

# Widening Participation 2021 Highlights

We are so proud of what we've achieved in another challenging year for all our staff, students and the young people and schools we work with. This report focuses on some of the highlights of 2020/21, plus key stats relating to our work to improve access, success and progression for underrepresented groups in Higher Education.

> Pre-16 outreach

> Post-16 access

> Fair admissions and funding

> Outstanding learning and student experience

> Successful graduates

> APP Targets

## Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic saw the majority of programmes transition their delivery online for the 2020/21 academic year.



**550**

schools participated in



**2,972**

Widening Participation (WP) activities, totalling over



**9,152**

contact hours<sup>1</sup>



**48%**  
of schools and colleges reached were 'high priority', including the top 5 schools in Greater Manchester we engaged with the most<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Excluding Great Science Share for Schools data due to their very large number of engagements (212,000).

<sup>2</sup> According to the Manchester Prioritisation Model, our in house targeting tool.

## Monitoring and Evaluation Update

During 2020/21 we've continued to work on delivering our Evaluation Action Plans, using guidance and best practice from the sector to develop our monitoring and evaluation practice. We've made use of remote working technologies to make our evaluation practice and resources more collaborative and interactive. These have included:

- An online WP Evaluation Training course available to all staff and students
- A piece of research investigating racial bias in evaluation
- Collaborations with the sector, e.g. through [TASO](#), [NERUPI](#) and Bristol University research
- A new schools and colleges targeting tool created in PowerBI
- Creative evaluation training and workshops
- Training PhD students as 'Data and Evaluation Partners' to support our evaluation activity
- Increased use of the Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT) to log WP activity and track learners through education

## Data for our pre-University WP activities showed

**75%**  
of the young people we worked with live in high deprivation neighbourhoods (IMD)

**53%**  
of the young people we worked with live in low progression to HE areas (POLAR4)

# Pre-16

**212k** young people engaged in the Great Science Share for Schools 2021 campaign.



## Gateways



**27** schools and **856** pupils attended at least one of the **72** Gateways events

## Project Inc

Project Inc is a Specialist College focusing on creative study programmes for 16-25 year-olds which is currently being piloted at Manchester Museum.

*“ My son feels more able to express his neurodiversity and how it impacts his life with other people. Speech and language support are also enabling myself and my son to manage our anxieties and to build routines which work for our everyday lives. ”*

Parent feedback

**UMSGI** (School Governor Initiative)



Over **1,000** governors placed through UMSGI across England

## Tutor Trust



UoM Tutor Trust tutors supported **2,130** Greater Manchester pupils with **7,055** hours of tuition

**Watch or read** about the experiences of Matt, a third year UoM Mechanical Engineering student and tutor at Tutor Trust.



# Post-16

## Access All Areas Over 60 prospective

Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Ophthalmology students were matched with a student mentor through the MedReach programme.



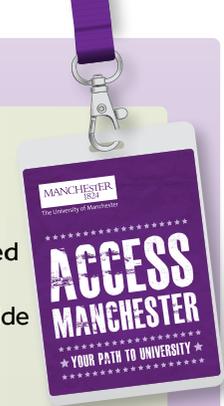
## Pathways to Law with the Sutton Trust

**34** young people joined the 2020/22 cohort



## Access Manchester

Access Manchester hosted two webinars and the website was used to provide information for students through videos and blog posts such as 'Student Finance in Real Life' and 'Research the Researcher'.



## Manchester Distance Access Scheme (MDAS)

**360** students enrolled onto MDAS | **11%** increase compared to 2019/20

## Manchester Access Programme (MAP)



**535** students completed MAP

*“ MAP exceeded my expectations as the support was amazing during lockdown and we weren't just given work to complete in silence at home. I felt encouraged to achieve my full potential during this difficult period. There was a virtual sense of community which I didn't expect to be achieved online. ”*

MAP Student



# Fair Admissions and Funding

## Article 26 Scholarships

# 13

**students**  
were supported  
by our Article 26  
Scholarships

“Determined to experience undergraduate education and achieve my ambition, Article 26 has literally paved the way for me to acquire a vocation I am profoundly passionate about.

Article 26 Scholar

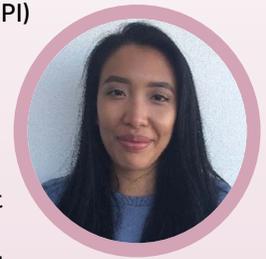
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# Successful Graduates

## Case Study

### Anggita Gunawan MSc International Development

Anggita's role as a Student Partner Intern (SPI) in the Careers Service included working on different WP-focused projects. Anggita conducted and presented research and findings at a WP CPD session and also collaborated with other SPIs to produce the 'Student Speed Networking Event' aimed at WP students, to encourage networking and increase career opportunities. Anggita said:



“I loved how I was trusted with my ideas and visions and our collaboration led to a successful event, with many people going away feeling more confident about their networking skills.”

# Outstanding Learning and Student Experience

## CEES

This year, our support for [care experienced](#) and [estranged students](#) (CEES) at UoM has included new monthly newsletters as well as providing:



# 21

welcome packages  
for first-year  
students in halls



# 17

Christmas  
gifts to  
students  
in halls



# £1,000

summer bursaries to  
19 final-year students

“I've found the support incredibly helpful, particularly the emails and newsletter informing me about opportunities because through that, I have now been offered a job at the Tutor Trust and I have also got a place as an Upreach Associate so I have found the information provided really beneficial.

Care experienced  
student

”

## IT Access Scheme

The IT Access Scheme is part of the broader package of support for students offered through [helpmegetonline](#).

# 375

pieces of equipment

including laptops and dongles were loaned, ensuring students were not prevented from participating in or accessing online learning due to barriers such as lack of funds.

## Institute for Teaching and Learning

The Institute for Teaching and Learning awarded 351 AdvanceHE fellowships in 2020/21, resulting in

# 1,005

fellowships in total through the LEAP programme

# 110

are taught students who completed their submissions alongside roles as a Peer Supporter or Student Partner Intern (SPI)

# 11

Institute Fellows were appointed, working on projects such as inclusive curriculums and student co-creation



# APP Targets

## Access and Participation Plan (APP) 2020/21-2024/25

Target	2017/18 (Baseline)	2019/20	2020/21 Provisional* (milestone in brackets)	2024/25 (Target)
To reduce the participation gap between young, full-time, first degree entrants from POLAR4 Quintile 1 (Q1) and POLAR 4 Quintile 5 (Q5)	5.2:1	4.6:1	4.8:1 (4.5:1)	3:1
To reduce the unexplained awarding gap between white students and black students	11.6%	12%	15.6% (11.3%)	5.8%
To reduce the unexplained awarding gap between white students and Asian students	10.6%	8%	6.7% (10.3%)	5.3%
To reduce the unexplained awarding gap between disabled students and students with no known disability	4.4%	2.1%	3.6% (4.0%)	0%
To reduce the unexplained awarding gap between students from IMD Quintile 5 and IMD Quintile 1	10.4%	9%	11.1% (10.1%)	5.2%

\* Internal provisional data: subject to change following the 1st December census.

## The Brilliant Club

In partnership with The Brilliant Club, The University of Manchester will support the following number of pupils to make academic progress of 5% or more. Targets will be assessed via The Brilliant Club's readiness outcomes framework.<sup>††</sup>

The University of Manchester outcome-focused targets for POLAR4 Q1+Q2 pupils on the Scholars programme								
	Number of pupils that will make 5% progress or more							
	Actual			Predicted APP time frame				
University readiness outcomes	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Overall attainment	118	152	137	190	210	240	240	240
Written communication	97	130	137	180	190	220	220	220
subject Knowledge	88	134	137	180	190	220	220	220
critical thinking	104	159	138	240	260	290	290	290

<sup>††</sup> Brilliant Club APP update March 2021.

## Race Equality Update

Last year the University produced the [Race Matters report](#) and action plan to focus on increasing the support, representation and progression of Black students and staff across our institution. Since the report launched, UoM has been taking steps outlined in the action plan including:

- Launching the [Black History trail](#) for school pupils to learn about the contributions made by people of African and Caribbean heritage across academia.
- The introduction of an [Inclusive Language Guide](#) with a focus on best practice when discussing race and ethnicity across our institution.
- The development of a Staff Diversity Champions programme addressing issues of privilege, microaggressions, racism on campus and championing anti-racist practice in the workplace.
- The pilot of [Active Bystander training](#) to ensure attendees have the tools and knowledge to support students and staff who experience and/or witness discrimination.

