

SEN11D020

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Recruitment and Outreach Department

Summary report on Access Agreement and Widening Participation Strategic Assessment annual monitoring return to OFFA/HEFCE for 2010/11

In January 2012 the University submitted its joint Access Agreement and Widening Participation Strategic Assessment monitoring return for the academic year 2010-11 to OFFA and HEFCE. The return covered both the University and its franchise partners; City College Norwich and Easton College. The reporting process has been integrated since last year with less focus on descriptive details relating to activity, but with a greater emphasis on evaluation and milestones and targets. For the first time some elements of the reports will be published by OFFA/HEFCE. The areas reported on are summarised below:

Monitoring return data

- ✦ additional fee income £16,332,158
- ✦ 8480 current system students paying a higher fee
- ✦ expenditure on OFFA-countable bursaries and scholarships £3,312,973 (20.3%)
- ✦ 4647 (54.8%) students in receipt of an OFFA countable bursary or scholarship
- ✦ expenditure on additional outreach activities £759,517 (4.7%)
- ✦ total OFFA countable expenditure £4 072 490 (24.9%)
- ✦ institutional expenditure on widening participation (incl. outreach) £3,477,276

Report on findings from evaluation of WP activity.

Three samples of activity and their indicators of success were outlined:

- ✦ Innovative Outreach – Challenge Badge
- ✦ Working in partnership – City Academy Norwich
- ✦ Longitudinal evaluation – residential Summer Schools

It was also noted that the University's Widening Participation monitoring and evaluation strategy is due to be in place in 2012 to contribute to our 2012 WPSA as outlined in our 2009/10 monitoring return. Positive progress was made in 2010/11 to identify areas both of good practice and focus for the plan. The University has a monitoring and evaluation plan in place for its core Outreach activity.

Report setting out progress against Access Agreement milestones and targets

The University was able to report that we are meeting or exceeding the majority of our milestones and targets. The University fractionally failed to meet the target proportion of students from low participation neighbourhoods (7.7% against a target of 8%). This may be related to our increase in tariff. Nationally low participation neighbourhoods correlate with lower tariff. The University outlined that this possible relationship with tariff for this milestone will be explored further at an institutional level to help inform Outreach strategy.

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16/2/12