



STATEMENT Monday 4th April 2022

The Academy of Live and Recorded Arts (ALRA) is no longer able to continue to teach students and will be closed as of Monday 4th April 2022.

In the coming days the focus will be on supporting students as far as possible while efforts are made to provide them with informed options for where they may be able to continue their studies. Discussions are already underway with other higher education providers to identify options for students to continue with their courses at alternative institutions. Information, advice and guidance will be provided to students by the Office for Students and our validating partners, Arts University Bournemouth and St. Mary's University.

ALRA went through a restructure in Spring 2021 that was designed to stabilise finances, but the losses made in the 2020/21 academic year and the lack of any significant new income streams in 2021/22 meant the organisation was not financially viable.

In October 2021 the ALRA Board, after taking advice, decided to seek a new owner to ensure the college's long-term future through an intensive sales process. Unfortunately, after thorough talks with interested parties, this was not possible to achieve. As a result, the ALRA Board sought other options and ultimately resolved to cease teaching students and working with partners, are providing appropriate support provided to students to find alternative study options.

The Office for Students (OfS) and Department for Education (DfE) have been engaged in productive discussions with other organisations to ensure that all students are offered a place on alternative courses. Students will be contacted directly about their options via their validating university partner (St. Mary's or Arts University Bournemouth).

The Student Loans Company, UCAS and the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education are also supporting these plans. This student plan is focused on minimising any disruption to students' studies and providing students with options for transition to an alternative higher education provider of their choice.

As operations at ALRA will be brought to a close, all roles within ALRA will be made redundant. Staff have been informed. 28 permanent, and 16 fixed-term jobs will be affected.

A Student Support Helpline has been established at St Mary's University to provide students with support they need with transferring to an alternative provider where appropriate. Email: alra.support@stmarys.ac.uk or call 020 8240 2394

MFA Linklater students have a separate helpline at the Arts University Bournemouth. Telephone: 01202 363325 or Email: alra.support@aub.ac.uk