creative businesses (which opened in 2015), with the support of the HEFCE and the Regional LEP (New Anglia). Uniquely, it provides facilities for collaboration within the unit with other start-ups, current students and with NUA staff. It provides high-quality shared facilities and access to NUA's extensive professional facilities and equipment.
- 9.1.3 Portfolio working and freelance careers are also encompassed as part of our work to support WP learners, and this is an aspect of study which often presents particular challenges for WP students in terms of history, experience and confidence. Employability skills are developed through the Professional Practice component of the curriculum and is a compulsory element for all UG and PG students at the University. Students receive sessions from HM Revenue & Customs, finance, IP and Patent Attorneys and other professionals associated with creative industries in addition to a range of work-based learning opportunities and industry engagement.
- 9.1.4 Taught sessions on pricing work and creative services to business are also encompassed, with expert advice to support students in making the transition from HE to employment. Opportunities such as New Designers, the Designers and Art Directors Awards (D&AD) and Graduate Fashion Week are also seen as key opportunities for learners to embark on their careers.

- 9.1.5 Since the introduction of the ERASMUS+ Widening Participation premium for students, NUA undergraduates from under-represented backgrounds have been successful in receiving these targeted awards to support their mobility in studying in a European partner University.
- 9.1.6 The NUA Business Strategy identifies targets for the number of students across all courses who have worked on Ideas Factory^{NUA} projects, with commercial partners, supported by the Business Director and their academic tutors.
- 9.1.7 Ideas Factory^{NUA} is furthermore supported by strong links to the city's vibrant industry meet-up groups, such as Hot Source and SyncNorwich, as well as start-up networks such as Eastern Enterprise Hub, Archant's Future 50 Group, Brainchild and the Hethel Centre.
- 9.1.8 From the perspective of internal progression to further study, a number of in-house events are held each year to acquaint undergraduate students with information regarding Postgraduate Taught (PGT) and Postgraduate Research (PGR) opportunities within the University and within the HE sector more widely in terms of subjects not offered by NUA.

10 Targets and milestones

10.1 Measures to support access

The overarching aim of the University is to ensure that students from under-represented groups continue to feel able to aspire to higher education study and that this remains a viable option for students from these groups. This will be achieved through a combination of outreach activity, inclusive admissions procedures and high quality information, advice and guidance to encourage applicants from all groups in society to apply to NUA. The following targets and milestones are designed to measure the success in terms of the outcomes of measures to support access to higher education. The targets set are aspirational and will be challenging for the University to accomplish within the timeframe. With uncertainties in the future of higher education policy there is still some question over whether recent trends in participation are sustainable. In the event of a significant reduction in national participation which makes our absolute targets unachievable we will at least exceed the location adjusted benchmark for participation of the under-represented groups that we are seeking to attract and retain.

- 10.1.1 Target: To increase the proportion of young full-time undergraduate entrants from NS-SEC 4-7 and to remain above the location adjusted benchmark in all years (*HESA Table T1a – NS-SEC classes 4-7 – Young full-time, first degree entrants*). In 2013/14 the proportion of young entrants from SEC4-7 was 41.7% rising from 35.5% in 2011/12.

Milestones:

Year	Proportion
2016-17	Young NS-SEC 4-7 = target of 43.0%
2017-18	Young NS-SEC 4-7 = target of 43.5%
2018-19	Young NS-SEC 4-7 = target of 44.0%
2019-20	Young NS-SEC 4-7 = target of 45.0%

- 10.1.2 Target: To increase the proportion of young full-time undergraduate entrants from low participation neighbourhoods (LPNs) and to remain above the location adjusted benchmark in all years (*HESA Table T1a – Low participation neighbourhoods (POLAR3) – Young, full-time, first degree entrants*). In 2013/14 17.3% of new

entrants were from LPNs, increasing from 13.2% in 2011/12.

Milestones:

Year	Proportion
2016-17	Young LPN = 18.7%
2017-18	Young LPN = 19.5%
2018-19	Young LPN = 20.3%
2019-20	Young LPN = 21.0%

- 10.1.3 Target: to increase the proportion of mature full-time undergraduate entrants. (*HESA Table 2A – Mature, full-time, first degree entrants*). In 2012-13 the University experienced a decline in applications and enrolments for mature undergraduate entrants, in line with national trends, from 22.1% to 13.0% of new entrants. In 2013-14, the proportion of mature undergraduate entrants increased to 15.3%.

Milestones:

Year	Proportion
2016-17	Mature undergraduate entrants = 17.0%
2017-18	Mature undergraduate entrants = 18.0%
2018-19	Mature undergraduate entrants = 19.0%
2019-20	Mature undergraduate entrants = 20.0%

- 10.1.4 Target: to increase the proportion of UK domiciled students from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic BAME origin.

Milestones:

Year	Proportion
2016-17	10.0%
2017-18	10.5%
2018-19	11.0%
2019-20	11.0%

- 10.1.5 Target – outreach: NUA will develop a shared programme of CPD and HE training for teachers with other HEIs and will hold one event per year.

Milestones:

Year	Number of events
2016-17	1
2017-28	1
2018-19	1
2019-20	1

- 10.1.6 Target: to continue to work with regional schools, colleges and academies identified as high priority through the Indices of Multiple Deprivation Index (IMD) to target pupils from under-represented groups and raise awareness of and aspirations to undergraduate study from year 9 through to year 12/13 (target expressed as number of targeted activities).

Milestones:

Year	Number of targeted activities
2016-17	34
2017-18	36
2018-19	38
2019-20	40

- 10.1.7 Target: to develop and renew Progression Agreements with targeted schools and colleges. The University has committed itself to increasing the number of projected Progression Agreements for the forthcoming period. This is in line with a revised assessment on the impact of existing agreements, and an increase in the interest expressed by feeder courses in putting these in place for the future.

Milestones:

Year	Number of targeted activities
2016-17	37
2017-18	38
2018-19	39
2019-20	40

- 10.1.8 Target: to work with local and regional networks to provide outreach events for mature students, to raise awareness of, and aspirations to, study at undergraduate level (target expressed as number of targeted activities).

Milestones:

Year	Number of targeted activities
2016-17	15
2017-18	20
2018-19	25
2019-20	25

- 10.1.9 Target: to work with at least one local primary school in long-term outreach activity aimed at a targeted cohort of students from Key Stage 2 with a range of activities to raise awareness and encourage aspirations to progress to higher education.

Milestones:

Year	Number of sessions per annum
2016-17	1
2017-18	3
2018-19	5
2019-20	6

10.2 Measures to support success

The overarching aim of the University is to ensure that students from under-represented groups are supported to remain 'on course' and achieve their full potential in their chosen award. This University supports all students through its inclusive curriculum and student support services, but recognises that some students from less advantaged backgrounds may need additional support measures to enable them to achieve to their full potential. These have been implemented in the form of additional support for academic writing for WP students in years 2 and 3 of undergraduate study.

10.2.1 Target: to continue to ensure that the percentage of young entrants who drop out of Higher Education falls below 5% and the percentage is lower than the HESA benchmark (*HESA Table T3a – no longer in HE after 1 year (Young, full-time, first degree entrants)*). In 2013/14 8.0% of students were no longer in HE against a benchmark of 7.7%

Milestones:

Year	Proportion no longer in HE
2016-17	6.0%
2017-18	5.0%
2018-19	4.5%
2019-20	4.0%

10.2.2 Target: to continue to ensure that the percentage of mature entrants who drop out of Higher Education falls below 10% and the percentage is lower than the HESA benchmark (*HESA table T3a – no longer in HE after 1 year (mature, full-time, first degree entrants)*). In 2013-14, the proportion of mature entrants who were no longer in HE was 13.7% compared with the HESA location adjusted benchmark of 12.6%.

Milestones:

Year	Proportion no longer in HE
2016-17	12.0%
2017-18	11.0%
2018-19	10.0%
2019-20	9.0%

10.2.3 Target: to reduce the percentage of young entrants from low participation neighbourhoods who drop out of Higher Education and continue the University's successful performance in this area of retaining drop out levels below the HESA benchmark. In 2013-14, the proportion of young entrants from LPNs who were no longer in HE after starting a course in 2012-13 was 7.9% compared to a HESA location adjusted benchmark of 8.4%.

Milestones:

Year	Proportion no longer in HE
2016-17	6.4%
2017-18	6.0%
2018-19	5.5%
2019-20	5.0%

10.2.4 Target: to ensure that the margin of differential in the retention of students from under-represented groups and the remainder of the cohort does not fall below -5% for students from socio-economic backgrounds NS-SEC 4-7.

Milestones:

Year	Margin of differential
2016-17	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2017-18	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2018-19	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2019-20	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%

- 10.2.5 Target: to ensure that the margin of differential in the retention of students from under-represented groups and the remainder of the cohort does not fall below -5% for students declaring a disability.

Milestones:

Year	Margin of differential
2016-17	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2017-18	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2018-19	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2019-20	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%

- 10.2.6 Target: to ensure that the margin of differential in the retention of students from under-represented groups and the remainder of the cohort does not fall below -5% for students from BAME origins.

Milestones:

Year	Margin of differential
2016-17	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2017-18	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2018-19	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2019-20	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%

- 10.2.7 Target: to increase the number of student peers on the Peer Assisted Learning scheme (PAL Mentors - see paragraph 8.1.4).

Milestones:

Year	Proportion no longer in HE
2016-17	80
2017-18	85
2018-19	90
2019-20	95

10.3 Measures to support success and progression

- 10.3.1 Target: to ensure that the margin of differential in the percentages of students from socio-economic group NS-SEC 4-7 achieving a First or Upper Second Class degree classification, does not fall below -5% compared with peers not from other socio-economic groups.

Milestones:

Year	Margin of differential
2016-17	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2017-18	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2018-19	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2019-20	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%

- 10.3.2 Target: to ensure that the margin of differential in the percentages of students declaring a disability achieving a First or Upper Second Class degree classification, does not fall below -5% compared with peers not from other socio-economic groups.

Milestones:

Year	Margin of differential
2016-17	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2017-18	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2018-19	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2019-20	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%

- 10.3.3 Target: to ensure that the margin of differential in the percentages of students from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) origin achieving a First or Upper Second Class degree classification, does not fall below -5% compared with peers from a predominantly white background.

Milestones:

Year	Margin of differential
2016-17	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2017-18	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2018-19	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%
2019-20	Margin of differential to remain at or above -5%

10.4 Measures to support progression

- 10.4.1 Target: to deliver employability sessions through the Employability Adviser specifically aimed at WP groups in Years 1, 2 and 3, to provide tailored opportunities to engage with employability preparation and career planning (in addition to regular professional practice covered within the curriculum). The target sessions have been notionally set as a minimum for 2016-17 and onwards: the actual delivery will be dependent on demand and on evaluation of student feedback and the type and number of sessions may vary between different year groups.

Milestones:

Year	Margin of differential
2016-17	2 sessions to each year group
2017-18	3 sessions to each year group
2018-19	4 sessions to each year group
2019-20	5 sessions to each year group

11 Equality and diversity

- 11.1 The University is committed to creating an inclusive and supportive learning and working environment based on mutual respect and trust. Our Equality & Diversity Policy Statement looks at ways to positively promote equality of opportunity and to challenge and strive to eliminate unlawful discrimination. The University acknowledges the duty of higher education in promoting equality of opportunity and furthering social inclusion, and our commitment to equality and diversity is made explicit throughout our Strategic Plan and Student Experience Strategy and is integrated into all aspects of our culture.
- 11.2 We have taken equality issues into account in designing this agreement and have paid due regard to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.
- 11.3 Our targets include increasing the proportion of UK domiciled students from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) origin (10.1.4). We have also set targets to ensure that the margin of differential for students from such under-represented groups does not fall below the rest of the student population for either retention (10.2.6), or achievement levels (10.3.3).

12 Monitoring and evaluation

- 12.1 The delivery of the commitments outlined in this Agreement is the responsibility of the whole University community, led by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and monitored by the Senior Management Team. Deans of Faculty and teaching staff,

staff in Marketing and Recruitment and staff in Academic Registry, Course Administration, Student Support and Employability work collaboratively towards the success of measures outlined above.

- 12.2 The outcomes of the activities outlined in this Access Agreement are monitored annually and reported on as part of the Access Agreement and Student Opportunity allocation monitoring returns, or other statutory reporting requirements as outlined by OFFA. In addition to statistical measures, methods of evaluation involving interviews, focus groups and surveys of participants of both outreach and retention activities will be used to provide an evaluation of the effectiveness of activities undertaken to fulfill the University's commitment to fair access.
- 12.3 Progress will be evaluated by measuring outcomes against the targets and milestones set out in section 10, recorded through the University's management information systems, and, where appropriate, benchmarked against published HESA data and location adjusted benchmarks.
- 12.4 Outreach activity will continue to be monitored on the numbers of targeted students at schools and colleges reached in each academic year, and management information data on the University's admissions and recruitment records.
- 12.5 Retention measures will be evaluated and judged against achievement against the milestones and targets and also using measures of success (successful progression on course and successful achievement of the intended award).
- 12.6 Progress will be reported on an annual basis to the University's Senate. The Students' Union President will represent students on the Senate.

13 Student involvement in the Access Agreement

- 13.1 The University has consulted with its Students' Union in the drafting of the 2017-18 Access Agreement.

The Students' Union President has provided the following statement:

As President of the Students' Union at Norwich University of the Arts and a member of NUA's Equality and Diversity Committee, I confirm that I have played an active part of the discussions and consideration of fair access and widening participation here at the University.

The Students' Union has an ongoing commitment to equality and diversity, both in terms of access to higher education and support throughout a student's time at university. The Students' Union is supporting the work of the University through its own aims to introduce Liberation Officers to support students from under-represented groups in the NUA Community.

We are particularly supportive of the University's continuation of the direct bursary support for students from low-income households. It is essential that we continue to support diversity in the student body and to focus our energies on those with ability who most deserve the opportunity of Higher Education, regardless of ethnic or socio-economic origin, household income, disability, age, postcode or background.

Hollie Cook
President of the Students Union, 2015-16

- 13.2 The University involves students directly in the implementation of the Access Agreement through their direct participation in outreach activities with local schools

and colleges; leading discussion groups, working with small groups, or assisting in practical skills workshops under the supervision of the Recruitment Officer. In addition, in November/December of each year, focus groups of undergraduate students by course are hosted by senior managers of the University to ensure student awareness of the overall strategy and focus.

- 13.3 Students also play a vital role in helping to support the University's retention activities directly through participation in the Peer Assisted Learning mentoring Scheme (PALs) as outlined in section 8, paragraph 8.1.4, and through participation in the Student Representatives System and Students' Union.

14 Provision of information to prospective students

- 14.1 The University is committed to providing timely and accurate advice on its fees and the financial support available to current and prospective students.
- 14.2 The University will publish information on fees and financial support for 2017-18 on the University website and through the UCAS Entry Profiles. In addition, the University updates and refines information entitled 'The Student Experience at NUA' which outlines clearly and explicitly to applicants what is included in the course fee and what is not, and those elements that are optional.
- 14.3 Two pilots are in progress to support WP learners, the first is within film and is an e-book which supports WP finalist to make a successful transition to employment or to progress to further study; the second initiative is related to fashion and is again an e-book which offers WP learners supplementary information on managing costs, securing sponsorship and making the most of optional professional opportunities provided by the course.
- 14.4 In 2016-17 the University will conclude a longitudinal study of course costs by subject and year, and this should provide some further granularity and bespoke support, advice and guidance for applicants and current students alike.
- 14.5 Information on fees and financial support for students who enrolled on a course of study prior to September 2017 will be published on the University intranet for current students, and on the University website to assist any student who wishes to apply for a transfer into the University from another course of study.