



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University



Make your mark!

Sustainability art mural competition

Create a mural to spark sustainable change.

We're creating a bold, eye-catching sustainability mural at University Locks and we want your artwork to lead the way. We're looking for designs which are inspired by a sustainability fact or statistic from your chosen theme or from the examples in the full brief. This is your chance to make a lasting impact on campus, inspire positive behaviour change and create a piece that will be viewed by thousands of students every year.

Prizes include:

Winner will receive a £100 one world shop voucher and artwork displayed on the corridor wall

Runner-up will receive a £50 voucher and artwork displayed on the feature wall

Deadline to submit is Monday 1 June 2026 – 11.59pm

Email your design to environment@bcu.ac.uk or hand in a copy at University Locks reception. You can visit the corridor and feature wall area to understand the space on **Wednesday 22 April at 10am.**



Scan the QR code
for full brief
and T&Cs



Competition Overview

The Sustainability Team is excited to launch a new creative opportunity for BCU students. We're transforming a corridor and wall space within our University Locks Accommodation into a bold, eye-catching sustainability mural and we want *your* artwork to lead the way.

This is your opportunity to make a lasting impact on campus, inspire positive behaviour change, and turn your creativity into a permanent feature viewed by thousands of students every year.

A £100 One World Shop voucher is available for the winning designer of the corridor and a £50 One World Shop for the runner up who's work will also be displayed on the feature wall.

Our Vision

We're looking for a mural concept that:

- Raises awareness of waste, recycling and sustainability at BCU
- Is bold, visually striking and impactful from a distance
- Communicates a clear sustainability message
- Draws on one or more real-world facts provided in the design brief
- Is suitable for large-scale wall installation
- Is entirely original artwork

Designs may focus on one of the themes below or blend several into one powerful, informative illustration.

The final mural will also include:

- An **interchangeable whiteboard area** for monthly recycling stats
- A **QR code** linking to the BCU sustainability webpage

Why Enter?

- Your artwork will be painted by a professional mural artist and permanently displayed in University Locks
- Gain a strong portfolio piece with real-world impact
- Help educate and inspire thousands of students
- Receive public recognition for your creative contribution
- Win a **£100 One World Shop voucher** or **£50 One World Shop Voucher**

Choose your Sustainability Theme

Sustainability is central to this project. Students are encouraged to choose a sustainability fact to integrate into your mural as text, illustration or visual metaphor. You may choose one of the sustainability themes and statements listed below or find your own:

General Waste

The average person generates 409kg of general waste per year which is the equivalent weight of five adult humans.

Cardboard & Paper

One tonne of recycled paper saves trees, electricity and oil.

Plastics

Recycling one plastic (PET) bottle saves enough energy to power a lightbulb for 6 hours.

Tins & Cans

Recycling the original “Ozzy the Bull” can save 35,000 kWh of electricity - enough to power 13 households for a year.

Food Waste

One tonne of food waste can generate 300 kWh of electricity, enough to power 750 laptops for one day.

Coffee Cups

The average university student uses 63 disposable coffee cups during their studies - stacked together, that’s almost taller than a two-storey house.

Energy

Charging your phone overnight wastes enough electricity to fully recharge it again the next morning.

Submission Requirements

Your submission should include:

- **A PDF or JPEG (max 5MB)** of your design concept. If selected as a winner, you may be asked to provide the final submission in a high-quality TIFF format (600dpi) or another suitable high-resolution format to allow the design to be reproduced for display
- A short-written explanation of how your artwork links to your chosen sustainability theme

- Digital submissions: environment@bcu.ac.uk
- Physical submissions: **University Locks Accommodation Reception**

Deadline: Monday 1 June 2026 by 11:59PM

Further technical details may be requested from shortlisted candidates by the professional contractor to upscale your design, and a letter of consent form must be signed.

Visit the Space

University Locks is a lively student accommodation space where the selected corridor wall serves as a daily touchpoint for residents moving between reception, social areas and their flats. The mural should elevate this busy environment by creating a visually striking, sustainability focused feature that enhances the atmosphere and encourages student engagement.

Students are invited to view the proposed mural locations on **Wednesday 22 April at 10:00am** before submitting their concepts in June. This is your chance to explore the corridor, understand the scale, and imagine your artwork on the wall.



Eligibility and Criteria

This competition is open to **all** current BCU students.

Entries will be shortlisted and reviewed by the 22nd of June on:

- Creativity and originality
- Clarity and strength of sustainability messaging
- Visual impact and suitability for a large mural
- Integration of chosen sustainability fact(s)
- Quality and feasibility of the proposed artwork
- **Entries suspected of using AI will not be accepted.**

Key Dates

- Competition opens Friday 27th of March at 10:00am
- Opportunity to see the space & ask questions on Wednesday 22nd April at 10am
- Submission Deadline: Monday 1st June 2026 by 11:59pm
- Shortlisting & review: *By the 22nd of June 2026
- Winner announced: End of June 2026
- Installation period: July/August 2026 onwards.

Terms and Conditions

By participating in this competition run by Birmingham City University, entrants are agreeing to be bound by these rules.

- *Only one entry will be accepted from each entrant.*
- *The competition is open to all current BCU students. Entrants must be aged 17 or over.*
- *Entrants must be based in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.*
- *BCU reserves the right to disqualify any entrant and/or winner in their absolute discretion for any reason and without notice.*
- *The competition shall open at 10:00am on Monday 23rd of March and shall close at 11:59pm on Monday 1st of June. Entries must be received by Birmingham City University before this deadline. Entries received after this date and time shall not be considered for entry under any circumstances. Birmingham City University reserves the right, in its absolute discretion, to extend the closing date of the competition for a reasonable period and where so extended the date upon which Birmingham City University decides to be the subsequent closing date shall be the closing date for the purposes of these terms and conditions.*
- *An independent panel made up of Facilities and Estates staff will select first and second place winners. The winner will be notified by Friday the end of June via the email address supplied to enter the competition.*
- *The winner that will be given the opportunity to have their artwork placed on display, must on being awarded the prize, sign an agreement prepared by Birmingham City University, a non-exclusive licence to enable Birmingham City University to display*

their artwork and use their name and photograph for publicity purposes. This may include social media, press, the Birmingham City University website and other printed materials.

- *It is the entrants' responsibility to ensure that their email submitting the artwork to Birmingham City University, and the attachment of the artwork itself, is of a suitable format and size to ensure it can be sent and received via email. Birmingham City University will not be held responsible for any pieces of artwork which are emailed to Birmingham City University by entrants but are not received as a result of format or excessive size.*

Winning Entrants/Prize:

- *The winner will receive a £100 one world shop voucher, and second place will be awarded a £50 One World Shop Voucher*
- *The winners are guaranteed to have their artwork displayed at the University Locks Accommodation providing that the entrant provides either a suitable digital copy of their artwork which BCU can print or a hard copy version of their artwork which is no bigger than an A4 piece of paper (21 x 29.7cm) or equivalent.*
- *The winner must accept their prize by Monday 6th July by 11:59PM and if the entrant fails to do so the prize will lapse. In such circumstances the winner will not be entitled to any other form of payment in cash or in kind from Birmingham City University. Further, Birmingham City University reserves the right to choose a new winner in this eventuality.*
- *The prizes are as stated and no alternative will be offered. Prizes are non-transferable and no cash alternatives will be offered. The decision of Birmingham City University will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.*
- *Birmingham City University is not liable for any loss, damage or injury arising out of, or in any way connected with this promotion and/or the prize.*
- *Birmingham City University reserves the right to remove any entry without prior notice or written warning.*

Disclaimer:

- *This promotion is in no way sponsored, endorsed or administered by, or associated with Instagram or LinkedIn.*

Birmingham City University Liability:

- *If Birmingham City University fails to comply with these terms and conditions, we are responsible for loss and damage an entrant suffers as a foreseeable result of our breach or our negligence, but we are not responsible for any loss or damage that is not foreseeable. Loss or damage is foreseeable if it was an obvious consequence of Birmingham City University's breach or was contemplated by an entrant and Birmingham City University at the time the entrant entered into the competition, which is subject to these terms and conditions.*
- *Birmingham City University does not exclude or limit its liability in any circumstances where it is prevented from doing so by the laws of England and Wales. Except in such circumstances, Birmingham City University's maximum liability to an entrant, whether in*

contract, tort (including negligence) or for breach of statutory duty shall in no event exceed the value of the winners' prize.

Privacy:

- *By entering into this competition, the entrant agrees that we may use their data within Birmingham City University to administer the competition. An entrant's personal data will be dealt with in accordance with our privacy policy: <https://www.bcu.ac.uk/about-us/corporate-information/policies-and-procedures/privacy-notices/enquirers-applicants-students>*
- *The University ensures that all personal data is held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.*

Miscellaneous:

- *Birmingham City University reserves the right to vary any of these terms and conditions without notice. In such event, Birmingham City University will make reasonable efforts to communicate any change with entrants.*
- *Except as set out, no person that is not a party to these terms and conditions is to have benefit or be capable of enforcing any term as a result of the Contract (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.*
- *If any part of these terms and conditions are found to be invalid or unenforceable, then that part shall be deleted and the enforceability and validity of the other provisions shall not be affected.*
- *This contract and any claim or dispute arising out of it shall be governed by the law of England and Wales and the entrant submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.*