

## What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans set out how higher education providers will improve the 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 the RNCM at [RNCM-Access-and-Participation-Plan.pdf](#)

## Key points

The RNCM is a world-leading small, specialist music college with a commitment to fostering musical and artistic excellence, innovation, research, shaping the music industry of the future. Its vision is based on inspiring and empowering all of its students, irrespective of their backgrounds to excel, transforming the lives of others and to be the agents of societal, cultural and artistic change.

The RNCM currently has 952 students (620 undergraduates and 332 in the Graduate School) from over 55 countries, and around 320 teaching staff.

The main area that this plan seeks to improve is increasing access of underrepresented students to the RNCM and to enable pathways into different universities and employment routes.

## Fees we charge

The Board of Governors have approved the following tuition fees: [www.rncm.ac.uk/fees](http://www.rncm.ac.uk/fees)

Tuition fees for Home undergraduate students are regulated by the Government. The maximum fees charged are £9,535 for full-time students.

**Tuition Fee Policy:** Our Tuition Fee Policy applies to all students enrolled on a credit-bearing programme of study at the College.

## Financial help available

*Bursaries and scholarships*  
[www.rncm.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.rncm.ac.uk/scholarships)

### *Undergraduate Access Bursaries*

The College offers bursary support, linked to household income to eligible UK Undergraduate students. These are offered to Home undergraduates whose household income meets the published criteria.

### *Scholarships*

The College provides over £1m in the form of student scholarships and bursaries each year. Scholarship Awards are offered to applicants who demonstrate outstanding ability and potential at audition. There is no separate application process for these as all candidates are automatically considered.

### *Audition fee refund*

Audition fee refund - audition assessment fees will continue to be waived for or refunded to applicants whose families are in receipt of means-tested state benefits. The College may also refund up to £50 of the cost of travel to an RNCM audition in exceptional circumstances, and where an online audition is not possible.

There are a limited number of scholarships and bursaries available for cases of financial hardship. Applications for these are made once the audition process is over and offers have been made.

### **Information for students**

[www.rncm.ac.uk/funding](http://www.rncm.ac.uk/funding)

This Access and Participation Plan will be made available and published on the College website. Additionally, the website includes clear information on all forms of support available at the College. A section of the website, entitled 'Fees and Funding', provides details of tuition fees, audition fees, scholarships and bursaries and external funding sources for prospective and current students.

All UK / EU undergraduate students with an assessed household income of under £40,000 are eligible for a bursary and will receive the award each year of study, as long as they remain eligible.

Students are directed to the Admissions Team or Student Services/ Finance for further information.

### **What we are aiming to achieve**

Our access and participation objectives are therefore:

- 1) Increase opportunities to build knowledge and skills, raising attainment and providing progression pathways for those young people reporting:
  - a) Non-White British ethnicity
  - b) Free School Meals
  - c) Disability
- 2) Increase the application pool for applicants reporting:
  - a) Non-White British ethnicity
  - b) Free School Meals
  - c) Disability
- 3) Maintain conversion rate from application to offer for applicants reporting:
  - a) Non-White British ethnicity
  - b) Free School Meals
  - c) Disability
- 4) Maintain conversion rate from offer to enrolment for applicants reporting:
  - a) Non-White British ethnicity
  - b) Free School Meals
  - c) Disability
- 5) Close the attainment gap for neurodiverse students in years 1 and 2
- 6) Close the attainment gap for students with a mental health condition in years 1 and 2

### **What we are doing to achieve our aims**

- We will build on our work with schools to include a programme of work to raise attainment and support progress in a targeted and focused way (RNCM Engage)

- We will build on our work with 16-18 year olds to support entry to our world-leading degree programmes (RNCM Transitions)
- We will build on our academic and wellbeing support, ensuring success for all students and targeted support for underrepresented students as necessary (RNCM Accelerate)

### **How students can get involved**

RNCM students have opportunities to get involved in our work with schools in a number of different ways:

- Placements within our degree programmes – all students undertake a placement, many students choose a placement within education and schools.
- Getting involved as a mentor – all students have the opportunity to apply to become a mentor and work with young people across our junior programmes and mentoring schemes.
- Getting involved in projects outside of our degree programmes – all students have the opportunity to get involved in outreach work.

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

- We will ensure our work is evidence-informed, using our own research and the research and evaluation shared by others to decide what we do and how to improve our work (our music education research strategy)
- We will ensure that we understand how far we are meeting our aims and objectives through evaluating the impact of our work and how to make improvements as necessary through process evaluation (our evaluation programme)

### **Contact details for further information**

Key contacts are:

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For further information about Access and Participation, please contact Professor Jennie Henley.