



BIMM
INSTITUTE

Birmingham

Birmingham Accommodation and City Guide

2023/24

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Welcome

As Principal of BIMM Institute Birmingham, I'm hugely excited to be at the helm of our newest UK college, located at the heart of this vibrant creative and artistic musical city.

At BIMM Institute, we give you an experience of the real industry as it stands today – it's our mission to create a microcosm of the music business within the walls of the college. If you're a songwriter, you'll find the best musicians to collaborate with; if you're a guitarist, bassist, drummer or vocalist, you'll find the best songwriters and fellow band members. If you're a Music Business, Music Production, Event Management or Music Marketing, Media and Communication student, you'll have access to the best emerging musical talent the city has to offer.

BIMM Institute is a hotbed of talent and being a BIMM student means you'll be part of that community, making many vital connections, which you'll hopefully keep for the rest of your life and career.

The day you walk into BIMM Institute as a freshly enrolled student is the first day of your career. While you're a BIMM student, you'll be immersed in the industry. You'll be taught by current music professionals who bring real, up-to-date experience directly into the classroom, and the curriculum they're teaching is current and relevant because it constantly evolves with the latest developments in the business. You'll attend masterclasses and industry events, giving you unparalleled access to an array of notable music business movers and shakers, such as Hozier, MNEK, Sid Wilson (Slipknot), Mabel, Nuno Bettencourt, Roger Daltrey, Chuck D, Thurston Moore, Guy Garvey, Chad Smith, Glastonbury founder Michael Eavis, and Creation Records founder Alan McGee. If it's a creative, successful and sustainable career in the music industry you're after, there really is no better place to be!

Antony Greaves
College Principal
BIMM Institute Birmingham

About Birmingham

It's 1965. In a sheet metal factory in Industrial Birmingham, Tony Iommi injures his hand, which would ultimately result in the creation of Heavy Metal. This would become so much more than a genre of music to come out of a rehearsal room in Aston. It was the birth of a movement with a religious-like following across the globe.

Birmingham's music heritage is as diverse as its communities, from the beating drums of Bhangra, distorted guitars still echoing around the city's streets from the last of the 70's punks, to the vinyl scratches of early 80's rave scene. Today, you can walk ten minutes through the city and hear an orchestral piece from Symphony Hall, the next big Indie band sound-checking in the Sunflower Lounge to the burgeoning Grime scene pouring out of a warehouse in Digbeth – the music scene here is unlike any other you'll find in the UK.

With three Arena's (The NIA, Genting Arena, Digbeth Arena), Birmingham hosts some of the biggest names in the music business, sporting events and festivals. If intimate singer-songwriter gigs are more your thing, you'll find it throughout the city in spaces like Centrala and The Kitchen Garden Café, as well as regular SoFar Sound events.

With heavy metal still firmly rooted in Birmingham, you can head to The Flapper, Subside and The Asylum to get your fix! If Indie and Alternative is more your thing, check out The Sunflower Lounge, The Castle & Falcon and Mama Roux's.

Surrounding Area

Digbeth

A stone's throw from the hustle and bustle of the city centre lies the creative neighbourhood of Birmingham and home to BIMM Institute, Digbeth. With its walls adorned with street art from artists all over the world, mixed with historic buildings and architecture, it's not surprising this has been voted the coolest place in the UK by The Sunday Times.

The trendy streets of Digbeth have become home to the city's creatives and musicians, and it's a melting pot of sound. From major touring acts gracing the stages of the Digbeth Arena, O2 Institute, The Mill and Mama Roux's, to Irish musicians passing through the area dropping by The Spotted Dog for an impromptu performance and some of the UK's best house music spilling out of warehouses, Digbeth is at the heart of Birmingham's music scene.

Birmingham City Centre

Don't be fooled by Birmingham's quiet confidence, once you scratch the surface it's a city with so much to shout about. Boasting more canals than Venice, more Michelin star restaurants than any other UK city outside of London, and home to the busiest theatre in the UK, it is bursting with heritage and culture.

Birmingham has the youngest population in Europe, so it's the perfect city to be a student. From unrivalled nightlife and club nights, world-class library facilities and inner-city festivals, it's a city shaped by youth culture.



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Shopping & food

Shopping

Birmingham has its iconic bullring centre that offers over 110,000 square-metre of retail space, including the eye-catching skin of the Selfridges store with its 15,000 aluminium disks. With the largest Chinatown outside of London and the biggest jewellery quarter in Europe, it's little wonder it's in England's top three most visited places to shop. The Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market has over 200 stalls and brings an unrivalled sense of merriment to the city at Christmas time. Throughout the year, other highlights include the Mailbox complex and the Grand Central Birmingham.

Eating out

Birmingham boasts a flourishing and diverse restaurant scene catering to all budgets and tastes. Foodies flock to the Balti Triangle - home and birthplace of the Balti Curry - whilst the city's Chinese district sits alongside traditional pub grub, meaning you really are spoilt for choice.

Regular food festivals offer Michelin star food at student prices throughout the city and monthly food, and farmers' markets, such as Moseley's, provide fresh local produce.

For those with more expensive tastes, Birmingham also has a number of Michelin star restaurants, including Turners at 69, Purnell's and Simpsons.

There's more to Birmingham's cuisine than a good Tikka Masala too. The city is a foodie's heaven, with award-winning dishes from vendors at Hockley Street Social based in Jewellery Quarter, Earth's Kitchen and Cherry Reds. Plus, with Three's Coffee Lounge serving up some of the best vegan food in the city, there's something for every appetite.

Student Associations and Clubs

BIMM Students Association (BSA) is a platform for students to organise student-led societies. This means you can start any sort of club you would like, from an LGBTQ+ Society to a badminton club. There are so many exciting opportunities to get involved with! Whether you're a Gig Goer, a fan of Musical Theatre, into Football, or want to get involved with the POC society, there's something for everyone.

Societies are a great way to meet other students with similar interests and try out new activities.

The Student Services team host and coordinate a variety of activities, workshops and awareness campaigns to help increase student well-being and the sense of community across the college. Along the way, we help raise money for local charities such as Mind (a mental health organisation) and Love Brum.





A creative quarter, canals and a strong musical heritage are paired with vibrancy and culture in this city located in the centre of the UK. This is where some of the best new independent music brews – and where the next generation constantly experiments to push the boundaries of music.

BIMM student Darius Zaltash gives you his guided tour of brilliant Birmingham.

My Birmingham

Birmingham is the second-largest city in the UK, yet has the youngest population. This means it's a place that's quite literally geared for student life – from live music, clubbing, shopping and restaurants to local festivals, arts and loads more.

First thing's first

As BIMM Institute is based in Digbeth, there's nowhere better to start than right there. Located right next to our college, The Custard Factory is an amazing cultural space with shops, bars, cafés and galleries all ready for you to explore.

Culture club

The MAC Centre, The Gay Village, Chinatown and The Custard Factory are all bursting with culture! Birmingham is home to people from all four corners of the globe and immersing yourself in different people's passions and lifestyles can teach you a lot.

Some other cool student hangouts I'd recommend are The Ruin, Gosta Green and Baked In Brick.

Live music

Birmingham has an incredible number of venues, ranging from iconic spaces such as The Sunflower Lounge and The Flapper to Mama Roux's, The Mill and the O2 Academy.

Mama Roux's and The Sunflower Lounge are personal favourites of mine, but there's so much more to discover so go and explore!

Your retail therapy fix

Support your local retailers at The Custard Factory. I'd also recommend PMT for any music equipment purchases.

They've just moved to a brand-new store and it is definitely something worth seeing. COW Vintage is also a favourite of mine for clothes. Of course, there's the mighty Bullring, which you can wander around for hours without getting bored.

Don't miss...

The Birmingham Music Awards' monthly networking events. The awards are a great thing to experience and be a part of.

I'd also recommend going to some of the free events at The Night Owl, such as Kaleidoscope and Neighbourhood (jam night) – both are seriously good events. The IKON Gallery is also a must if you want to be inspired!

Birmingham is such a welcoming city with a huge range of cultures and experiences, so you'll never be bored.

Accommodation guide

One essential thing you must ensure you have arranged prior to your studies at BIMM Institute Birmingham is your accommodation. Your living arrangement can be an important factor in your success as a student.

We do not have halls of residence at BIMM Institute Birmingham, which means you must find housing privately. However, we have various resources available to help with every step of the process.

Birmingham hosts various possibilities for accommodation such as flats, shared houses, and private halls. However, as Birmingham is a university city, there is a heavy demand for student accommodation. We advise you to look as early as possible to find a place that suits your needs.

Unite Student Properties

Unite Students has four students' halls available in Birmingham; The Heights, Londonderry House, Jennens Court and Curzon Gateway. Prices start from £119 per week, and each room comes with a bathroom and either personal or shared kitchen. The residences are within 0.1-0.5 miles from BIMM Institute Birmingham. For further information, go to unitestudents.com/birmingham

My Student Halls

My Student Halls has several properties on its listings ranging from £75 to £185 per week. They offer great value student housing with a wide range of studio and en suite rooms available. They're based between 0.1 to 2.3 miles from the city centre and BIMM Institute Birmingham. For further information, please visit mystudenthalls.com

Prime Student Living

Brand new in 2015, Athena Studios is set in the heart of the buzzing student district of Birmingham, with 259 well-appointed rooms, each with a fully-fitted kitchen and en suite bathroom. As Athena Studios is situated right on major bus routes, you can be enjoying great shopping, an array of bars and restaurants and all the thrills of the city centre, with BIMM Institute Birmingham less than 20 minutes away.

For further information, please visit primestudentliving.com/birmingham

CRM

CRM opened Bristol Street in September 2013, which provides some of Birmingham's most exclusive student accommodation. It's located with easy access to the city centre and BIMM Institute Birmingham. Each room comes with an en suite, parking and on-site laundry. With prices starting from £123 per week it's real value for money. For further information, please visit crm-students.com

Fresh Student Living

The Old Fire Station combines apartments with either en suite bedrooms or rooms sharing a bathroom. A wide variety of accommodation is available for people on all budgets, with rooms from £140 per week. It's also only a 15 minutes' bus ride away from BIMM Institute Birmingham and the bustling city centre. For further information, please visit freshstudentliving.co.uk

Alternatively, there are many letting agencies and private landlords based in Birmingham. If you are going through a letting agent, you will be expected to pay a holding fee, agency fees, a deposit and usually one month's rent upfront, plus provide a guarantor. Ensure that the letting agent you use is following the code of practice of the National Association of Estate Agents.

Websites that list locally available accommodation can also be found here:

- accommodationforstudents.com
- fish4lettings.co.uk
- findaproperty.com
- latesthomes.co.uk
- property.men.vivastreet.co.uk
- inedaplace.co.uk
- rightmove.co.uk
- zoopla.co.uk

Please be aware that the agents listed have not been visited or vetted in any way by BIMM Institute Birmingham and you should, therefore, use them at your own risk. Ask what charges you will have to pay before you enter into an agreement with them. If you do have any concerns about the agency, contact the National Association of Estate Agents at naea.co.uk

House shares

You could also find a number of existing house shares in Birmingham where you could join an established group of people. These can be found on the following websites:

- gumtree.co.uk/birmingham
- accommodationforstudents.com
- sparerroom.co.uk

Rent and bills

Below are some guidelines for the average price of accommodation in Birmingham, per month:

- Student Halls - £400 - 650 (inc. bills)
- House/Flat Share £340 - 400 (not inc. bills, and two or more people)

Finding housemates

Facebook is a good way to link up with people who are already at BIMM Institute or who are starting at the same time as you. Some students set up groups prior to starting BIMM Institute in order to find housemates. Using this facility is a great way to post information about yourself, the type of housing you are looking for and also any rooms that you or others may know about, which are available for rent.

It's the perfect place for students to acquaint themselves with their fellow course friends and find appropriate housemates. Look for group names such as 'BIMM Freshers'.

House viewings

• We recommend viewing a property at least twice. You'll be more likely to notice problems the second time around

- Take someone with you, or let someone else know exactly where you are when you visit a property, just to err on the side of caution
- It's also a good idea to visit the area at night. If you do this, please ensure you stick to the point above and take someone with you
- Make sure you and all your other housemates view the property. Don't take someone else's word that the property is right for you
- Compare a range of different landlords and properties
- Take your time and don't let landlords pressure you – there is a surplus of good properties in the area and you will find somewhere you like
- When you go to view, take notes and photos and use our checklist to make sure you don't miss anything
- Get informed – knowing your rights will help you view properties more critically and put you in a stronger negotiating position

How do I know what to look for when viewing a property?

We have checklists and tools to help when you're viewing properties. Use the checklist below to make sure you ask the right questions and look into all the key areas:

- Does the place look well maintained?
- Will you be warm enough in winter?
- Will it be safe and secure?
- Does it have the space and facilities you need (i.e. washing machine, heating, fridge/freezer)?
- Are the current tenants happy with the landlord?
- Is the property affordable and good value?
- Is the area suitable for your needs?

If you have any further questions about finding accommodation in Birmingham, please don't hesitate to contact our Student Support Team on 08442 646 666 or by emailing studentsupportbirmingham@bimm.ac.uk

Accessibility in Birmingham

Accommodation

When it comes to finding your student accommodation it's important to find somewhere that is right for you that meets your needs and offers maximum comfort. Here are a few things to consider for students with access needs...

- A studio apartment will often have a more accessible layout and additional space
- Make sure you look at the kitchen facilities: Are utilities and counters accessible to you?
- You may be more comfortable with an ensuite bathroom, or wet room
- See if the room has a mini fridge for any medication you may need to store
- If you are deaf or hard of hearing see if there are visual alarms and doorbells fitted
- Consider whether a ground floor studio or apartment will be more suited to your needs.

Most accommodation providers are happy to make reasonable adjustments, if there is anything you think you may find challenging living in student accommodation make sure you raise this early on with both BIMM and your accommodation provider so the right support and any additional funding can be put in place for you.

Here are some accommodation providers with a accessible rooms.

Accessible student apartments

www.truestudent.com/birmingham/true-apartments/true-accessible-apartment

Student accommodation & housing across the UK

www.unitestudents.com

The Toybox - Prestige Student Living

<https://prestigestudentliving.com/studentaccommodation/birmingham>

Accessible venues and places to visit

Midlands Arts Centre

www.macbirmingham.co.uk

The Midlands Arts Centre is a fully accessible arts hub, programming some of the city's most exciting live music, comedy, exhibitions, workshops and short courses.

The Nightowl

www.birmingham.thenightowl.club

Just a stone's throw away from BIMM Birmingham you'll find one of the cities most exciting live music venues, The Nightowl. Expect themed bottomless brunches, live music and be sure to check out the monthly club night 'Come As You Are' a safe space for neurodiverse people and people with disabilities.

The Glee Club

www.lee.co.uk/birmingham

If music and comedy is your thing, The Glee Club is a must!

Library of Birmingham – Fully accessible

O2 Institute

<https://www.academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham>

Disabled access and accessible toilet

Birmingham Hippodrome

www.birminghamhippodrome.com

One of the city's iconic theatres showing touring productions. Accessible, level access and automatic doors.

Useful services in the city

Home - Birmingham Mind

www.birminghammind.org

Home - BID Services

www.bid.org.uk

supporting young adults with sensory loss

Autism West Midlands | Supporting the Autistic Community

www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk

Home | Forward Thinking Birmingham

www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk

Inclusivity – Sport Birmingham

www.sportbirmingham.org/our-work/inclusivity

Focus Birmingham

Charity for sight loss and complex needs – Focus

www.focusbirmingham.org.uk

Birmingham is an independent local charity that provides information, advice, support and care for people with visual impairment and complex needs.

Sports | Local Offer Birmingham

www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/leisure/sports

Information on local leisure centres and sport clubs and how they support access needs including buddy schemes.

About BIMM Institute Birmingham

College facilities

When you walk through the doors of BIMM Institute Birmingham, you'll be greeted by our friendly staff and the lively sound of student music in the spacious reception area, where students are encouraged to be creative whenever inspiration strikes.

Our two live performance rooms are perfect for aspiring performers. The larger room seats 100 people, with many more standing, making it perfect for honing the craft of performing in front of an audience while in the supportive environment of the college. This room is also used for the majority of our Masterclasses, so you'll see each of our guests has signed our wall of fame! The second live performance room seats 50 and has been designed to be a closer, cosy venue, with adaptable lighting, excellent acoustic treatment and a professional sound system to inspire both you and your audience.

Our Music Production students have access to a state of the art recording studio, featuring industry-standard equipment throughout. The studio control room houses an Audient ASP8024-HE analogue mixing desk, Pro Tools HD recording system, and numerous analogue and digital outboard processors and effects, exactly as you would find in a professional recording studio. The studio Apple Mac Pro is also equipped with all the industry-standard software packages, such as Logic Pro, Ableton Live, Native Instruments, Melodyne and hundreds of third-party plugins.

Through the glass from the control room, you'll see the studio live room, which has been built from the ground up to ensure excellent sound isolation and high-quality adaptable acoustics. The room features a 'Live end-Dead end' arrangement, as well as wall panels, which can be adjusted to be reflective or absorptive. All of this helps you achieve the exact character of sound that you want in your production.

There are two Mac Suites at BIMM Institute Birmingham, both of which offer 20 of the latest Apple iMac computers, with all the industry-standard software installed.

In addition, there are Audient audio interfaces, controller keyboards and Ableton Push controllers to help you translate your performance into the software world.

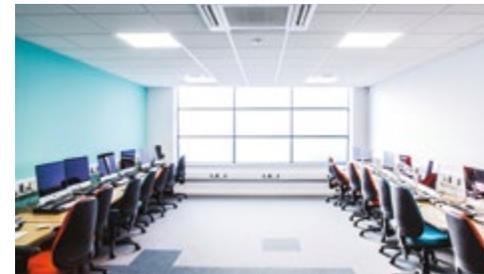
Drummers will find a new sanctuary in our Drum Lab, an acoustically treated room which is home to an acoustic drumkit and 16 Roland TD-25KV electronic kits. Each of these can be played using headphones to allow multiple students to play simultaneously without disturbing each other. This also allows the lecturer to tour the room, giving individual technique feedback to each student before they try out their new skills on the acoustic kit.

Naturally, there will be some downtime at the college between lessons, which is why we provide our students with a common room for relaxing, socialising or grabbing a snack. This space is reserved purely for student use – although every now and again, we'll host Masterclasses in this space. This gives students the opportunity to literally rub shoulders with some of the greats of the music industry in an informal environment. BIMM Institute Birmingham also offers several multi-purpose rooms, all of which are available to book via our online system any time that they're not being used for lessons. This ensures that you can make the most of your time as a BIMM student.

Student resources

As well as our excellent learning spaces, all BIMM Birmingham students have access to a wide variety of online learning tools. The Ebsco online library holds digital versions of many key subject texts as well as thousands of other works. Every student can log in to Moodle, our Virtual Learning Environment, to access learning resources, submit their work digitally and receive online feedback. Students can even sign up for tutorials and masterclasses through Moodle.

In addition, there is a dedicated space for quiet study as well as numerous PCs and Macs that can be used for research and essay writing, as well as practical DAW work. We have a library with physical copies of all the module core textbooks, as well as biographies, journals and subject-specific texts.





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WAVE LIMITING AMPLIFIER

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Distress

BIMM Institute Birmingham lecturers



Steve Osborne
Senior Lecturer
Studio Production

Steve Osborne is an internationally acclaimed producer and engineer. Steve started his career at Trident Studios before moving on to work as a remixer alongside Paul Oakenfold.

Since then, he's produced albums with New Order, U2, Happy Mondays, Elbow, Doves, Placebo and many more eminent artists. Recently, he's had great success mixing Gregory Porter for radio.



Collette Williams
Drums/Music Business

Collette is a session drummer, multi-instrumentalist and artist with over ten years of experience working for some of the world's biggest artists and record labels. She worked for Sony, Syco and Warner, leading her to drum in the video for Gabrielle Aplin's 'Sweet Nothing'.

Alongside session playing, Collette's band Rews were the first full signing to Marshall Records in 2017. Mark Radcliffe (BBC Radio 6 Music) named them alongside Chic as his Glastonbury highlight. Music Radar also selected Collette as one of their '10 best new drummers in the world right now'.

In 2019, Collette became drum tech for Refused and Blossoms. Her work with Blossoms led to her becoming their percussionist and backing vocalist. They embarked on a huge UK tour in 2020 and supported The Killers. Collette officially endorses Natal, Zildjian, Protection Racket and Aston Mics.



Tom Longworth
Guitar Lecturer

Tom Longworth is a session guitar player and songwriter based in Birmingham. He has sessioned with many artists, including Jamie Scott, Natalie Imbruglia, Charlotte Church, Ben's Brother and Gabrielle Aplin, but is best known for his work with British pop legend, Robbie Williams.

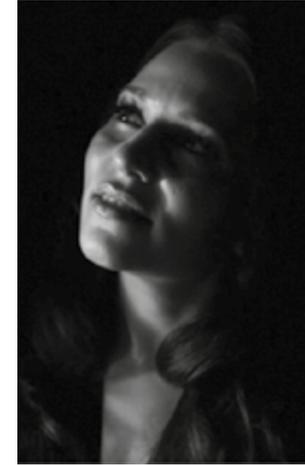
Tom has also worked in a studio environment with various producers/engineers, such as Richard Flack (Florence + The Machine/Robbie Williams), Guy Chambers (Robbie Williams/Kylie Minogue) Bob Lamb (UB40/Duran Duran), Danny Sprigg (Bring Me The Horizon/Ocean Colour Scene) and Tom Rothrock (Beck/James Blunt).



Jonny Amos
Songwriting Course Leader

Jonny Amos is a Songwriter and Producer with songs active in the USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, Latvia, South Korea and Sweden, amongst other territories. Jonny is signed with successful Scandinavian pop specialists TG-Management and regularly attends writing camps in Denmark, Sweden and the USA.

He has penned songs for UK X Factor winner Shayne Ward, Miss D (Number #1 in Portugal for six weeks), Maria Lawson, Jackie Paladino, CKay, Alicia Madison, Hatty Keane, Danish teen-star Honik, South Korean boyband Shinee and rising star Astrid Holiday, amongst many others.



Hannah White
Vocal Lecturer

Hannah has worked as a professional singer/songwriter since 1998. After studying Musical Theatre at Drama School, she found herself on tour for a decade supporting and working with some of music's most influential artists.

Hannah has worked with various bands as a lead vocalist, arranger, backing vocalist, session singer and recording artist on the soul scene. As well as vocal coaching, she is a Movement Director.

Her original material has led to presenting her own monthly radio shows after gaining recognition for four top-five single releases and two number one hits in the UK Soul Chart.



Erik Nielsen
Music Business Lecturer

Erik in an artist manager and music industry consultant whose Wingnut Music counts Elton John's Rocket Music, James Blunt, Bryan Ferry, The Hoosiers, and leading digital analysts Music Ally amongst his clients.

During his 11-year tenure with Marillion, he launched their pioneering direct-to-fan business in 1997 that became the basis for modern-day crowdfunding. Erik is also Chair of Education and former board member of the UK Music Managers Forum, co-author of The Music Management Bible, and a Visiting Professor at London Metropolitan University.

BIMM Institute Birmingham courses

Further education courses:

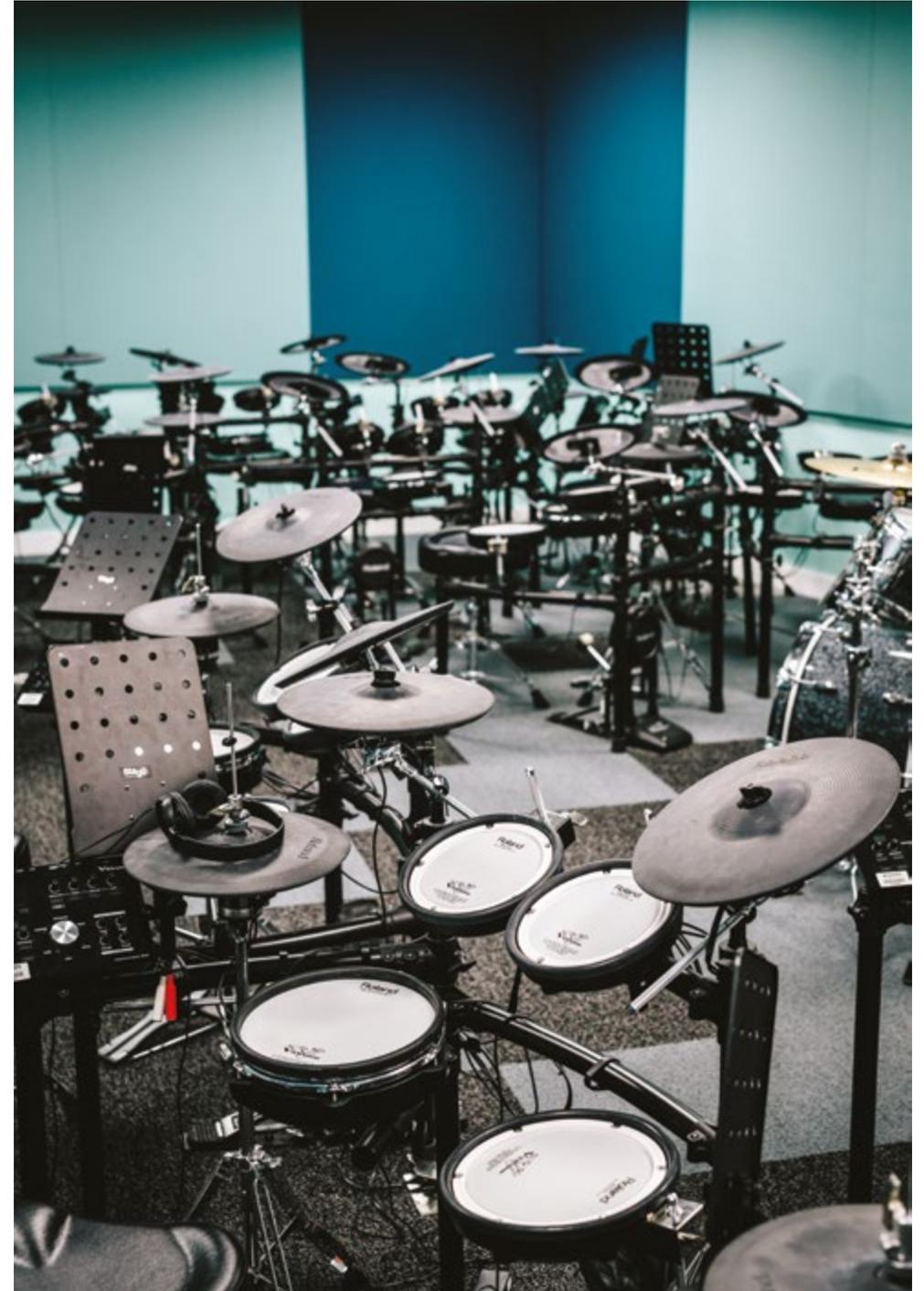
- Level 3 Extended Diploma Music Production
- Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music Performance
- Level 3 Extended Diploma in Songwriting

Single honours degrees:

- BA (Hons) Electronic Music Production
- BA (Hons) Music & Sound Production
- BA (Hons) Event Management
- BA (Hons) Music Business
- BA (Hons) Music Marketing Media and Communication
- BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance - Bass, Guitar, Drums, Keyboards, Vocals
- BMus (Hons) Songwriting

Joint honours degrees:

- BA (Hons) Music Production & Music Business
- BA (Hons) Music Business & Event Management
- BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance & Music Business
- BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance & Music Production
- BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance & Event Management
- BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance & Songwriting
- BA (Hons) Songwriting & Music Business
- BA (Hons) Songwriting & Music Production





Location

BIMM Institute Birmingham is located at 93-96 Floodgate St, in Digbeth.

There is an abundance of student accommodation within a fairly short distance of the building, and plenty of house and flatshares run by private landlords in other popular student areas. Please take into consideration the cost of travelling and the time it takes to get to the college from where you choose to live.

The following areas, in particular, are a good place to look for shared student accommodation:

- Birmingham City Centre
- Selly Oak
- Moseley and Kingsheath
- Edgbaston

Birmingham is well connected through public transport services. It has frequent buses that run all through the night, regular rail services and plenty of cycle lanes, which make it easy to get around.

Please note there are no parking facilities available at BIMM Institute Birmingham.



Your city

Transport links

BIMM Institute Birmingham is well connected to the rest of the city via public transport.

Train

Birmingham has eight local railways that cross the city and make moving between venues and attractions easy and simple. Birmingham New Street is the largest and busiest of the three main railway stations in the city centre of Birmingham. It is a central hub of the British railway system and makes travelling throughout the UK a breeze.

Having gigs in the surrounding cities and towns is now easier than ever with the Midland Metro, which will whisk you between Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Network West Midlands provides online timetables, fares (including day tickets and passes), ticket purchasing and route planning. To visit the Centro website, use www.centro.org.uk

Bus and metro

There are buses to all suburbs and areas of Birmingham, making Birmingham brilliant for easy, affordable travel. There is a huge network that links everyone to everything.

There are also night buses that go throughout the evening and early hours to places as far away as Coventry. Getting home from a gig is safe, cheap and easy. Network West Midlands has all the timetables and fare information online for easy ticket buying and route planning. More and more local buses have facilities such as low floors for easy access for wheelchair users and pushchairs. Head to networkwestmidlands.com for more information.

Taxi

Birmingham's well-regulated taxis are especially convenient for those with heavy luggage or returning late from a night out. TOA taxis are Birmingham's black cab operators. They can be hailed in the street or reached at one of the many taxi ranks in the city centre; the main ones are at New Street Station, Stephenson Street and Digbeth Coach Station. The city is also well-served by UBER.

Bike

With miles of canals and a compact city centre, what better way to explore Birmingham and the wider region than by bicycle? There are cycle lanes or paths on many of the major routes into and across the city that take in some of the city's beautiful parks and waterways en route. National cycle route 5 runs through Birmingham.

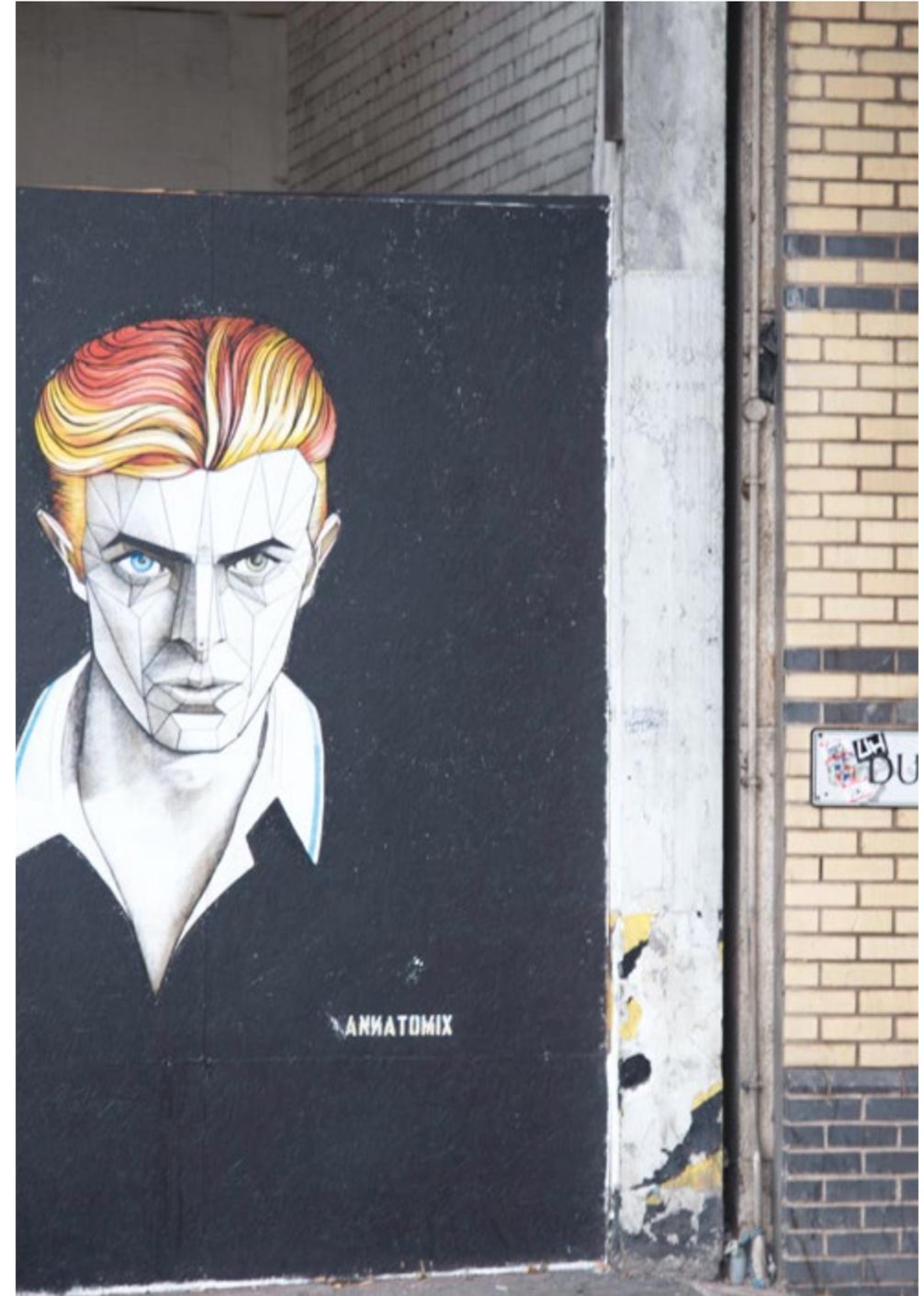
Hospitals, dentists, GPs

To find and register with a GP or doctors' surgery near you, head to nhs.uk/Service-Search/GP

Council tax

As a full-time student, you are not liable to pay council tax if you are house sharing with other students once your course commences. Although you will be exempt during your course, you will not be exempt if you move into a property before the start of your course and in addition once the course ends. The local Council Tax Office will be notified of students who are exempt after enrolment. However, you can also request a letter to confirm your student status from reception.

Students are responsible for setting up and paying for their utility bills, including water, electric, gas and internet access.





Local council information

To find out about Birmingham City Council services including recycling, bins, leisure and parking and council tax, head to birmingham.gov.uk

For other handy information, please see our list below:

- Adults and Communities Access Point (ACAP) 0121 303 1234
Monday to Thursday, 8:45 am to 5.15 pm
Friday, 8:45am to 4:15pm
- Adults Out of Hours Home Care Service 0121 464 5001
- Anti-social behaviour 0121 303 1111
- Benefits (includes Housing Benefit/Council Tax Support 0121 464 7000
- Council tax 0121 303 1113
- Domestic violence 0121 303 0368 or 0121 303 0369
- Emergency duty team 0121 675 4806
- Environmental health 0121 303 6007
- Highways/Flooding/Transportation (out of hours only) 0121 303 4149
- Homelessness 0121 303 7410
- Housing repairs 0121 216 3330
- Parks emergencies 0121 464 8728
- Rubbish (Waste and Recycling) 0121 303 1112
- Transportation emergencies 0121 303 4149

Music resources

Birmingham is jam-packed with amazing live venues. Here are seven of the best, so you can spend less time searching and more time gigging.

Birmingham has long had a history of vibrant nightlife. From 60s Brumbeat venues like the Plaza Ballroom in Handsworth to 90s superclubs like Godskitchen and Gatecrasher, the city has always celebrated good live music. These days though, Birmingham is fast gaining a reputation as one of the most exciting places in the UK to discover new music, whether you're after intimate acoustic shows, booming B-Town indie rock or hands-in-the-air electronic beats.

The Mill

Lower Trinity Street, Digbeth, B9 4Ag

Birmingham's flagship creative, industrial space hosts everything from festivals and art exhibitions to club nights and warehouse raves. The Mill offers relaxed surroundings with exposed brickwork, steel girders, seating crafted from railway sleepers and a peaceful chilled-out vibe. It's the perfect place if you like your live music hassle-free – listen to a local DJ over a pint in the pub area or catch a touring band playing in the back courtyard, courtesy of local independent live music, events and gigs promotions company, Birmingham Promoters.

The Night Owl

17-18 Lower Trinity St, Digbeth, B9 4Ag

Calling itself the Midlands' only Northern Soul and Motown bar, a visit to The Night Owl is like stepping back in time. With quirky, vintage interiors and a camera on the DJ booth, which projects the label of the vinyl record being played onto the club wall, an evening here makes for one eventful night. The venue even has a sprung wooden dancefloor especially for energetic Northern Soul dancing, so whether you're attending a dance class, live band performance or DJ night, the sheer theatrics of the records, clothes and dancing will have you realising why fans of Northern Soul believe that it's more than just a type of music – it's a way of life.

The Sunflower Lounge

76 Smallbrook Queensway, B5 4Eg

Since 2002, The Sunflower Lounge has recreated the glamour and grunge of a New York dive bar in Birmingham, with a strong focus on local music in all its glory. Their aim is to showcase the best in up-and-coming new Midlands talent in their basement gig room, while creating a cool DJ vibe in their main bar. The venue has a bohemian atmosphere with an American slant, and craft beers imported from the States with soul food to serve. The sounds provided, however, are distinctly Brummie, with a range of promoters using the venue for live shows for local unsigned bands, as well as new UK acts on initial tours.

Subside Bar

57 Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6Da

Once voted the best rock bar/club by Kerrang! Magazine poll voters, Subside Bar is just a stone's throw from Birmingham city centre and is Birmingham's alternative party mecca. Next door to the coach station and virtually opposite the O2 Institute, Subside has an amazing 8K sound rig to make sure you hear your favourite tunes in crystal clear quality. It hosts live bands every Thursday night, organised and run by Surprise You're Dead Music – Birmingham's fastest-growing independent promoters.

Though minimalistic in its approach to decor with trademark black and purple tones scattered throughout, it's all about the atmosphere and experience in Subside. Parties last well beyond the wee hours of the morning thanks to the bar's late-night 6 am finish on Fridays and Saturdays. Drinks at Subside have been left to the bar's fun and rampant imagination with alcoholic slush puppies, a cocktail fountain and economical beer towers prone to being any weekend visitor's drink of choice on a Friday or Saturday night.

Subside is the Birmingham bar with attitude. It also hosts a multitude of gigs nights, movie nights and downright raucous party nights, so if rock is your thing, swing by Subside.



The Spotted Dog

104 Warwick Street, Digbeth, B12 0Nh

Live music is at the beating heart of this cosy Irish pub, just off Digbeth High Street. Different genres are regularly catered for, with jazz, blues, classical and Irish music all taking weekly or fortnightly turns. On other occasions, DJs play soul and bluebeat, and punters are encouraged to scoff huge pork pies and flavoured scotch eggs while watching live performances. The Spotted Dog has one of the quirkiest beer gardens in the UK, with vintage trinkets, Victorian ornaments, record players, books and even pot plants made from toilets, all adorning the large covered area. Grab a pint of locally brewed ale, and it's the perfect home away from home.

O2 Institute Birmingham

78 Digbeth High Street, Digbeth, B5 6Dy

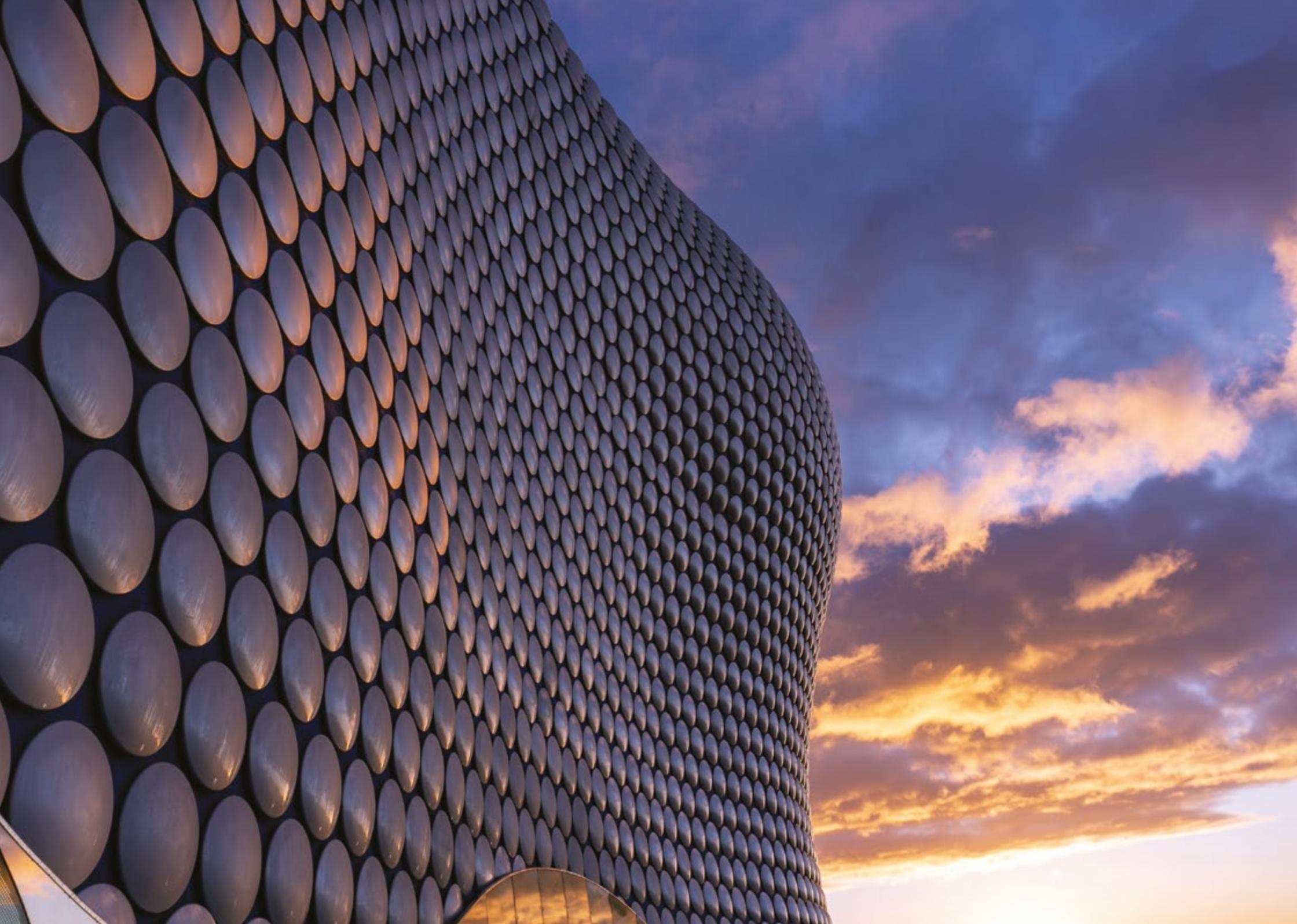
Part of the UK's Academy Music Group, the O2 Institute Birmingham is a landmark live music venue, situated in a building formally known as Digbeth Civic Hall, which was once the first UK home of international trance superclub, Godskitchen. The venue is made up of three main rooms – the 2,000 capacity main auditorium called 'The Institute' with its seated upper balcony; a downstairs room which holds 600 people; and a 300-capacity upstairs room. It attracts all manner of different bands and artists, from 90s-era classics such as Kula Shaker, Super Furry Animals, and local boys The Wonder Stuff and Bentley Rhythm Ace, to international touring acts including The Temper Trap and Ladyhawke.

Hare & Hounds

High Street, Kings Heath, B14 7Jz

Forming part of the continuing and evolving music scene in Birmingham, the Hare & Hounds has been running as a venue for over 100 years, playing a vital role in the Kings Heath vibrant music and creative community. Having hosted Birmingham legends UB40's first-ever gig in 1979, it continues to showcase upcoming and established talent from Ed Sheeran, George Ezra, Scroobius Pip, Ellie Goulding, Bonobo and many more. With two pubs downstairs and plenty of space for gigs and weekend DJs, the two venues upstairs host live music and club nights, which cover every genre and style of music most nights of the week.





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To apply to BIMM Institute Birmingham, book an audition or ask us a question, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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