

Demystifying Russell Group Universities – Because "Not for Me" is a Myth

Presented by Durham University and University of Warwick



Durham
University

ADVANCING
ACCESS

From the
RUSSELL
GROUP

What is the Russell Group?

- Represents 24 leading universities
- All members are research intensive universities
- We attract 70% of all university research grants

“ Russell Group universities work hard to create the ideal learning environment for students to flourish. The combination of teaching and research excellence in our universities will offer you the chance to learn from some of the world’s most respected academics.

You will be supported to make sure you get the most from the education our universities offer and you’ll have access to some of the best teaching facilities in the UK: from libraries and lecture halls, to labs and online learning tools.



Russell Group Universities



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



Durham University



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL



University of Sheffield



University of Glasgow



THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Imperial College London



UNIVERSITY of York



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



University of Southampton



University of Exeter



Newcastle University



The University of Manchester



University of Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA



Queen Mary
University of London



WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Imposter Syndrome – it's not for me!

Most Russell Group Universities have representation from well over 100 different countries

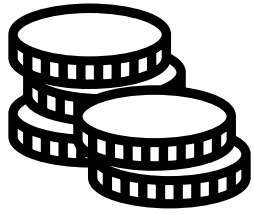
Since 2019:
24% more black ethnic student placed
25% mixed ethnic
25% Asian ethnic

Between 2019 and 2023 6.5% increase in the number of free school meal students placed at high tariff institutions

There is support available at institutions



Examples of on-course support for students entering via widening access programmes



Additional funding

Money towards living costs
May also contribute to travel, accommodation, fees etc

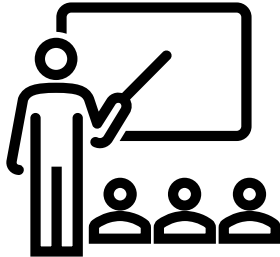
Enhanced inductions

Give students a 'head start'
Opportunity to network and get to know the campus



Academic support

Drop-in sessions on different topics
Study skills sessions



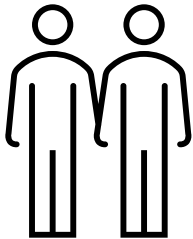
Enhanced careers support

Flagged internships
Networking with employers
Support with CVs and assessment centres



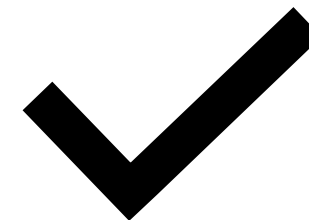
Peer mentoring

Meet other students from similar backgrounds
Create networks and friendships



Other opportunities

Support with study or work abroad
Guidance on placement years



Concept of Widening Participation

- Widening Participation (WP) refers to initiatives aimed at **increasing access to Higher Education Institutions for underrepresented groups**
- Despite efforts, **data insights reveal gaps**
- WP students are **less likely to apply to Russell Group universities** compared to non-WP peers
- **Barriers** faced include finance and social capital
- **Not a reflection of abilities or potential**

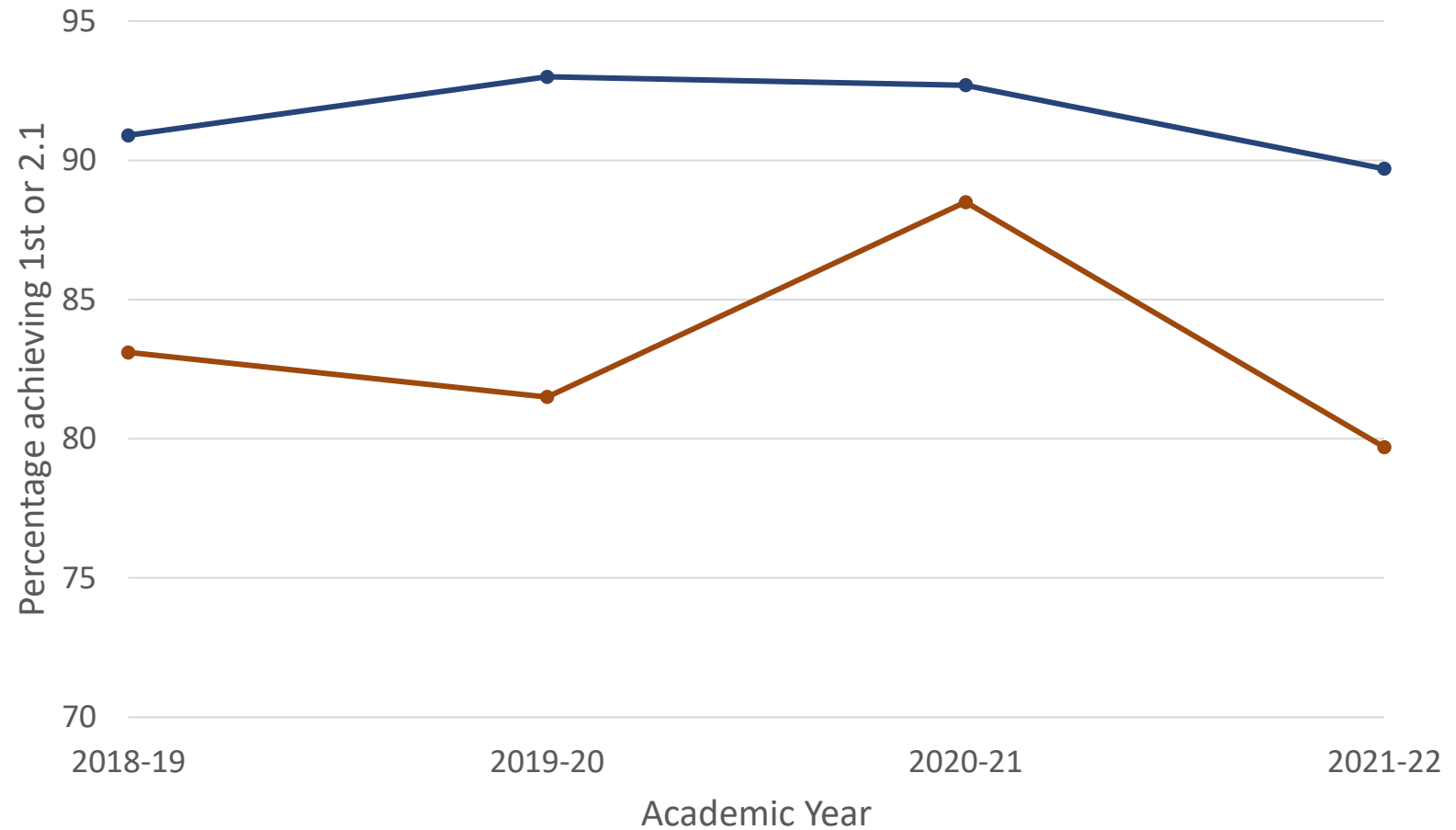
WP and Russell Group universities

- Steady **progress in widening access** to their institutions
- **Closing gaps** – continuation, attainment and progression through academic, pastoral and financial support
- **Evaluation** of the success of activities
- Continuing to improve through setting **ambitious targets** in Access and Participation Plans



Data insight – University of Warwick Attainment

Source: [OfS Access and participation data dashboard](#)



Characteristic: **FSM**

● Not eligible ● Eligible



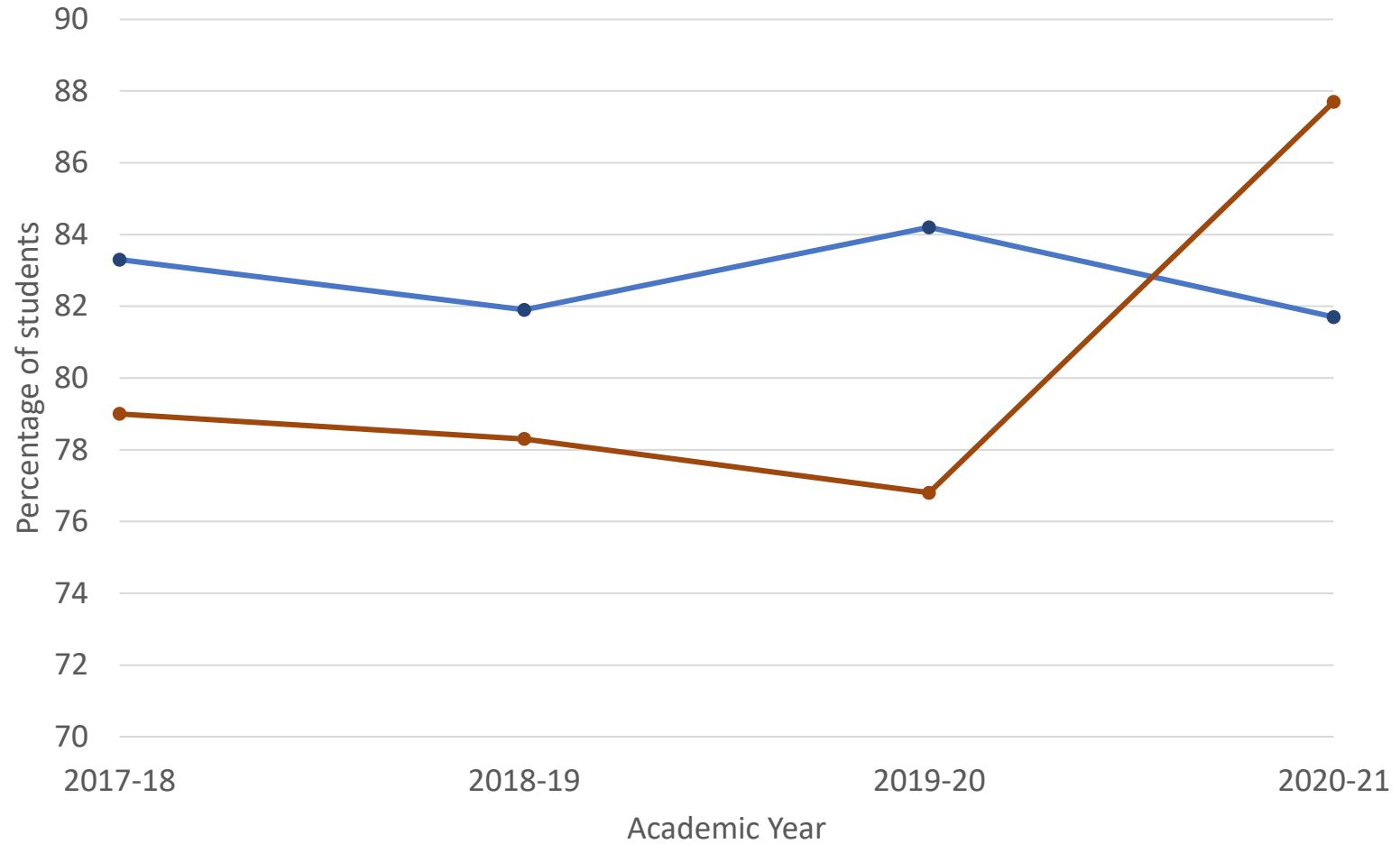
From the RUSSELL GROUP

Data insight – University of Warwick Attainment

Variable		4 year average	4-year sector average
FSM	Not eligible	91.6	83.6
	Eligible	83.2	72
	Gap	8.4	11.6

Data – University of Warwick Progression

Source: [OfS Access and participation data dashboard](#)



Characteristic: **FSM**

● Not eligible ● Eligible

Data – University of Warwick Progression

Variable		4-year average	4-year sector average
FSM	Not eligible	82.8	72.3
	Eligible	80.5	65.4
	Gap	-2.4	-6.9

Benefits of attending a Russell Group University



Academic
excellence



Career
opportunities



Networking



Personal growth



Facilities



Student experience
– academic staff,
financial support