

# ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN SUMMARY

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The Royal Academy of Music moves music forward by inspiring successive generations of musicians to connect, collaborate and create.

Charity number 310007

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**UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON**

## WHAT IS AN ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN?

Access and participation plans explain how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity. They are meant to help students in underrepresented groups find higher education places, and help them succeed and progress through higher education once they have started out.

You can see the Royal Academy of Music's full access and participation plan [here](#).

## KEY POINTS

- Students from low-income backgrounds, British students from ethnic minority backgrounds and students with declared disabilities are currently underrepresented at the Academy.
- We would like students in underrepresented groups to apply to the Academy in greater numbers.
- Our access and participation plan shows what the Academy is doing and will continue to do to encourage applications. The plan includes target numbers. We want to see these numbers increasing and will check each year to find out whether or not they are.

## FEES WE CHARGE

Maximum fees charged by the Royal Academy of Music are, at present:

- £9250.00 for full-time UK ("home") BMus students

You can see a full list of fees for courses at the Royal Academy of Music [here](#).

## FINANCIAL HELP AVAILABLE

We offer financial support to students from underrepresented groups, if they need it in order to take up an Academy place. Financial support arrangements are reviewed from year to year. When students need financial support throughout their time at the Academy we aim to provide it. Support arrangements include:

- Fee waivers (up to 100% of fees in some cases)
- Bursaries to help with living expenses. Amounts vary. Our bursaries are means-tested.
- A hardship fund to help students who encounter unexpected financial problems during their time at the Academy.

## INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Prospective students receive information about fees and financial support at in-person events such as open days, and by email.

Current students receive information about fees and financial support through all available internal communication channels, including email; also from personal tutors and from the Students' Union.

Academy website pages detailing fees and financial support arrangements are regularly updated.

For the most up-to-date information, see the Fees, Scholarships and Bursaries page [here](#).

## WHAT WE ARE AIMING TO ACHIEVE

Our main access and participation aim is to support students to access higher education. We also want to ensure that all Academy students learn everything they can during their time with us. If students arrive with gaps in their knowledge, or with some skills under-developed, we want to work with them to fill gaps and build skills. We want every student admitted to the Academy to graduate successfully, and to go out into the world as a fully-employable professional musician.

Section 2 of our access and participation plan, "Strategic Aims and Objectives", includes a number of specific targets. We have in the past recruited UK students mainly from economically prosperous parts of the country: so-called high-participation neighbourhoods. (Young people with family homes in high participation neighbourhoods often do go on to higher education. This is what high participation means.) Over the lifetime of our plan, 2022/23-2026/27, we aim to recruit more students from low participation neighbourhoods, so that the gap in numbers recruited from high and low participation neighbourhoods narrows by 4 percentage points each year.

We aim to increase numbers of Black, African-Caribbean, Asian and other minority ethnic students. Specific targets will be set for the rest of our 2022/23-2026/27 plan period, when progress by the end of 2022/23 has been reviewed.

We aim to increase numbers of students with declared disabilities. Specific targets will be set for the rest of our 2022/23-2026/27 plan period, when progress by the end of 2022/23 has been reviewed.

## WHAT WE ARE DOING TO ACHIEVE OUR AIMS

Our full access and participation plan goes into detail.

- We are working with schools to give primary-stage pupils an inspirational, well- resourced start to their musical journeys.
- Bursary-supported places at Junior Academy (the Academy's Saturday school) are available to all young auditionees, subject to financial need.

- Academy undergraduate students working under our “Open Academy” umbrella run school projects intended to de-mystify the study of music at higher levels, and to present the Academy in particular as an accessible destination.
- The Academy runs a number of clubs for GCSE Music students, to help them prepare for university and conservatoire interviews and auditions. GCSE-age members of our Composers’ Club and Jazz Club receive expert teaching input and mentoring.
- We run music theory “springboard sessions” to help school music students pass Grade 5 theory exams. (They will in most cases be required to pass Grade 5 theory before attempting practical performance exams at Grades 6-8. And without practical passes at Grades 6-8 they will be unable to progress to higher education in Music.)
- We are working with current Academy students and with external advisers to keep our undergraduate (BMus) curriculum under continuous review. We want to ensure that students find the curriculum engaging and empowering whatever their prior experience of music, and want to ensure that students with catch-up needs on arrival have those needs identified and met.
- We have a range of financial support measures in place to help students who would not be able to start at the Academy or stay at the Academy unless help were available to them. (See above, under “Financial help available”.)

## HOW STUDENTS CAN GET INVOLVED

We worked with the Students’ Union to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our Access and Participation Plan Working Group, which is responsible for overseeing implementation of the plan.

To provide feedback, students can [contact the Royal Academy of Music Students’ Union](#).

## EVALUATION: HOW WE WILL MEASURE WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

Section 3.3 in our access and participation plan, “Evaluation Strategy”, goes into detail.

- We have appointed new staff members to collect and analyse data that will enable us to check progress against targets set out in the plan.
- Data together with commentaries on the data will be reviewed by the Academy’s Access and Participation Plan Working Group, meeting three times a year (once per term).
- Data together with commentaries on the data will be separately reviewed by the

Academy’s Senior Management Team and Governing Body, taking full account of comments made by members of the Access and Participation Plan Working Group.

- The Academy’s Senior Management Team and Governing Body will take such action as may be necessary, in light of data review, to ensure that targets set out in the plan can continue to be met.

## CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

You can contact Claire Cooke at [ccooke@ram.ac.uk](mailto:ccooke@ram.ac.uk) for further information.