

## **Rose Bruford College**

### **Summary of Access and Participation Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29**

#### **What is an Access and Participation Plan?**

An Access and Participation Plan (APP) sets out how Rose Bruford College will improve equality of opportunity for students from underrepresented backgrounds. The plan is approved by the Office for Students (OfS), the independent regulator for higher education in England.

It explains:

- the barriers some students may face in accessing and succeeding in higher education
- the actions we will take to address those barriers
- How we measure our progress

The full Access and Participation Plan is available on our website.

#### **About Rose Bruford College**

Rose Bruford College is a specialist higher education institution based in Sidcup, South East London, offering undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in acting, theatre, performance, design, production and related disciplines.

We are committed to creating an inclusive, supportive and creative environment where all students can thrive. Equality, diversity, and inclusion are central to our Strategic Plan, *Adventure and Be Bold*, and our approach to student success.

Our Access and Participation Plan supports this commitment by focusing on improving opportunities for students from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds.

#### **Our Approach**

Our approach supports students across the whole student lifecycle, including:

- access to higher education
- transition and belonging
- student success and achievement
- progression into employment or further study

Our priorities are informed by analysis of student data, national evidence, and consultation with students

#### **Key Groups We Support**

We focus on improving outcomes for the following priority groups:

- Students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds (IMD Quintile 1)
- Students from Global Majority backgrounds (including Black, Asian, and other ethnically diverse groups)
- Disabled students

## **Key Challenges**

From our analysis, we have identified two main risks to equality of opportunity.

### **1: Access to Higher Education**

Students from disadvantaged and Global Majority backgrounds may face barriers such as:

- limited access to arts education and enrichment opportunities
- reduced access to information, advice, and guidance about higher education
- perceptions about careers in the creative industries
- financial barriers

### **2: Student Success and Outcomes**

Disabled students may face barriers affecting continuation, completion, and attainment, including:

- access to appropriate academic and wellbeing support
- mental health challenges
- financial pressures
- difficulties accessing adjustments and support

## **What We Want to Achieve**

We have set targets to improve outcomes:

### **Access**

- Increase participation from students from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Increase the proportion of Global Majority students to 30% by 2032-33

### **Student Success**

- Eliminate gaps in continuation and attainment between disabled and non-disabled students
- Reduce completion gaps for disabled students
- Improve student wellbeing, engagement, and sense of belonging

## **What We Are Doing**

We are investing in three main areas to achieve these goals:

### **1. Access and Outreach**

We will:

- work with schools, colleges, and community organisations
- deliver outreach activities to develop skills and confidence
- provide information, advice, and guidance about higher education

- support applicants through auditions and admissions
- offer financial support for audition travel access

## **2. Transition, Belonging and Student Experience**

We will:

- support students from application through their first year
- Provide offer-holder support and induction activities
- Build a strong sense of belonging and community
- Offer mentoring, peer support, and wellbeing initiatives
- Reduce financial barriers through bursaries and hardship funds

## **3. Supporting Disabled Students**

We will:

- provide tailored disability and study support
- expand mental health and wellbeing services
- improve early identification of support needs
- promote inclusive teaching, learning and assessment practices

## **Fees and Financial Support**

Home undergraduate tuition fees are set in line with UK Government regulations. Full details are available on our website.

We offer a range of financial support, including:

- bursaries for eligible students from lower-income households
- scholarships and targeted financial support
- hardship funding for students in unexpected financial difficulty
- advice on student finance and budgeting

## **Information for Students**

Information about fees, funding, disability support, wellbeing services, academic support, and student life is available through:

- [The Rose Bruford College website](#).
- Applicant and offer-holder communications.
- Student induction and transition activities.
- The Student Life team and Students' Union.

Students are encouraged to access support early and seek advice whenever needed.

## **Evaluation – How We Will Measure Success**

We are committed to using evidence to understand what works and to improve our approach.

We will monitor progress through:

- Student recruitment and enrolment data
- Continuation, completion, and attainment rates
- student feedback and surveys
- evaluation of outreach and support activities
- annual review and reporting processes

Findings will be used to improve future activity and ensure that resources are focused on interventions that have the greatest impact.

## **Student Voice and Involved**

Students play an important role in shaping our Access and Participation Plan.

We will continue to involve students in:

- reviewing progress and outcomes
- providing feedback on services
- student representative structures
- students' Union activities and equality initiatives

Student voice will remain central to how we develop and improve our work.

## **Further Information**

For further information about the Access and Participation Plan, please contact:

- Jakki Bardsley, Academic Registrar ([jakki.bardsley@bruford.ac.uk](mailto:jakki.bardsley@bruford.ac.uk))
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- Jenny Tait, Head of Student Recruitment ([jenny.tait@bruford.ac.uk](mailto:jenny.tait@bruford.ac.uk))

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