

## 2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

### Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by The Royal Academy of Music 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

The Royal Academy of Music's ambition and strategy as detailed in the 2019-20 access and participation plan:

A summary of the activities and support planned for 2019-20, to improve access, success and progression:

1. Raising money with the specific purpose of supporting students from underrepresented groups.
2. Sustained work with our partner schools through Open Academy to encourage attainment and inspire young children to get involved with music.
3. Sustained work through Junior Academy to fund places for children from underrepresented groups through working directly with specific schools.
4. Further promotion of the support we offer to disabled candidates for auditions and disabled students who study with us.
5. Continue to promote and offer audition fee waivers to remove as many barriers as possible for those from underrepresented groups.
6. A system of 'smart intervention' where we identify bespoke measures that could support an individual student with raising attainment sufficiently to progress into either Junior Academy or Senior Academy.
7. Sustained interrogation of application, admissions and attainment data to identify trends and allow a more informed effective approach to improving access.
8. Continue to foster and embed a 'whole institution approach' to widening participation.
9. Work closely with students in all areas of work contributing to improving access, success and progression

## 2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by The Royal Academy of Music 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 The Royal Academy of Music'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_02 (Access)	To increase the percentage of applications from students in POLAR 1 and 2 from 2013-14 baseline.	2013-14	7%	9%	9.5%	Percentage	2019-20	6.8	No progress
T16a_03 (Progression)	To maintain the percentage of UK Undergraduate students progressing into employment or further study	2015-16	100%	99%	99%	Percentage	2017-18	96	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Access)	To increase the percentage of entrants from low participation neighbourhoods (POLAR 3) from 2013-14 baseline	2013-14	3.7%	5.5%	6%	Percentage	2019-20	3.7	No progress
T16a_05 (Access)	Increase the number of new UK UG BME entrants	2016-17	12%	14%	15%	Percentage	2019-20	15	Expected progress
T16a_06 (Access)	Increase the number of applications from UK UG BME groups	2016-17	7%	8%	9%	Percentage	2019-20	17.1	Expected progress

Other milestones and targets

Reference Number (lifecycle stage)	Description	Baseline year	Baseline data	2018-19 milestone	2019-20 milestone	Units of target	Comparison year	Actual performance in comparison year	Target self-assessment
T16b_01 (Other/Multiple stages)	Increase number of embedded strategic partners with Open Academy	2013-14	2	5	6	Headcount	2019-20	5	Expected progress
T16b_02 (Access)	Increase progression from Junior Academy into Conservatoire education	2013-14	33	50%	53%	Percentage	2019-20	54	Expected progress
T16b_03 (Access)	Growth in number of places on First Strings experience which are ring-fenced for BME students or those from areas of high deprivation	2016-17	5	7	8	Headcount	2019-20	8	Expected progress
T16b_04 (Access)	Increase expenditure on Junior Academy bursaries to children from the lowest income backgrounds by 2% each year	2013-14	0	2%	2%	Percentage	2019-20	2	Expected progress

### 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	£122,559.00	£141,000.00	15%
Financial Support	£291,600.00	£649,000.00	123%

### 4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected The Royal Academy of Music 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_02	We have introduced audition fee waivers and travel subsidiaries (up to £100) for attending. We will encourage more take up of this offer via our Access and Participation initiatives. We shall also expand the online auditions process as our A&P activities during COVID suggest this reaches more diverse applicants.
T16a_04	We are examining our admissions process including establishing a mentored applications process, making better use of contextual data and fundraising for a foundation year.

## 5. Confirmation

The Royal Academy of Music confirms that:

Student engagement	
Have you worked with your students to help them complete the access and participation plan monitoring student submission?	
No	
Have you engaged with your student body in the design, evaluation, and monitoring of the plan?	
Yes	
Verification and sign off	
The Royal Academy of Music 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 Jonathan Freeman-Attwood
Position	Principal

## Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

The Royal Academy of Music's commentary where progress against targets was less than expected.

<b>Target reference number: T16a_02</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Not yet
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Going forwards, with our new Access and Participation Manager we have introduced a series of smart interventions within low participation areas - postponed to 2020-21 due to COVID .We have already seen an impact in Junior and Senior academy from the activities delivered - with 3 students being accepted on to our programmes (a significantly high number of the Academy). It is also a working priority of the Dean of Students to bring Access and Participation into the Senior Management Strategy.

<b>Target reference number: T16a_04</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Not yet
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Going forwards, with our new Access and Participation Manager we have introduced a series of smart interventions within low participation areas - postponed to 2020-21 due to COVID .We have already seen an impact in Junior and Senior academy from the activities delivered - with 3 students being accepted on to our programmes (a significantly high number of the Academy). It is also a working priority of the Dean of Students to bring Access and Participation into the Senior Management Strategy,

## Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

The Royal Academy of Music's commentary on any of the targets listed in [Section 2](#).

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_02	
T16a_03	The latest available data from the Graduate Outcome Survey (2017-18) shows a slight dip but we expect the high level of employment to continue given the schemes of student support offered in success and progression
T16a_04	
T16a_05	
T16a_06	
T16b_01	
T16b_02	
T16b_03	
T16b_04	The first national lockdown impacted on the Junior Academy experience with a reduced amount of teaching and as a result fees for the summer term were slightly lower. Bursaries were in most cases reduced proportionately, but with increased targeted support for families who had lost income during the pandemic