

BIMM  
UNIVERSITY

A university  
for the creative  
industries

## **Access & Participation Statement**



Last approved: September 2022

Approved by: Executive Management Group

Next review due: September 2023

BIMM University is committed to promoting equal opportunities for all applicants and all students, and we actively seek to recruit a diverse student body that is reflective of the wider community. We believe that a diverse student body provides for a creative and dynamic community, and this is in line with the ethos and mission of BIMM University.

BIMM University is a specialist provider of industry-led popular music, performing arts and filmmaking education offering a variety of further education, undergraduate and postgraduate courses. We have more than eight thousand students studying in our UK colleges.

BIMM University, through its five music colleges in Birmingham, Bristol, Brighton, London and Manchester, its Institute for Contemporary Theatre colleges in Brighton and Manchester, its Performers Colleges in Birmingham and Essex and its Screen & Film Schools in Birmingham, Brighton and Manchester, is committed to widening access and participation in music and the wider creative arts through our Higher Education courses.

Our Access & Participation Plan sets out how we will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education. Our full access and participation plan for BIMM University is available [here](#).

- The focus of our Access & Participation Plan is on improving access, continuation and outcomes for specific groups of students. These are the priorities identified by the Office for Students, together with the key areas specific to BIMM University.
- We need to close the gap between students from neighbourhoods where fewer people go into higher education compared to neighbourhoods where people are more likely to go into higher education coming to BIMM Limited, continuing with their studies, and achieving a good degree – a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2:1 qualification.
- We need to close the gap between students that come from areas identified by the Index of Multiple Deprivation as more deprived than those from less deprived areas. We need to encourage participation and to support these students continuing with their studies and achieving a good degree – a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2:1 qualification.
- In addition, we need to improve access to our colleges for students from underrepresented groups, especially Black, Asian and minority ethnic students and care leaver students.
- We need to improve the continuation rates for all our identified student groups above and, in addition, our disabled students.
- We need to reduce the attainment gap for achieving a degree classification of a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2:1 between all our underrepresented student groups.

The BIMM University selection process for its courses allows students to demonstrate their potential for Higher Education studies through a combination of entry requirements based on the achievement of Level 3 qualifications expressed through a UCAS points tariff and a face-to-face subject-specific audition or interview. Applicants who are unable to travel to a college-based audition or interview due to distance, financial or other personal reasons are not disadvantaged and may, with the prior agreement of the Admissions Team, complete their audition or interview via video or audio communication technology or apply for a travel bursary.

BIMM University encourages applications from students from non-traditional educational backgrounds and, as such, accepts a range of equivalent Level 3 qualifications.

BIMM University welcomes applications from students from all economic backgrounds and offers scholarships and a range of bursaries and financial support opportunities, information about which is made available to applicants on our website and in our prospectus. We also have a hardship fund for eligible students who require urgent financial support during their studies, and detailed information about eligibility and the application process is made available by our Student Services Teams.