

Value for Money Statement 2024-25

1. Commitment

Bloomsbury Institute is committed to delivering outstanding Value for Money (VfM) for all students. Our approach focuses not only on the financial use of resources, but also on enabling students to realise their potential, develop confidence, and contribute meaningfully to society.

We aim to ensure all students experience educational gain - in knowledge, skills, capabilities, personal development, wellbeing, community engagement, and work readiness. Our activities are designed to remain current, competitive, cost-effective, and responsive to student needs.

We recognise the OfS expectation that providers must demonstrate that students receive value for the fees they pay. As such:

- Students are placed at the centre of all institutional decisions.
- Our processes emphasise transparency, accountability, and responsible financial management.
- Our governance framework aligns with the six key elements of higher education governance, incorporating sustainability, risk management and responsible investment.
- Our Board of Directors provides scrutiny and oversight to ensure all activities deliver demonstrable value to students and the wider community.

The information below explains how we fund our provision, add value to the student experience, and ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively.

2. Where does our money come from?

Our income primarily comes from tuition fees and funding body grants from the Office for Students. 2024–25 income distribution:

Tuition Fees: 98.06% (including 23.28% via the Student Loans Company, privately funded students: 2.46% and international students: 74.26%)
Government Funding/OfS Grants: 1.14%
Other Income (including investment income): 0.8%

3. How do we add value?

- **Work-Ready Degrees and Professional Accreditations**

We continue to embed professional body accreditation and practice-based learning throughout our degrees:

- **Accounting:** ACCA and CIMA accreditations offer exemptions, accelerating progress to Chartered status.
- **Law:** Our practical LLB Law & Legal Practice degree continues to offer exemptions from CILEx assessments, supporting students toward professional practice.

- **Business Management:** Students benefit from embedded internships and CMI-aligned modules, supporting progression toward Chartered Manager status.
- These accreditations enhance the credibility, quality, and long-term employability of our graduates.
- Employability and network development: external events for student attendance.

– **Accessible Admissions**

We remain committed to widening participation, offering accessible admissions to students from all backgrounds. We focus on potential, ambition, and determination, providing tailored support to students who experience personal, financial, or educational barriers.

– **High-Quality Facilities**

Students continue to benefit from exclusive daytime access to Birkbeck College's state-of-the-art teaching and learning spaces, including collaborative co-learning areas.

– **Free Laptop Scheme**

Our laptop scheme remains a flagship accessibility initiative. Every new enrolled domestic student receives a free laptop to keep, ensuring equitable access to digital learning and minimising financial hardship.

– **Monthly Travel Bursary**

Students funded via the Student Loans Company receive an additional **£209.70 per payment** toward a Transport for London Zones 1–6 Travelcard, removing barriers related to travel, attendance, and engagement in wider student life. Standard course - £1258.20 in 6 instalments/ Accelerated course - £1887.30 in 9 instalments.

– **Employability Support**

Our employability offer continues to expand, including:

- 1:1 guidance, coaching and CV support
- [Student Circus](#)¹ access for international students, offering roles with guaranteed visa sponsorship
- NHS Work Placement Scheme
- Strengthened internship pathways
- Industry mentoring (including the KPMG Mentoring Scheme)
- Workshops embedded into curriculum and co-curriculum

These opportunities build professional confidence, clarity, and readiness for high-skilled employment.

¹ <https://www.bil.ac.uk/student-life/employability/>

– Radio Station and Student-Led Media

Our 24/7 radio station has evolved into a powerful platform for student voice, co-production, creativity and belonging. Through structured training and collaborative audio production:

- Students develop communication, interviewing, storytelling and leadership skills.
- Underrepresented voices find a safe, supportive environment to share experiences.
- Students influence institutional practice and policy through story-led insights.
- Alumni continue to participate, strengthening community identity.

– Pre-Sessional Engagement and Bloomsbury Dialogues

Pre-sessional

Interactive lecture-style sessions on communication, confidence, and attentive listening offer early skill development. Students consistently report greater readiness for academic and social engagement.

Bloomsbury Dialogues

These student-led interview events bring prominent guest speakers from Business, Law and Accounting. By handing facilitation to students, the Dialogues have become:

- Highly attended
- A core networking opportunity
- A key driver of confidence and leadership development

Student feedback is consistently positive, with strong demand for future sessions.

Wellbeing, Engagement and Success (SEWS) Initiatives

Our SEWS team plays a central role in delivering value for money by ensuring students are supported holistically—academically, professionally and personally. Below is a summary of major initiatives delivered this year.

CPD Student Leadership Programme

Delivered December 2024 – May 2025, this programme supports our student leaders through bespoke expert-led workshops. It complements our Let's Grow employability offer and provides leaders with tools, confidence and recognition for their contribution to the student community.

Workshops included:

- How to Influence a Conversation
- Building and Managing Your Professional Digital Presence
- Self-Reflection for Successful Leadership
- Transferring Leadership Skills into the Workplace
- Marketing Leadership Experience to Employers and Investors
- One-to-one coaching offered throughout

Students completing the programme receive a Bloomsbury Institute CPD Certificate.

These responses highlight the programme's strong impact on confidence, leadership, and self-awareness.

KPMG Mentoring Scheme

Coordinated by SEWS, this 3-month mentoring scheme matches final-year and postgraduate students with KPMG executive mentors.

Objectives include:

- Enhancing confidence and communication
- Supporting realistic career planning
- Developing resilience and goal setting
- Raising aspirations for professional employment

In 2024–25, **11 students** were matched with mentors.

The scheme demonstrates exceptional value, connecting students with industry professionals in a highly personalised way.

Wellbeing Workshops

We delivered a broad programme of wellbeing workshops, avoiding clinical terminology to reduce stigma and increase accessibility. Topics included resilience, motivation, procrastination, imposter syndrome, money management and balancing academic and personal responsibilities.

Hardship and Practical Support

We continue to provide targeted financial and practical support:

1. Hardship Fund – up to £1,600 per academic year to support students experiencing sudden financial difficulty.
2. Foodbank Support – through our partnership with the Trussell Trust, students can receive up to six vouchers for food and toiletries.
3. International Students House (ISH) Membership provides access to:
 - Mary Trevelyan Hardship Fund (up to £1,000)
 - Discounted travel club trips
 - Events at The Thirsty Scholar (with 25% discount)
 - A Christmas Day event and three-course meal for students alone during the holidays
4. Birkbeck Social Access – access to The George Bar events and subsidised meals at the Malet St restaurant.

These provisions ensure equitable participation, belonging, and continuity of study.

4. What is the feedback on student experience?

Our students have consistently expressed high levels of overall satisfaction with their experience at Bloomsbury Institute in the National Student Survey (NSS) to the extent that we have outperformed the sector in this area over the last seven years. In the NSS 2025, we scored higher than 2024 and it is now back up to a comparable level with 2023. The overall positivity for Bloomsbury Institute is 7.85 ppt higher than the sector.

Overall Satisfaction	2025 [Overall Positivity]	2024 [Overall Positivity]	2023 [Overall Positivity]	2022	2021	2020	2019
Bloomsbury Institute	91.09%	88.72%	91.2%	84.87%	88.57%	88.79%	86.59%
Sector	83.24%	80.88%	79.42%	76.29%	75.41%	82.65%	83.65%

Excluding specialist and FE institutions, here are some of our key outcomes from the survey:

	Our Response Rate%	Sector Response Rate %
Core NSS Questions	78	71.5

Overall Positivity (Averaging all Questions)	Bloomsbury Institute (%)	Difference	Sector (%)
2025	91.09	7.85	83.24

4.1 Key Highlights from 2025 NSS

When averaging all themes (excluding colleges and specialist providers), we rank:

- 4th in Business Subject England, 5th in the UK, 3rd in London.
- 8th in Law Subject in England, 9th in the UK, 1st in London.
- 15th in Accounting in the UK and 12th in England, 3rd in London.

In Q25. *How well does the students' union (association or guild) represent students' academic interests?* and Q26 *How well communicated was information about your university/college's mental wellbeing support services?*

- We rank 2nd in England and London in Business for Q25 and Q26.
- We rank 1st in England and London in Law for Q25 and 2nd for Q26.
- We rank 1st in England and London in Accounting for Q26 and 11th in London for Q25.

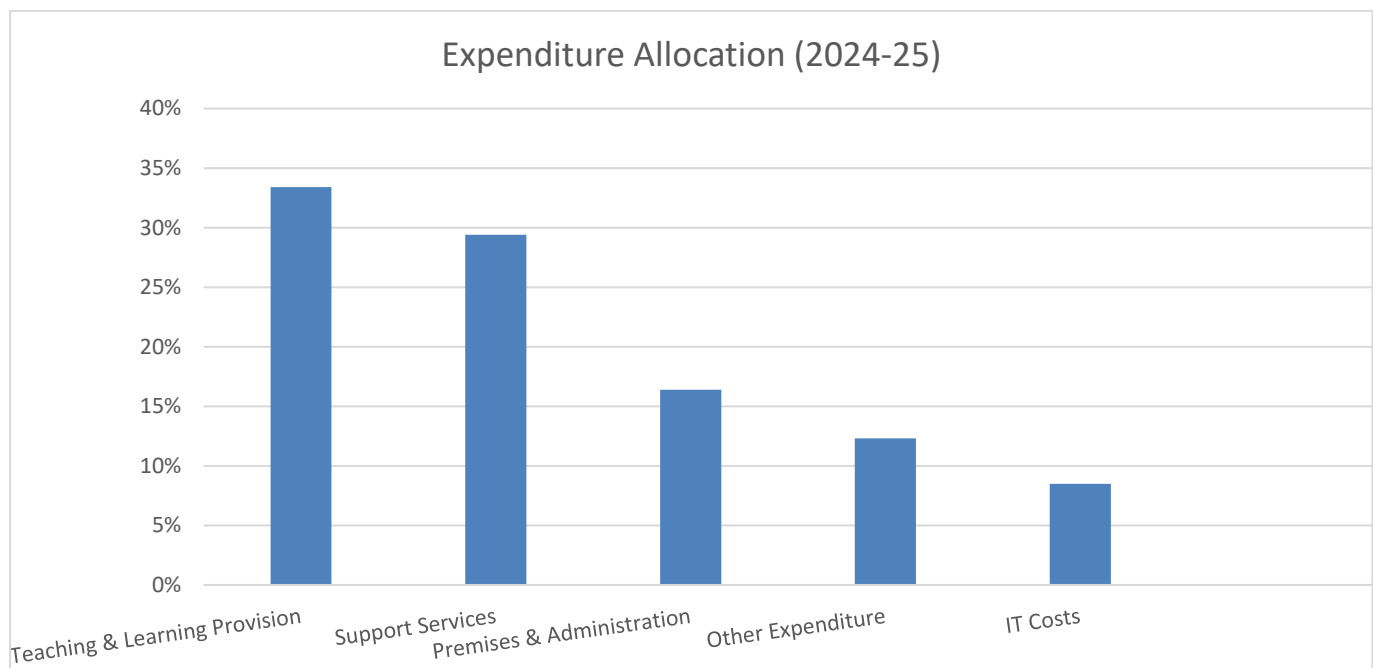
As well as overall scoring in all subjects in London*:

- 3rd in Teaching
- 2nd in Learning Opportunities
- 3rd in Assessment and Feedback
- 4th in Academic Support
- 3rd in Organisation and Management
- 7th in Learning Resources
- 2nd in Student Voice
- 1st in Student Guild representing students' academic interests
- 1st in Communicating information about mental wellbeing support services
- 5th in Freedom of expression compared with 19th in the previous year.

**Averaging all questions in the National Student Survey, excluding FE colleges and specialist providers.*

5. What do you typically spend money on?

Spending priorities remain consistent with previous years, emphasising high-quality teaching, support services, student bursaries, and technology.



- **Teaching & Learning Provision (33.4%)** – Academic salaries, venue costs, library resources, franchise fees, scholarships
- **Support Services (29.4%)** – Professional services staff, student support, employability, student experience, Student Guild, student related expenses.

- **Premises & Administration (16.4%)** – Rent, utilities, marketing, insurance, maintenance
- **Other Expenditure (12.3%)** – Legal and professional fees, consultancy, training and development, audit, travel
- **IT Costs (8.5%)** – Subscriptions, digital platforms, equipment, subscriptions, telecommunications

The above is based on our 2024-25 [financial statements](#)²

6. What did we invest in?

In 2024–25, we continued to invest in:

- Enhanced employability pathways
- Student leadership development
- Digital learning infrastructure
- Wellbeing and resilience-building programmes
- Strengthened community-building initiatives
- Sustainability and responsible operational practices
- Quality teaching, academic support, and student-centred services

Our investment decisions remain guided by student needs and long-term institutional resilience.

7. How do we ensure value for money?

7.1 Governance

Our Audit and Risk Committee is required to submit to our Board of Directors an Annual Audit Report that includes (amongst other things) an opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of arrangements to ensure:

- Funds have been used for the purpose for which they were intended
- Value for money has been secured

7.2 Operational Practices

Our Strategic Framework articulates our approach to Value for Money as follows:

- We manage our finances, resource and time appropriately to ensure that we deliver the best possible student experience.
- We invest our income into delivering our purpose and will carefully manage our growth to ensure we do not lose sight of our responsibility to our community, our stakeholders and the environment.

² <https://www.bil.ac.uk/qem/section-1/financial-statements/>

In addition, the Value for Money principle (for both students and taxpayers) underpins our Financial Regulations and Procedures as they recognise whole life costing, quality, and running costs. Responsibility for approving and changing these rests with our Board of Directors.

If any conflict arises between the Financial Regulations and Procedures and the Value for Money principle, the Finance Director is required to make appropriate recommendations and/or seek further advice from the Chief Executive Officer, and/or the Board of Directors as required.

Note: This Value for Money Statement has been approved by our Board of Directors upon a recommendation from our Senior Management Team and Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and is updated on an annual basis.