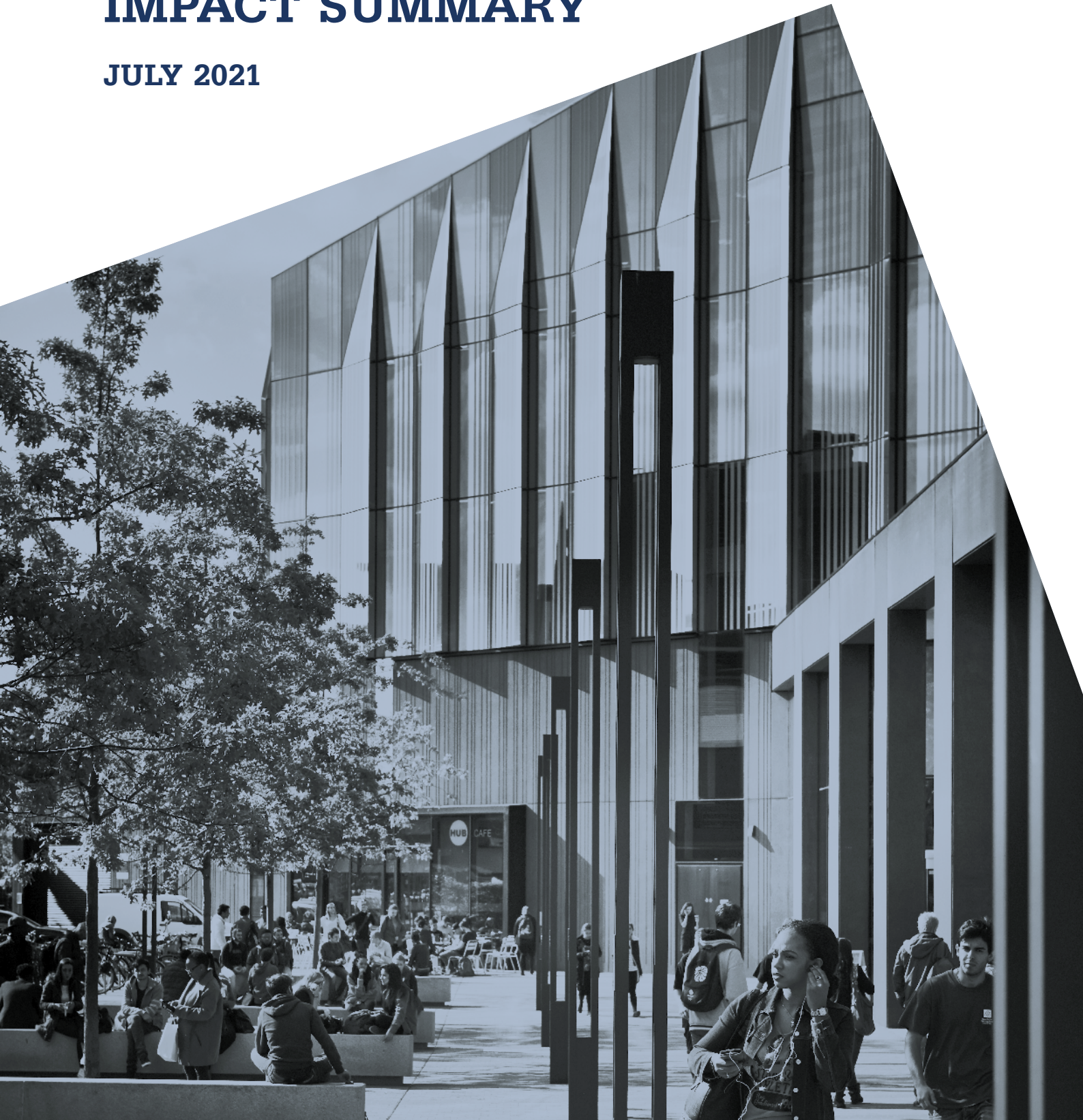


**Manchester
Metropolitan
University**

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS IMPACT SUMMARY

JULY 2021





Degree Apprenticeships were established in 2015 as a powerful combination of study and on the job learning. As Manchester Metropolitan University passes the fifth anniversary of delivering Degree Apprenticeships, we have had **2,573 apprentice** starts to date, partnered with **544 employers**, been ranked as an **Ofsted Grade 1 Outstanding** provider and been voted the **highest-rated** university provider for Degree Apprenticeships in the UK for three years running (RateMyApprenticeship Awards 2019, 2020, 2021).

We believe this is a good time to analyse the extent to which our Degree Apprenticeships are delivering on their impact promises. These were our key findings.

Degree Apprenticeships are being taken up by disadvantaged students

Our approach and targeted outreach strategy has enabled Manchester Met to engage with more disadvantaged areas and achieve greater uptake than the national undergraduate figures: (figure 1). This has been a consistent trend over the last four years.

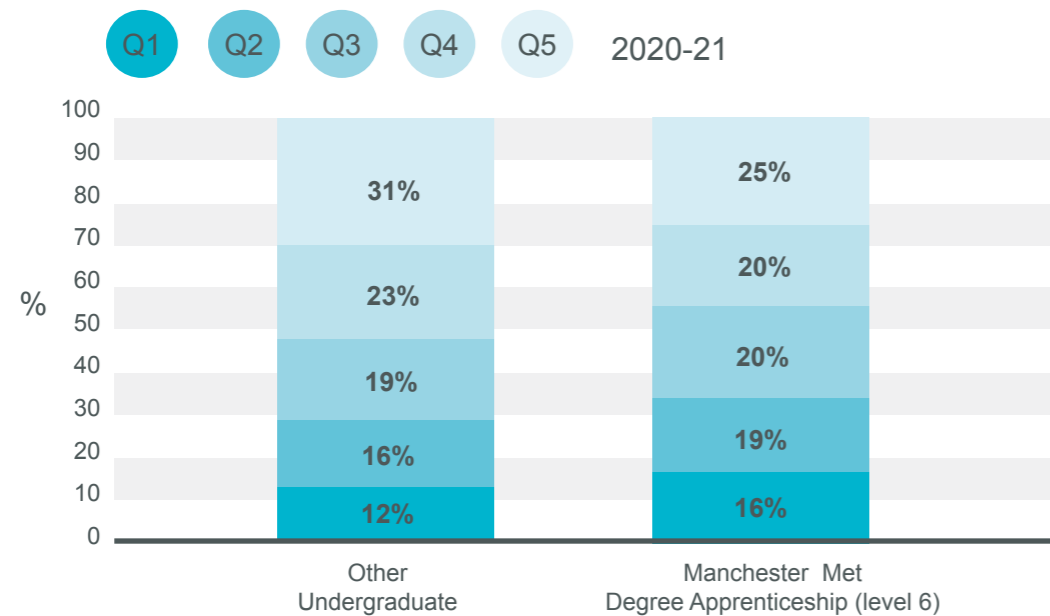


Figure 1
Manchester Met apprentice starts (level 6) compared to national undergraduate degree starts, by POLAR quintiles in 2020-21

Degree Apprenticeships are directly supporting young people

At Manchester Met, we have a good spread of age groups on our Degree Apprenticeships. Our level 6 provision predominantly supports those in the early stages of their careers; more than a third of apprentices aged 20 or under and more than half are aged 24 or under when starting the programme.

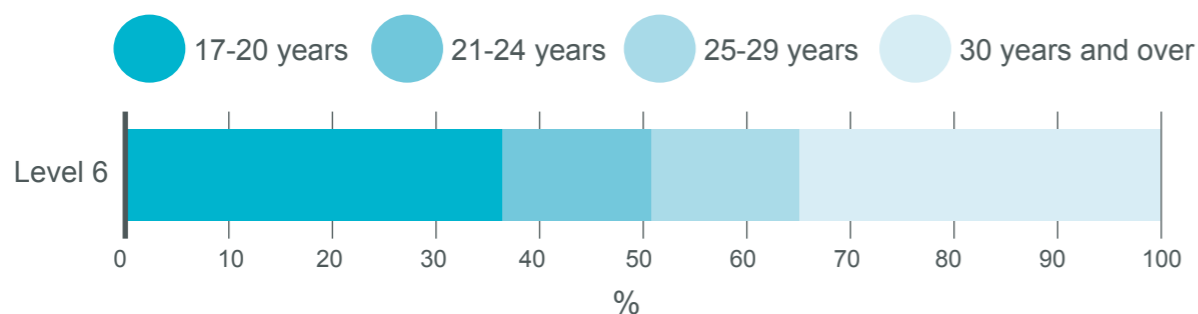


Figure 2
Age profile of Manchester Met apprentice starts 2015-16 to 2020-21

Increasing opportunities for people from disadvantaged backgrounds

According to Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data, 36% of all Manchester Met apprentices are from the most deprived areas (IMD1-4), a trend that has improved over time, from 26% in 2015-16. Overall, only 13% of all Manchester Met apprentices come from the most advantaged backgrounds (IMD 10), which is less than half the national average for Degree Apprenticeships (27%) reported by the Sutton Trust (2020).

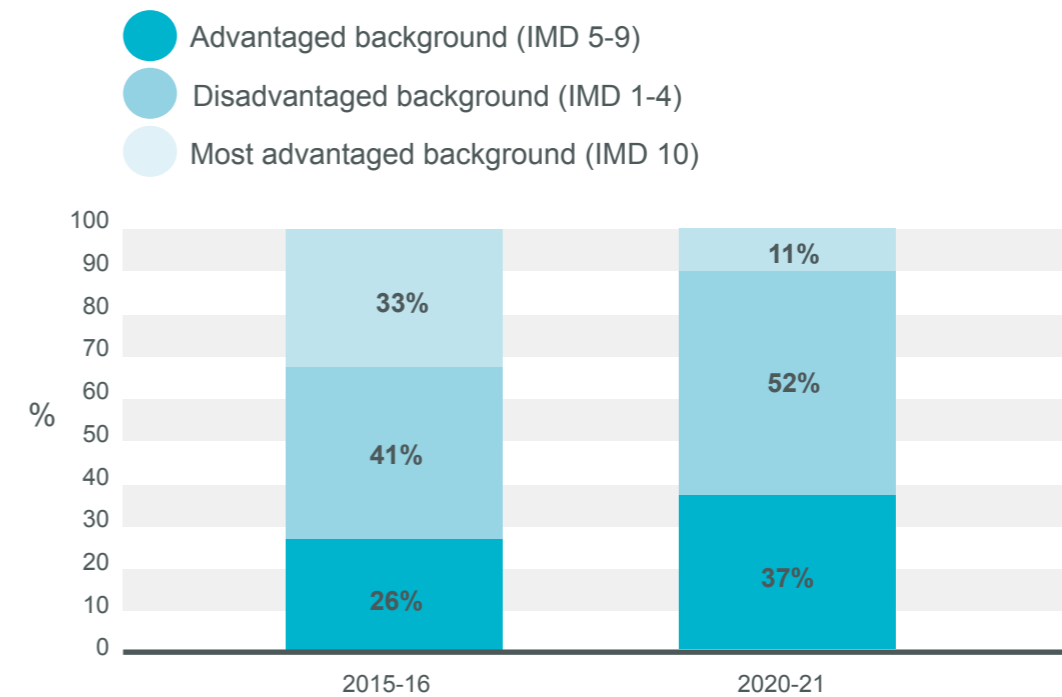


Figure 3
IMD profile of Manchester Met apprentices 2015/16 and 2020/21

Degree Apprenticeships are a powerful vehicle for social mobility

Degree Apprenticeships are raising aspirations and creating new ways of accessing Higher Education. Overall, **40%** of Manchester Met apprentices are the first generation in their family to go to university; this is a significant improvement on a recent survey of young university graduates, where just 18% were the first in their family to go to university (Oxford Review of Education, 2020).

A 'second chance' for disadvantaged learners

Mature learners taking advantage of apprenticeships come from the full spectrum of social disadvantage, with approximately half coming from the lower half of the IMD range. Degree Apprenticeships are thus promoting opportunities for lifelong learning, reskilling and levelling up.

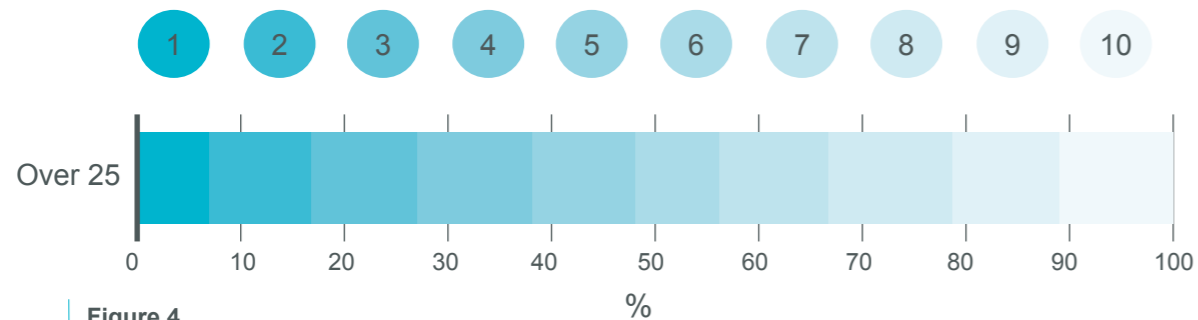


Figure 4
Overall IMD profile of mature apprentices

Increasing opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds

Manchester Met cohorts are becoming more ethnically diverse, with an increase in Black, Asian and minority ethnic apprentices, from 10% in 2015-16 to **19%** in 2020-21. This compares to the latest national apprenticeship figure of 11.8%. Manchester Met has also seen an increase in disadvantaged Black, Asian and minority ethnic apprentice starts (IMD 1-5) from 13% in 2015-16 to 25% in 2020-21.

Degree Apprenticeships champion alternative routes into STEM careers for women

34% of current Manchester Met STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) apprentices are women, which is a substantial improvement on the national undergraduate average of 22% reported by the Office for Students (2020).

Manchester Met apprentices are succeeding

The overall achievement rate at Manchester Met is 83% for both male and female apprentices, which is significantly higher than the national undergraduate average of 64% reported by the Department for Education (2021).

Degree Apprentices are gaining promotions and pay rises on programme

Overall, 78.3% of Manchester Met Degree Apprentices received a pay-rise and 64.2% received a promotion during their apprenticeship.

Degree Apprentices are accelerating their careers faster than those of their peers

A survey of the first cohort of Manchester Met Degree Apprentices to complete their Digital & Technology Solutions apprenticeship, shows an average annual salary of £39,000 one year after graduating. **This is 46% (£18,000) higher than the average UK computing graduate** and 5% (£2,000) higher than graduates from the top five computing courses in the UK (including Oxford and Cambridge).

Bigger earnings boost for disadvantaged learners

'In a survey of 125 recent Manchester Met Apprentice Graduates, **78% of apprentices from IMD 1-3 received a pay rise** compared with 77% of apprentices from IMD 8-10. Of those from IMD 1-3 who received a pay rise, the majority are now earning £30,000 - £40,000.

Helping employers recruit and develop the skills they need

A recent survey of Manchester Met employers asked employers to assess the "degree of impact" that Degree Apprenticeships had on the following objectives. The highest scored objectives were growing talent (100%), bringing knowledge into the organisation (88%), encouraging progression on the career ladder (81%) and reducing skills shortages (79%).

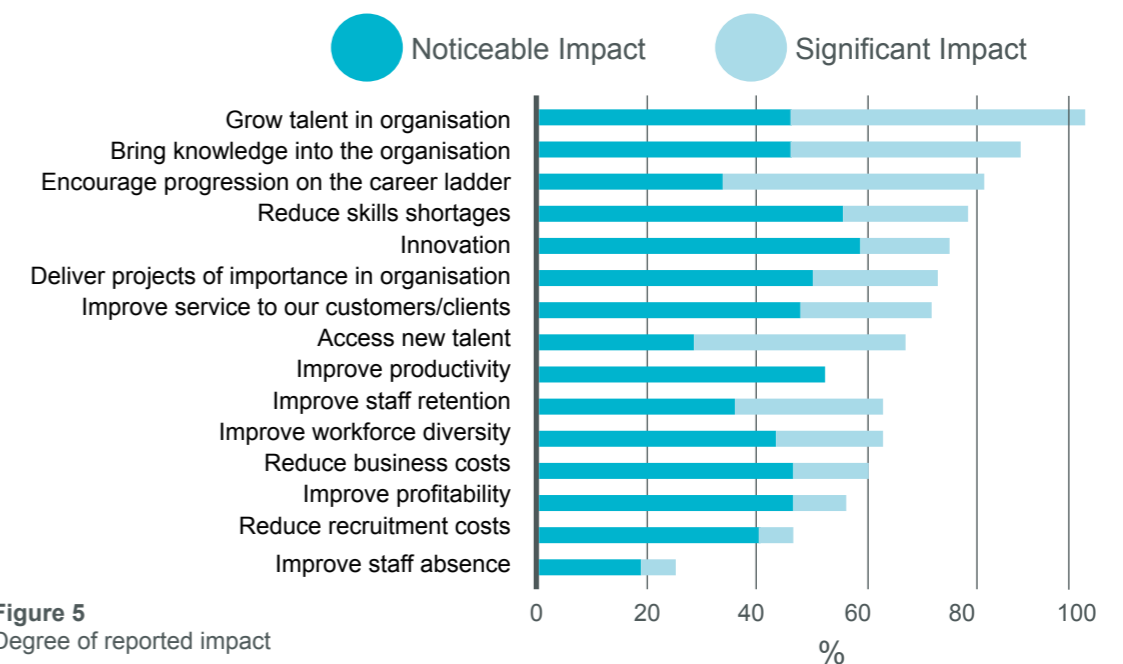


Figure 5
Degree of reported impact

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Degree Apprenticeships at Manchester Metropolitan University