

Section 33: BIMM Institute Research & Enterprise Strategy 2018-2021

Defining Research

[A] process of investigation leading to new insights, effectively shared. It includes work of direct relevance to the needs of commerce, industry, and to the public and voluntary sectors; scholarship; the invention and generation of ideas, images, performances, artefacts including design, where these lead to new or substantially improved insights; and the use of existing knowledge in experimental development to produce new or substantially improved materials, devices, components and processes, such as for the maintenance of national standards, as distinct from the development of new analytic techniques. It also excludes the development of teaching materials that do not embody original research. (REF 2014)

Defining Enterprise

Enterprise is defined here as the generation and application of ideas, which are set within practical situations during a project or undertaking. This is a generic concept that can be applied across all areas of education and professional life. It combines creativity, originality, initiative, idea generation, design thinking, adaptability and reflexivity with problem identification, problem solving, innovation, expression, communication and practical action. (QAA, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education: Guidance for UK Higher Education Providers, 2018)

Strategy Statement

The British & Irish Modern Music Institute (BIMM Institute) is committed to an ethos that aims to ensure that teaching and learning across all of its colleges and courses is informed, enhanced and enriched by professional practice, research and scholarship. Such research and scholarship include the application and integration of knowledge alongside discovery research, as key components of the practitioner-based research that characterises the research culture of the institution.

It is acknowledged that within the context of a teaching-intensive private provider, it is not possible to either expect or support all academic staff to undertake research. Therefore, BIMM Institute's Research and Enterprise Strategy seeks to:

- support and expand the as yet relatively small number of staff, who are currently undertaking research through the provision of financial and management support and development and dissemination of research opportunities;
- identify and support research potential through support for postgraduate study and the provision of infrastructure, training, activities and developmental opportunities aimed at new and early career researchers.

Research & Enterprise Committee

In September 2015, BIMM Institute established a Research & Enterprise Committee, a subcommittee of the Academic Board, to oversee the development and implementation of the BIMM Institute's Research and Enterprise Strategy, and to monitor the effectiveness of the research activities undertaken across all BIMM Institute colleges. To date the work of the committee has concentrated on developing policy and strategy and supporting staff through Postgraduate Study Bursaries and in the staging our first national academic conferences.

For the period of this strategy (2018-21), membership of the Research & Enterprise Committee will include members of BIMM academic management and teaching staff with an interest in, and experience of, research. Committee membership also includes an experienced researcher from a UK

University and an experienced researcher from outside of the UK. These external committee members will provide expert advice, guidance and scrutiny.

Strategic Aims

The aims of the BIMM Institute Research and Enterprise Strategy are to:

- establish BIMM Institute as a centre of excellence for practice-led creative arts research: maximising possibilities for impact with underpinning research in a number of tightly focussed projects in a variety of areas;
- support staff to produce and disseminate internationally recognised research outputs;
- build research capacity through the development of postgraduate programmes and training, developing early career researchers and new researchers, whilst continuing to support established research active staff;
- foster a community of enquiry and collaboration that that is accessible, supportive and enabling;
- further embed research in the curriculum particularly at postgraduate level;
- work collaboratively with partners in the academy of national and of international standing;
- engage collaboratively with the creative industries to undertake research which benefits those industries and society more widely at national and international level;
- build the capacity to source and secure external and/or matching funding, and devise plans for generating earned income;
- further develop our research-informed approach to learning and teaching;

Principal Strands

As part of the formulation of the strategy we have defined four principal strands that will allow us to focus resources in areas where we already have research expertise:

- ***Practice as research***, through professional practice such as performance, songwriting/composition, and the production of other artistic and creative artefacts that generate innovative new work.
- ***Enterprise as research***, through entrepreneurial and commercial activity that applies and transfers knowledge and develops innovation within the creative industries.
- ***Pedagogical research***, through reflective teaching and learning practice and action research that is innovative and transformational: informing and enhancing the quality of the student learning experience.
- ***Research***, through specialist journalism, conference papers, peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters and monographs that contribute new perspectives, understanding and knowledge about the creative industries, study and practice.

Delivery, Monitoring and Review

Delivery of these aims will be achieved through the implementation of the Postgraduate Research Action Plan (RAP). Progress toward the achievement of the BIMM Institute Research & Enterprise Strategy will be monitored by the Research & Enterprise Committee that will report to Academic Board through its minutes and an annual Research & Enterprise Report.