

Section 33: BIMM Institute Research & Enterprise Strategy 2016/17 – 2018/19

Introduction

The BIMM Group is an acknowledged market leader in popular music education, offering Further and Higher Education courses in popular music performance, songwriting, music production, event management, music business and music journalism validated in the UK by Bath Spa University, the University of Sussex, and the University of West London; validated in Germany by the University of West London; delivered in Ireland in partnership with the Dublin Institute of Technology and also validated by the University of West London.

Strategy Statement

The BIMM Group believes that teaching and learning across all of its colleges and courses should be informed and enriched by professional practice and scholarship.

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

- Identify and support 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 opportunities;
- Identify and support research potential through support for postgraduate study and the provision of a programme of activities and opportunities aimed at developing early career researchers.

Research & Enterprise Committee

In September 2015, the BIMM Group established a Research & Enterprise Committee, a subcommittee of Academic Board, to oversee the development and implementation of the BIMM Group's Research & Enterprise Strategy, and to monitor the effectiveness of the research activities undertaken across all BIMM Group colleges.

For the period of this strategy (2016/17 – 2018/19), membership of the Research & Enterprise Committee will include members of BIMM academic management and teaching staff with an interest in, and experience of, research activities in support of learning and teaching in Higher Education music. Committee membership will also include an experienced researcher in music from a UK university or specialist music college who will provide external advice, guidance and scrutiny.

Aims

The aims of the BIMM Group Research & Enterprise Strategy are to:

- Establish the BIMM Group as a centre of excellent and expertise for popular music practice and research;
- Develop and support a programme of research activities and outcomes across the diversity of popular music areas and disciplines;
- Foster a community of enquiry and collaboration that that is accessible, engaging and enabling;
- Encourage and support staff to undertake postgraduate study at MA and PhD level which develops their subject knowledge and expertise, and raises their profile within the wider academic community;
- Encourage and support staff to undertake research and scholarly activity that enhances the quality of the student experience;

- Develop a research-informed approach to learning and teaching, which is student-centric, open, innovative and engaged, and is enhanced through the use of enabling technologies;
- Engage collaboratively with the music industry to undertake research which benefits the wider music industry.

Principal Strands

The BIMM Group Research & Enterprise has four principal strands:

- *Practice as research* through performance, songwriting/composition, and recording and production that creates innovative new work.
- *Enterprise as research*, through entrepreneurial and commercial activity that applies and transfers knowledge and develops innovation within the music and creative industries.
- *Pedagogical research* through reflective teaching and learning practice and action research that is innovative and enhances 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 popular music, its study and practice.

Enablers

The following principal projects and activities will enable the achievement of the BIMM Group Research & Enterprise Strategy during the period 2016/17 - 2018/19:

Research Project Bursaries

An annually agreed number of project bursaries of up to £3,000 will be available through a peer-reviewed application process to support small-scale research projects that contribute to the achievement of the BIMM Group's Research & Enterprise Strategy and lead to tangible outputs that can be disseminated to the wider popular music academic community and/or music industry. Applications can be for funding to cover research time (for sessional tutors and fractional staff), project costs and materials, conference attendance, travel, accommodation and subsistence costs all incurred as part of the completion of the process.

Postgraduate Study Bursaries

An annually agreed number of postgraduate study bursaries will be available through a management-reviewed application process to support postgraduate study at Masters and Doctoral level that contributes to the achievement of the BIMM Group's Research & Enterprise Strategy. Applications for funding will be to cover a contribution towards university tuition fees. This strand of enabling activity will be supported by the *BIMM Group Postgraduate Study Policy*.

BIMM Research & Enterprise Centre (BREC)

An internally-facing network supported by a dedicated space on BIMM's Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle) which aims to disseminate information about forthcoming internal and external research-focused activities such as seminar series, conference calls for papers, conferences and funding opportunities, and provides a platform for the dissemination of BIMM staff research projects and outcomes.

BREC will also curate and promote an annual research seminar series that will feature papers/presentations from external speakers as well as providing a platform for BIMM staff to present their research either as a work in progress or the final output.

Monitoring and Review

Progress toward the achievement of the BIMM Group Research & Enterprise Strategy will be monitored by the Research & Enterprise Committee, which will report to Academic Board through its minutes.

An annual Research & Enterprise report, produced by the Dean of Higher Education, will be considered by Academic Board at the Term 1 meeting on the recommendation of the Research & Enterprise Committee.