

# BIMM University

## Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 Access and Participation Plan

### What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education. You can see the full access and participation plan for BIMM University at [bimm access and participation plan 21-24.pdf](#)

### Key points

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

We have five music colleges in England, in Birmingham, Bristol, Brighton, London and Manchester. Four performing arts colleges, two are the Institute for Contemporary Theatre in Brighton and Manchester and two Performers Colleges in Birmingham and Essex. We also have three Screen and Film Schools in Birmingham, Brighton, and Manchester.

The focus of our access and 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 that come 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 University, 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 students 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.

*See pages 1-11 of the full plan for more detail.*

### Fees we charge

At BIMM University, the maximum fees charged for full-time home undergraduate students are £9,250. We do not offer any part-time courses. You can view a fee summary here: [BIMM Fee Summary 2223.pdf](#)  
*See page 38 of the full plan for more detail.*

### Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed.

- Our **Admissions Event Travel Bursary** helps students access auditions or experience days if they come from low-income backgrounds or areas where fewer students go into higher education. We will pay the travel costs (up to £200) to all eligible applicants.
- **The Fair Access Fund**, this is an umbrella term which includes all financial support for new students. This includes a **low-income household bursary**, of £1,000 each year for the duration of the course if the student's household income is below £25,000. A bursary of £1,500 per year for students from **care backgrounds, who are care experienced or are estranged** from their families. We also have **specific access funds** to support underrepresented students to transition into study, these funds may help with course materials, uniform, additional learning support requests or help getting a medical diagnosis.  
More details of our financial support packages are available on our website: [The Fair Access Fund - BIMM Institute](#)
- We also have a **Hardship Fund** to support students who experience financial hardship during their studies.  
*See pages 36-37 of the full plan for more detail.*

### Information for students

- **Prospective students** receive information on fees and financial support in our prospectus, at in-person events, such as our open days, auditions (where appropriate) and by e-mail communications. More details on fees and finance are available on our website: [Fees and finance - BIMM Institute](#)
- We regularly update our information for **care leavers** on the [Propel | BIMM Institute](#) website
- **Current students** receive information about fees and financial support via their student e-mail address.

### What we are aiming to achieve

We aim to;

- Reduce the gap between students coming to BIMM University from areas of high participation neighbourhoods and **low participation neighbourhoods** to 8% by 2024-25
- Reduce the gap between students coming to BIMM University from the least deprived areas and **most deprived areas** to 2% by 2024-25
- Reduce the gap between the national 18-year-old Asian population and **Asian students** coming to BIMM University to 3% by 2024-25
- Eradicate the gap between the national 18-year-old Black population and **Black students** coming to BIMM University to 3% by 2024-25
- Increase the number of **care-leaver students** to 4% by 2024-25
- Eradicate the difference between the number of students that don't continue from **low participation neighbourhoods, areas of high deprivation and disabled students** compared to all other students to 0% by 2024-25
- Eradicate the attainment gap for students from **low participation neighbourhoods and the areas of high deprivation** compared to other students to 0% by 2024-25
- Reduce the degree attainment gap between White students and **Black students and students of other ethnicities** to 10 percentage points by 2024-25
- Reduce the degree attainment gap between students with no known disability and **disabled students** to 4 percentage points by 2024-25
- **Support school pupils to achieve better results and have more opportunities and knowledge about accessing further and higher education** – we are expanding our school tours programme to include specific schools that have higher proportions of target access and participation pupils.
- **Enhance our new portfolio curriculum** to provide appropriate support for underrepresented students to transition into and develop career and employability skills.

*See pages 13-15 of the full plan for more detail*

## What we are doing to achieve our aims

We have identified the following key areas of activity to widen access and support progression into higher education.

- Expand our **schools and colleges tour and partnership programme** to reach pupils from underrepresented backgrounds. This is so we can help them to attain good grades and progress to study for a higher education qualification
- **Engage with external partners** to develop bespoke creative city hubs to improve access to higher education for underrepresented students
- Expand the number and range of **experience days, summer schools and outside school clubs** to offer more variety and easier access to underrepresented students
- Establish the **new curriculum modules** to target the challenges for underrepresented students with the transition and progression in higher education
- Offer a **variety of financial support options** for new underrepresented students via the Fair Access Fund, travel bursaries and scholarship programmes
- **Enhance study support** for underrepresented students via the new Personal Tutor Scheme in the music colleges
- **Support career development** of teaching staff from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds to diversify the teaching staff
- **Increase progression rates** for students from underrepresented groups. We will use a range of mentorship programmes, industry work experience, placements and raise attainment with specific masterclasses from industry professionals from similar backgrounds.

*See pages 20-30 of the full plan for more detail*

## How students can get involved

Our Access and Participation Student Group meets three times a year to give feedback on the planning, monitoring, evaluation and delivery of our Access and Participation work. This Student Group reports into the Access and Participation Committee which is our main working group and helps us to ensure we are meeting the goals in line with the Access and Participation Plan.

Student representation is also included in all of BIMM University's formal quality meetings which look at our academic provision and resources at both a college and group level.

*See pages 30-31 of the full plan for more detail. To become involved in any Access and Participation work please get in touch with the Group Head of Access and Participation, [angeliquesabine@bimm.co.uk](mailto:angeliquesabine@bimm.co.uk)*

## Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our activities are informed by the best available evidence about what works for our students. We will collect data and feedback so that we can evaluate:

- Our outreach work
- Our programme design
- Any programme of activity we are doing to achieve our aims
- The actions outlined above in our aims
- The impact of achieving our overall aim of improved access and a more diverse and inclusive creative community

We are designing an evaluation strategy with our new partners the Specialist Evidence Evaluation and Research (SEER) collaborative to help us ensure we're on track to meet our goals. We'll look at each activity annually to review its contribution to achieving our targets, and our annual report will be published on our website.

*See pages 31-35 of the full plan for more detail.*

## Contact details for further information

If you would like to get in touch for further information about Access and Participation at BIMM, please contact Angelique Sabine, Group Head of Access and Participation on [angeliquesabine@bimm.ac.uk](mailto:angeliquesabine@bimm.ac.uk)