

BIMM University

Summary of 2025-26 – 2028-29 access and participation plan

What is an access and participation plan?

An access and participation plan sets out provisions that will be meaningful and effective in promoting equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups, as determined by the Office for Students.

Our access and participation plan is a commitment that we make as a university to fulfil one of the main requirements set out by the Office for Students, the government body that regulates universities. This requirement is to 'ensure that all students, from all backgrounds, with the ability and desire to undertake higher education, are supported to access, succeed in, and progress from higher education' ([Regulatory Notice 1](#), p. 3). The goals and activities described in the access and participation plan are designed to help us make BIMM University a more inclusive and accessible place for everyone.

You can see the full access and participation plan for BIMM University at [Access and Participation at BIMM Institute](#).

Key points

See pages 1-5 and pages 39-77 of the access and participation plan for more information.

BIMM University focuses on [creative industries](#) education across four faculties: Music, Screen and Film, Performing Arts, and Creative Technologies. We are located across seven UK campuses and two additional campuses abroad: Brighton, London, Corringham and Rayleigh (Essex), Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Leeds, Dublin, and Berlin. We currently serve approximately 6,800 undergraduate and 250 postgraduate taught students across all campuses.

At BIMM University, our purpose is to inspire the next generation of industry professionals through the creation of inclusive and creative learning environments. We aim to remove barriers and create opportunities for equal participation in the creative industries. Our vision is to provide the highest standard of industry-led education, built on a foundation of collaboration, inclusivity, and an entrepreneurial spirit, preparing our students for sustainable careers within the creative industries.

While writing our access and participation plan, we consulted multiple sources of data about our students over the previous six-year period and compared ourselves to the total picture of universities in the UK. We looked at data about our students at five different stages, collectively referred to as the student lifecycle.

As a result of that analysis, we have identified three key groups of students who will receive additional support during the life of this Plan. They are:

- **Students from the most economically disadvantaged backgrounds, as defined by [the Index of Multiple Deprivation \(IMD\)](#).**
 - The IMD measures relative deprivation by drawing together multiple indications of social and economic advantage or disadvantage within small geographic areas. Then, it expresses these various indicators as a single numeric value for each area. These are sorted across five quintiles, with Quintile 5 being the most privileged, and Quintile 1 being the least privileged.

- **Students from the Global Majority**
 - Global Majority is a collective term coined by Rosemary Cambell-Stephens MBE, to refer to ‘people who are Black, Asian, Brown, dual-heritage, indigenous to the global south, or have been racialised as “ethnic minorities”’ ([Campbell-Stephens 2020](#)). These groups make up more than 80% of the world population.

- **Disabled students**
 - Disability includes physical conditions, mental health conditions, and neurodivergence. The data in this area includes only those students who have declared their disability, which is a flaw in the data, as students may be undiagnosed or may fear stigma as a result of making their disability known.

[Fees we charge](#)

See page 35 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Full-time undergraduate fees are currently £9,250 per year.

Part-time undergraduate fees are currently £4,625 per year.

These rates are accurate as of January 2025, but changes are pending in line with the new government thresholds for inflation.

[Financial help available](#)

See pages 36-37 of the access and participation plan for more information.

BIMM University offers a number of scholarships and bursaries to support students.

Scholarships and bursaries are subject to change; for the most up to date information on our scholarships and bursaries (including eligibility criteria) please refer to our website.

[Information for students](#)

See page 35 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Information regarding our fees, entry requirements and support services is available to students and applicants through our prospectus, website and internal student information platform. Friendly and knowledgeable staff are also available for guests on our open days or via email and telephone.

What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 5-6 of the access and participation plan for more information.

- To support access and pathways into higher education and to BIMM for:
 - students from the lowest socioeconomic backgrounds (IMD 2019 Quintile 1);
 - students from the [Global Majority](#)
- To improve on-course outcomes for:
 - students from low socio-economic (IMD Quintile 1) backgrounds;
 - disabled students;
- To improve degree outcomes for:
 - students from Global Majority backgrounds.
- To improve graduate outcomes for:
 - disabled students.

What we are doing to address keys risks to equality of opportunity

See pages 7-22 of the access and participation plan for more information.

We have structured our activities around two broad Intervention Strategies, as follows:

Intervention Strategy 1: Supporting Progression to Creative Industries Degrees by Championing Students' Aspirations and Lowering Barriers to Access

Under Intervention Strategy 1, we have committed to the following activities:

- **External partnerships to support young people (pre-16) to achieve their goals**
- **Financial support for audition and interview costs**
- **Review of applicant journey**
- **Part-time undergraduate degree options** (cross-intervention activity, with Intervention Strategy 2)

Intervention Strategy 2: Holistic and Integrated On-Course Support

Under Intervention Strategy 2, we have committed to the following activities:

- **Inclusive and Relevant Curriculum, Teaching, Learning and Assessment**
- **Programme of Support for Students who are First in Family (FiF) to HE**
- **Housing Support**
- **Campus Inclusion Collective / EDI Student Committee Pilots**
- **Support for Neurodivergent (ND) Students**
- **Support for Students with Chronic Illnesses**

How students can get involved

See page 30 of the access and participation plan for more information.

It is important to us that students are included in making decisions about how the university is run. Student representatives are included in the membership of most committees (except for assessment boards, where student representation would be a conflict of interest).

Beyond committee work, we engage students through focus groups, in approval and review panel meetings, as full members of course approval and review panels. Town Halls led by Heads of School are being piloted in a number of schools to engage with a wider student cohort.

We created two Student Consultant roles to support the development of our access and participation plan. These students participated in writing the plan, consulted with other working groups as appropriate (including the Induction Working Group), and independently wrote the Student Consultation portion of the plan. The Student Consultants have also been instrumental in considering our Provision of Information to Students, and they will be participating in the implementation of the plan across the BIMM community.

Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

See pages 33-35 of the access and participation plan for more information.

Evaluation and research are part of our 'whole institution' approach to access and participation. Our academic, professional and leadership teams contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of targets, intervention strategies and activities in this plan through supporting and inputting on the range of evaluation measures.

Our membership with Applied Inspiration's Specialist Evidence, Evaluation, and Research group (SEER) provides us with the evaluation and research expertise we need to deliver our commitments in these areas. We will actively participate in this network, which provides us with opportunities to be part of collaborative research and evaluation projects and learn and share practice with other members and external stakeholders.

Contact details for further information

Please contact Dr Nora Williams, Associate Dean: Access and Participation at norawilliams@bimm.ac.uk for more information.