

aspire

IN THIS ISSUE

Who are the 100,000 students?

We meet six of the 100,000 students we have worked with since 2002, catching up on their achievements and their hopes for a bright new future.

London over the Long Term

We explore the impact of IntoUniversity in London and why it is important for us to continue to support communities in the capital over the long term.

Oxford: A Tale of Two Cities

We look at how IntoUniversity is supporting students in Oxford to overcome a wide attainment gap and reduce educational inequality in the city.

‘Reaching 100,000 students is a landmark achievement for IntoUniversity. Our work in communities over the long term means that we have a transformative impact on aspirations and achievement.’

Dr Rachel Carr

Co-founder and Chief Executive of IntoUniversity

In this edition of *aspire*, we celebrate working with our 100,000th student by exploring the long-term nature of our intervention and how it supports our work with students, families and local communities.

100,000 students

Who are the 100,000 students? We speak to six of them.



Hilai

Centre: IntoUniversity Brent

Joined IntoUniversity: 2009

University: Studies Law at Brunel University and currently on a placement year in the Home Office.

‘It has been 11 years since I joined IntoUniversity and they have never failed to make a positive difference in my academic life.’

‘From taking part in a Primary FOCUS Week to representing IntoUniversity while they were BlackRock’s Charity of the Year, IntoUniversity has provided me with an abundance of support in terms of developing my interpersonal skills and helping me stand out in the crowd.’



Hebba

Centre: IntoUniversity North Kensington

Joined IntoUniversity: 2015

University: Studies History and Arabic at Roehampton University and is now a university student mentor at the North Kensington centre.

‘IntoUniversity has helped me to accept myself, and to establish my personal identity.’

‘Growing up I always struggled to fit in; it almost felt like I didn’t have a place where I belonged but IntoUniversity encouraged and nurtured me into a self-loving and strong young woman. I owe so many of my achievements to IntoUniversity and I am so happy to be giving back!’



Adil

Centre: IntoUniversity Nottingham Central

Joined IntoUniversity: 2014

University: Studies Economics at De Montfort University in the hope of pursuing a career in the Asset Management industry.

‘Where I am today and what I have accomplished would not have been possible without the altruistic staff at IntoUniversity.’

‘IntoUniversity has also given me access to amazing opportunities through their relationships with prestigious firms. My involvement has increased my motivation and drive for a brighter future. It has also led me to ensure my future revolves around mirroring the work of IntoUniversity by supporting like-minded students.’



Lady

Centre: IntoUniversity North Kensington

Joined IntoUniversity: 2002

University: Studied English Literature and Business at the University of Liverpool, where she was a university student mentor at our centre in North Liverpool. She is now working in the Foreign Office.

‘I keep coming back to IntoUniversity because they keep helping me. Every hurdle and every joy, they are there for me!’

‘When I got my GCSE results and they were better than expected, they helped me get in to Rugby School for sixth form. When my A-Level results didn’t go to plan, they helped me with clearing. Now, I want to be in a position to make changes for people like me whose parents are not from Britain and/or in social housing. I want to be proactive and help people become level players.’



Jenneh

Centre: IntoUniversity Lambeth

Joined IntoUniversity: 2012

University: Studied Biomedical Sciences at the University of Manchester before interning at IntoUniversity Lambeth and joining our Graduate Scheme in 2017. Recently, Jenneh has become the Team Leader at IntoUniversity Haringey North.

‘I’ve come full circle, having been a student to now supporting a team using my experiences to make sure our students get the best out of our programmes.’

‘I was first introduced to IntoUniversity whilst at sixth form, during a crucial time when I was making choices about my future and they were very supportive during the UCAS process and Year 13. I was given the opportunity to have a corporate mentor who provided that additional support and gave me the chance to experience a professional working environment. I also had such a great experience with Student Enrichment from going on BBC radio to talk about university to going on residential trips at universities, all through IntoUniversity.’



Nathan

Centre: IntoUniversity Bow

Joined IntoUniversity: 2010

University: Studied History at Queen Mary University London before volunteering as a university student mentor and eventually joining our Graduate Scheme in 2018.

‘The first workshop I took part in with IntoUniversity was a Buddy in 2010 with Imperial College London. This was my first opportunity to meet and converse with university students and visit a university.’

‘By sixth form, I had already decided on going to university, but didn’t really have an idea of how to get there or what to do when I was there. Working on my personal statement and doing the ‘Transition to University’ workshop with IntoUniversity in Year 13 made me more confident and I felt supported, especially as [my mentor] and I kept meeting during my first year at university.’

Impact in London

London over the Long Term

Over 70,000 of our 100,000 students come from London, where we have been building relationships with communities since 2002. We have had a transformative impact on the lives of students in the city, and last year, we invested over £3 million in our London network to continue our long-term support.

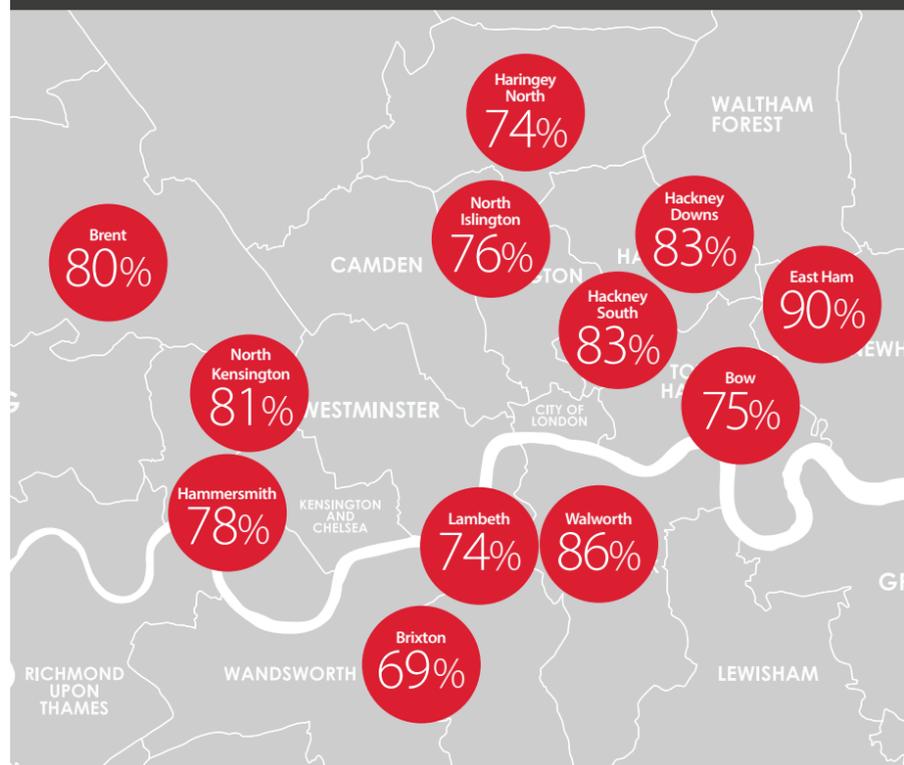
In 2017

79% of **IntoUniversity** school leavers* in London gained a place at university compared to 47% of those from similar backgrounds.

22% of **IntoUniversity** school leavers* in London gained a place at a Russell Group university compared to 10% of those from similar backgrounds.

96% of **IntoUniversity** school leavers* in London were in education, employment or training compared to 90% nationally.

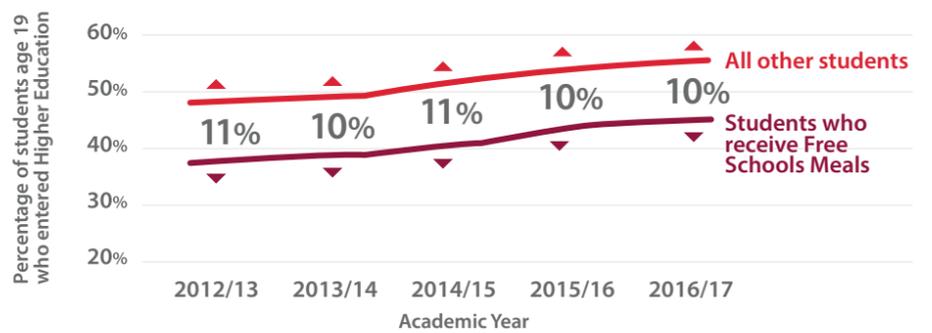
Progression rate to Higher Education of school leavers* from IntoUniversity's London centres (2017)



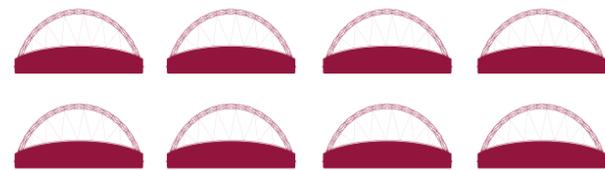
However, we still have work to do.

London is one of the most unequal cities in Britain, where the gap between the wealthiest and those in poverty is extreme. Low-income families in the city experience some of the greatest deprivation in the UK, in terms of housing, employment and health – all of which contribute to inequalities in educational outcomes for their children. Over the last decade, the number of students in London from disadvantaged backgrounds going to university has been increasing steadily. The sustained presence of **IntoUniversity**, and other organisations, is a contributing factor to this success as we work to resolve educational inequality in the capital. However, despite the increase in students from disadvantaged backgrounds attending university, the gap between them and their more advantaged neighbours has remained unchanged since 2012 at around 10%.

Gap in university progression in London.



Our aim is to reduce this gap by helping our students overcome the unique and persistent barriers to Higher Education in London.



Over 700,000 of children in London live in poverty, enough to fill Wembley Stadium almost 8 times. The most persistently disadvantaged children in London are twelve months behind non-disadvantaged children in their learning by age 16.



Levels of overcrowding in London are more than twice as high as the rest of England, which can affect aspects of child development, adult health, income and employment.

The success of **IntoUniversity** in London shows that working with communities and partners over the long term is the best way to ensure lasting impact.

‘The **IntoUniversity** model complements mainstream education and nurtures a holistic outlook on progression. Having worked with **IntoUniversity** for a number of years, one of the many strengths is the fact that **IntoUniversity** respects and embraces the history of the community and respectfully broadens the future outlooks and aspirations of the parents and children of the local area.’

Simone, Assistant Headteacher at Shoreditch Park Primary School in Hackney

It is important that **IntoUniversity** continues to have a presence in London to provide long-term support to young people throughout their educational journey. Our partnerships with corporates, universities and other organisations are essential in ensuring we have a transformative impact in the city and can continue to help our students in removing barriers to Higher Education.

*Who we were able to contact

IntoUniversity Oxford

Oxford: A Tale of Two Cities

Although Oxford is often considered a place of privilege, in reality the city is deeply divided. While individuals in the city centre may benefit from opportunities such as a world-class education, the same cannot be said for those in the city's outlying neighbourhoods.

Almost all English cities are remarkably divided, but Oxford is divided in its own special way. For such a small city it has managed to not only maintain but also increase some of the steepest social gradients found anywhere in Europe.'

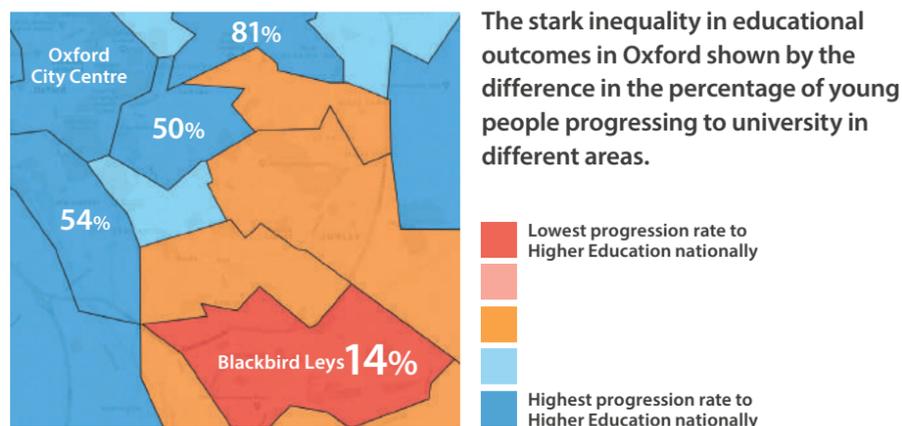
Danny Dorling, Halford Machinder Professor of Geography at the University of Oxford, on inequality in the city for the Oxford Magazine

City	Gini coefficient 2016
Cambridge	0.46
Oxford	0.45
Brighton	0.43
London	0.43
Reading	0.43
National Average	0.41

Oxford is the second most unequal city in the UK according to the Gini coefficient. The Gini coefficient is a measure of income distribution used to gauge the level of economic inequality among a population with 0 representing perfect equality and 1 representing perfect inequality.

Much of the inequality in the city is attributed to the wide gap in attainment between students from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers, even from a very early age. A recent report by Oxfordshire City Council stated that by age seven only 41% of students from disadvantaged backgrounds in Oxfordshire are reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths meaning that by Secondary school they are almost 24 months behind their more advantaged peers academically (Education Policy Institute, 2017).

In 2014, IntoUniversity launched our centre in Blackbird Leys, a neighbourhood in southeast Oxford, where poor educational outcomes have stopped many young people from considering university as an option.



36%

of residents in Blackbird Leys have no qualifications compared to 17% of those in Oxfordshire as a whole.

Only 13%

of residents in Blackbird Leys have a degree or an equivalent qualification compared to 36% of those in Oxfordshire as a whole.

IntoUniversity Oxford South East, in partnership with the University of Oxford and Christ Church, Oxford, has been working closely with schools and the local community to provide thousands of students with access to new opportunities and vital long-term support at an early age, raising their aspirations and helping them to reach their full potential.

In 2017

68% of students from IntoUniversity Oxford South East secured a university place.

Since 2014			
Over 3,000 young people in Blackbird Leys have been supported by IntoUniversity Oxford South East	49 IntoUniversity students, including four from IntoUniversity Oxford South East, have studied at the University of Oxford	467 students were regular attendees at after-school Academic Support	Over 1,370 students from IntoUniversity Oxford South East have visited the University of Oxford



IntoUniversity Oxford South East students working with student mentors from the University of Oxford.

IntoUniversity is very motivational. It has really taught me to push the boundaries and to try to be the best version of myself, because there is always room for improvement. IntoUniversity continues to surprise me with new opportunities; each opportunity allows me to integrate new skills into my plans for the future.'

Elizabeth, Year 13 student at IntoUniversity Oxford South East

IntoUniversity has created a stable learning environment for my three boys. It is a support network that they can always rely on when they need encouragement with their academic work, or just an extra helping hand. After collecting my sons from academic support sessions each week, they come home feeling motivated and happy. My two eldest have both told me they will go to university and I have no doubt that they will achieve this.'

Parent of three students who attend IntoUniversity Oxford South East



We would love to hear your feedback about *aspire*.

To get in touch or to find out more about IntoUniversity please visit our website www.intouniversity.org, drop Vicky an email at aspire@intouniversity.org or call us on 020 7243 0242.

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