

# Measures of Disadvantage & Contextual Offers Support Sheet

The following guide is aimed at HE and FE & 6<sup>th</sup> form College staff and offers a quick checklist and signposting to the main area-based measures of young participation supplied by the Office for Students and the UK Government, as well as London focused measures of deprivation provided by NOMIS. The guide also gives an introduction to contextual offers as explained by UCAS.

## Area Based Measures of Young Participation

The Office for Students use the POLAR (Participation of Local Areas) and TUNDRA to measure the extent to which young people participate in higher education - Interactive maps of all indicators can be found [here](#) on the OfS site.

### What is POLAR?

Participation of Local Areas are based on the proportion of young people who participate in higher education across the UK and looks how likely young people are to participate in higher education across the UK and shows how this varies by area.

POLAR is classified into 5 quintiles, quintile 1 is the lowest rate of participation, quintile 5 is the highest rate.

POLAR4 is the most recent iteration of POLAR

So POLAR4 Q1 areas would have very low 18-19 year olds entering into higher education.

POLAR does not work with London very well as a lot of applicants are in quintile 5, reflecting that a high percentage of young people from London have progressed to university, not showing the true deprivation that many applicants in London face.

### What is TUNDRA?

Tracking Underrepresentation by Area is an area based measure that tracks state-funded school pupils to calculate participation (England only)

\* All information obtained from the Office for Students [webpage](#), [UCAS](#), [NOMIS](#) and [GOV.UK](#) and was correct at the time of print

This resource was produced by Linking London's Uni Connect Outreach Hub team. Please direct any questions or feedback to [jess.brown@linkinglondon.ac.uk](mailto:jess.brown@linkinglondon.ac.uk) & [melanie.green@linkinglondon.ac.uk](mailto:melanie.green@linkinglondon.ac.uk)

TUNDRA classifies local areas into 5 equal quantiles based on the proportion of 16 year old state-funded school pupils who go on to participate in HE

Q1 – lowest rate

Q5- highest rate

Main objective to allow outreach teams to identify and target low areas of participation effectively focusing on 16 year olds in schools and colleges

### **How do they differ?**

TUNDRA is based in England and data links students from age 16 to participation in HE at age 18-19, POLAR4 does not track students this way

TUNDRA excludes students at independent schools, special schools and pupil referral units, whereas POLAR4 includes all school types in the UK

TUNDRA focuses on local areas within England, POLAR4 is UK wide

### **Adult HE**

The OfS have recently updated this measure based on 2011 census data of higher education to show the proportion of the adult population that holds a higher education qualification in a geographical area. All residents aged 16 and over are included in the definition of an 'adult.'

For further information on all of the above measures click [here](#)

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## English Indices of Deprivation 2019 – GOV.UK

### What are the Indices of Deprivation (IoD)?

A unique measure of relative deprivation at a small local area level across England based on 7 areas of deprivation:

1. **Income** - the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income
2. **Employment** - the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income
3. **Education** - the lack of attainment and skills in the local population
4. **Health** - the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health
5. **Crime** - the risk of personal and material victimisation at local level
6. **Barriers to Housing & Services** - the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services
7. **Living Environment** - the quality of both the 'indoor' and 'outdoor' local environment

### What is the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)?

The IMD is the official measure of relative deprivation in England as part of a suite of outputs that form the Indices of Deprivation (IoD), it is the most widely used output.

The IMD ranks every small area in England from:

**1** = most deprived area

**32,844** = least deprived area:

A useful infographic can be found [here](#) that explores IMD and IoD further and an interactive map of IoD and IMD [here](#)

### What is the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index? (IDACI)

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families and is a supplementary index in addition to the seven measures above. A useful map can be found [here](#) to identify areas least and worst deprived in relation to the IDACI

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## London Measures of Deprivation

A useful collation of links from NOMIS, the labour market information source provided by the Office for National Statistics, that focus specifically on London. Information on the following is available:

*Resident population; Employment and unemployment; Economic inactivity; Workless households; Employment by occupation; Qualifications; Earnings by place of residence; Out-of-work benefits; Jobs (total jobs / employee jobs); Civil Service jobs; Businesses*

For the London boroughs below:

[Inner London](#)

[Brent](#)

[Havering](#)

[City of London](#)

[Ealing](#)

[Barking and Dagenham](#)

[City of Westminster](#)

[Hounslow](#)

[Redbridge](#)

[Kensington and Chelsea](#)

[Richmond](#)

[Newham](#)

[Hammersmith and Fulham](#)

[Kingston](#)

[Waltham Forest](#)

[Wandsworth](#)

[Merton](#)

[Haringey](#)

[Lambeth](#)

[Sutton](#)

[Enfield](#)

[Southwark](#)

[Croydon](#)

[Barnet](#)

[Tower Hamlets](#)

[Bromley](#)

[Harrow](#)

[Hackney](#)

[Lewisham](#)

[Hillingdon](#)

[Islington](#)

[Greenwich](#)

[Camden](#)

[Bexley](#)

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## Contextual Offers

Contextualised admissions are defined by UCAS as “information and data used by universities and colleges, to assess an applicant’s prior attainment and potential, in the context of their individual circumstances.”

The aim is to form a more complete picture of the applicant and then produce an offer with this information in mind to ensure fair access for all and to identify who ‘merits’ a place, rather than attainment alone.

Contextual data includes educational, geo-demographic and socio-economic background data, such as historic data about an applicant’s school or college. Contextual information relates to individual applicant circumstances, such as if they have been in care, or involved in widening participation activities.

Not all universities use contextualised admissions, but those that do may make contextual (lower) offers to flagged students. These shouldn’t be confused with unconditional offers and the applicant will still be expected to meet the conditions of their offer.

Contextualised data comes from multiple sources including UCAS’ contextual data services that will involve POLAR/TUNDRA data as well as school performances. Other sources could include direct information from government departments and university and colleges’ own data and research.

For further detailed information click [here](#)

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