

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Value Added Metric

The sector measures the BAME awarding gap through the difference between the proportion of White and BAME students who achieve a 1st or 2:1 degree.

At Solent University, we also scrutinise the differentials by using the value added metric created by Matt Hiely-Rayner of Intelligent Metrix.

How is the value added metric calculated?

The degree a student is awarded is closely related to a student's entry qualifications and subject of study. By controlling for both of these factors the value added (VA) metric exposes unexplained gaps in awards.

VA scores are calculated by taking the actual degree outcomes for all UK-domiciled graduates across the UK for the last five years, broken down by 50 entry qualification bands and subjects of study. This allows

us to calculate a probability that a given student will achieve a 1st/2:1 degree. Aggregating these probabilities produces an 'expected' percentage for any given cohort of students who should achieve a 1st/2:1 degree. If the cohort achieves this percentage, the VA score is 1.0. For percentage attainment above or below the expectation the VA score is proportionately greater or less than 1.0.

How do we use the VA score to tackle the awarding gap?

At Solent University the value added score is one of the metrics we use to judge the quality of all our courses and is included in our undergraduate course performance dashboard. Course teams with a VA score of less than 1 are encouraged to use the Inclusive Curriculum Framework to reflect upon and adapt their learning and teaching practice.

