

## The Black Humanities Project

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Created for Students, by Students





## What's on the agenda

1. The origin story
2. Why outreach & why humanities
3. Working in partnership with students
4. Development of the project
5. BHP 2025
6. Impact on students working on BHP

**created  
for Students,  
by Students**

The BHP Team with Ben from Badge Café and Student Ambassadors at the BHP Event at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts (4 July 2023)



# The Black Humanities Project

The Black Humanities Project is a grassroots student-led initiative run in partnership with UEA Outreach.

The project aims to;

- **expose, explore, and empower** black humanities;
- **inspire** young students from black and minority ethnic backgrounds to consider a future in arts and humanities and studying at higher education; and;
- **champion a more diverse curriculum** within arts and humanities subjects.

Expose. Explore. Empower. Event 2024

Year 9 participants (and my foot) engaging in a rap workshop



## The Origin Story

May 2020  
Murder of George Floyd sparks widespread anti-racism activism across the world

Students unhappy with the University's response founded **Decolonise LDC** to campaign for Decolonisation, Representation, Intersectionality, Accessibility and Inclusion within the Faculty of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing at UEA.

UEA Widening Participation and Outreach begin to support the programme

Black Humanities Project



Expose. Explore. Empower. Event 2023  
Winners of the Rap Battle.

## Why Outreach?

### APP Commitments (until Sept 2025):

1. To diversify the proportion of black and minority ethnic students in the undergraduate home cohort to 25% by 2025.
2. To close the degree awarding gap for black and minority ethnic students.

Expose. Explore. Empower. Event 2023  
Badge making workshop



# Why Humanities?

UEA 2024/5, Course Level: UG

**71.2%**  
**WHITE**  
(7,523)

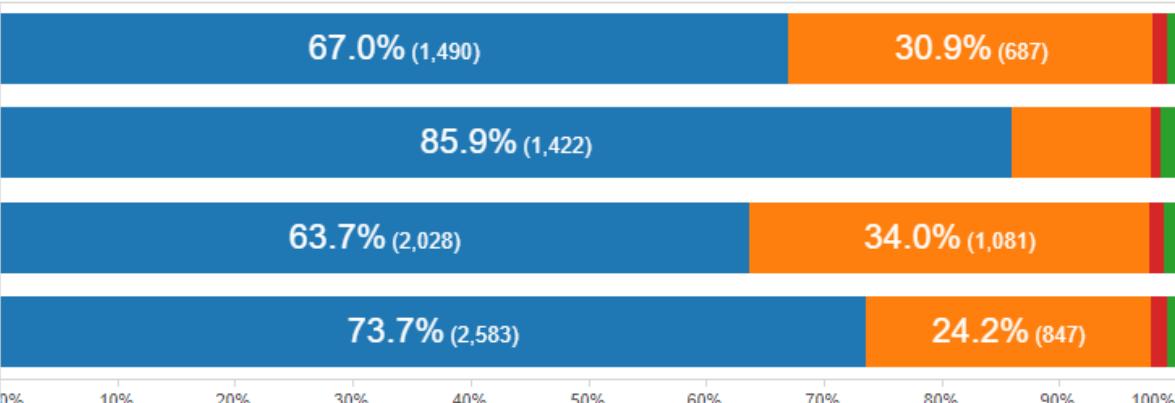
**26.6%**  
**BME**  
(2,812)

**1.2%**  
**OTHER**  
(130)

**1.0%**  
**OT GIVE**  
(102)

Faculty Distribution, Course Level: UG Use the Faculty Buttons to show departmental level data

FMH  
HUM  
SCI  
SSF



Percentage Good Honours



Percentage Good Honours



# Working in partnership with students to cross borders



## Project Achievements

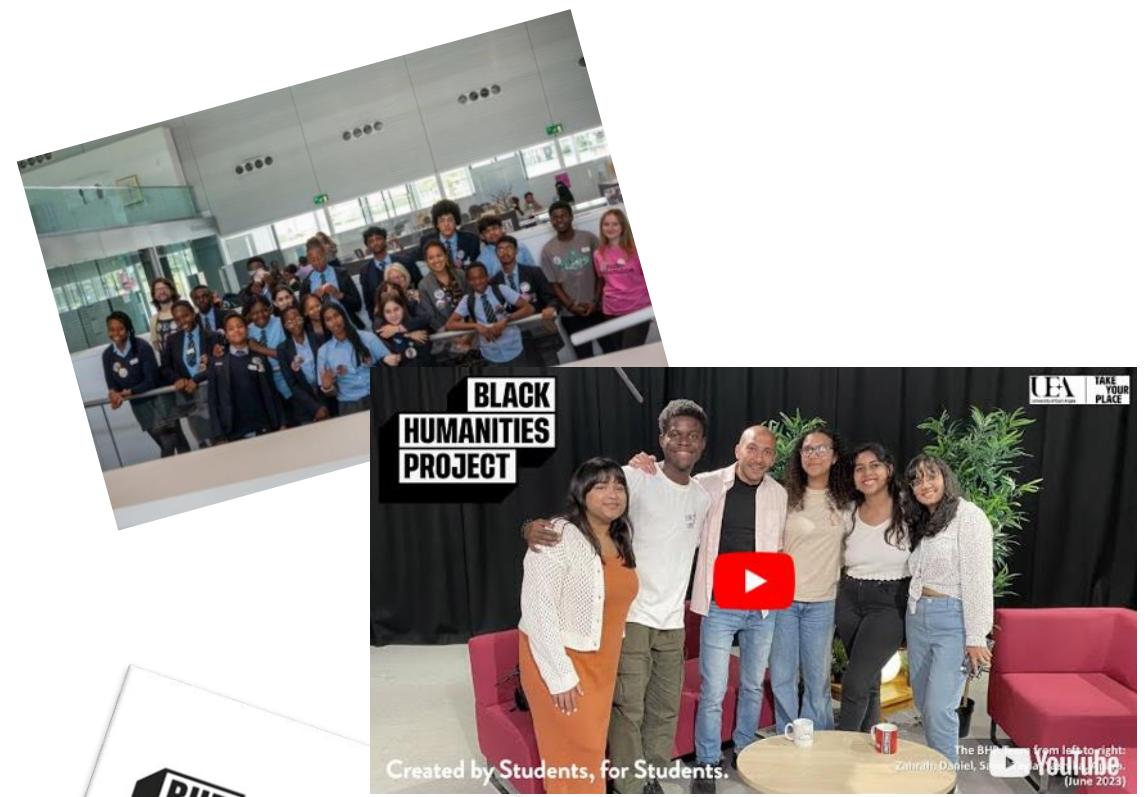
- **Formation of Team roles & Structure.** Student Leads and Student Coordinators
- **Branding.** Created BHP branding and identity with the support of our marketing partners.
- **Online resources.** The BHP team created a bank of online lessons and resources for schools to use.
- **Offered Mentoring** for Year 12/Level 3 Year 1



# BHP 2022-23

## Project Achievements

- **Change of team roles.** With the creation of a PhD Student Project Lead supporting 5 x UG Student Coordinators
- **Change in target participant age to Year 9.**
- **BHP Podcast.** Launched the BHP Podcast
- **Expose. Explore. Empower. Documentary Podcast** exploring local Black and minority ethnic figures
- **On-campus event.** Year 9 students took part in BHP's first annual event on campus and were involved in a number of sessions including:
  - Sainsbury Centre discovery
  - Creative writing workshop & challenge
  - Badge Café
  - Exploring stories of local figures through Podcast documentary



# BHP 2023-24

## Project Achievements

- **BHP Podcast.** More episodes, more guests. Planning to release during Black History Month.
- **On-campus event.** Year 9 students took part in BHP's second annual event on campus and were involved in various sessions including:
  - Forgotten Faces: A Journey Through Unequal Legacies
  - Piece by Piece: Exploring Humanities Graduate Opportunities
  - Sky High Debates: Arts and Humanities Hot Air Balloon Challenge
  - Rhythms of Resistance: Exploring Humanities through Rap and Music
- **Beginning to offer in-school workshops**
- **Launched website.** <https://empower.uea.ac.uk>
- **Began Student Advisory Board**





Expose. Explore. Empower. Event 2024  
Students engaging in Graduate Opportunities Jigsaw

## Guided by the NERUPI Framework

### INTELLECTUAL

- Develop students' understanding by contextualising subject knowledge

### SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC

- Develop students' knowledge and awareness of the benefits of higher education and graduate employment
- Develop students' capacity to navigate higher education and graduate employment sectors and make informed choices

### HABITUS

- Develop students' confidence and resilience to negotiate the challenge of university life and graduate progression

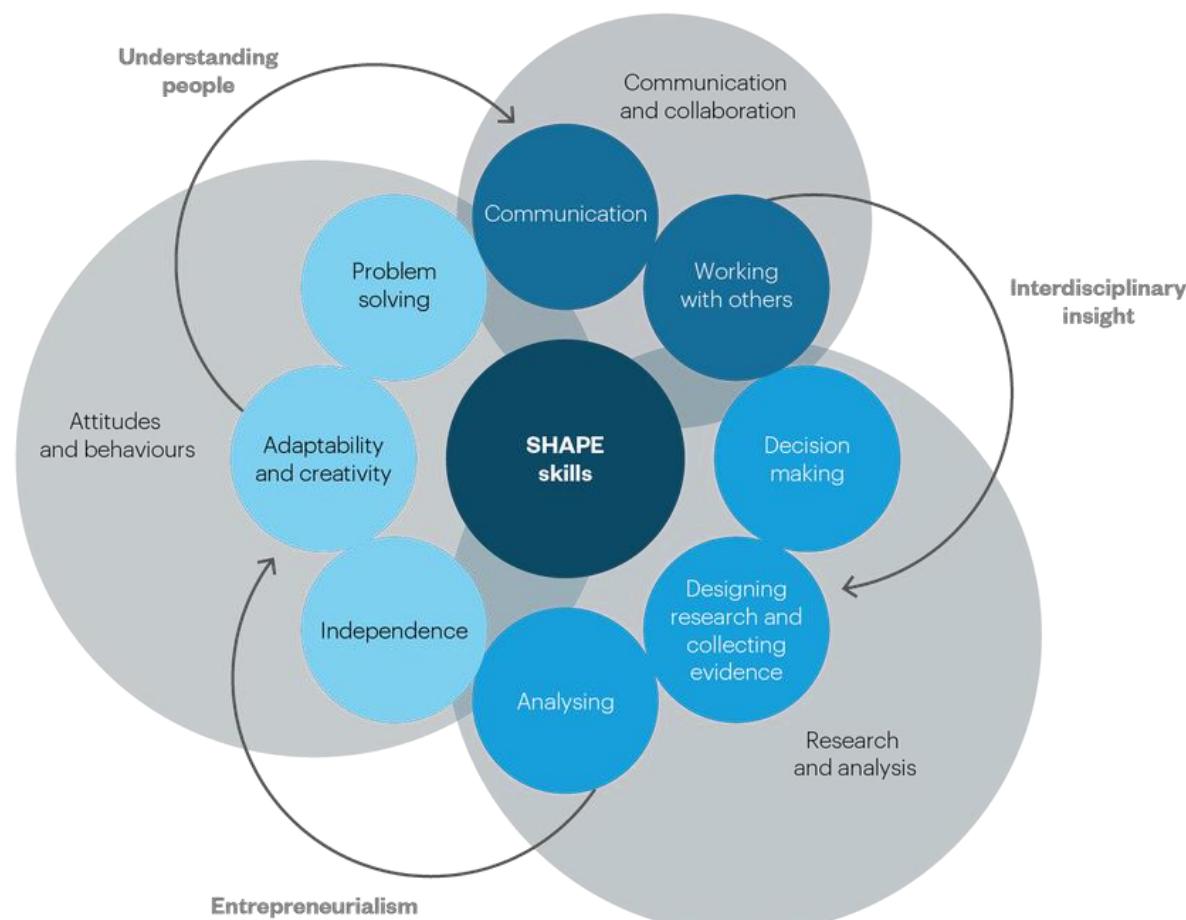
# BHP 2024-25 | Where next?

- **On-campus event.** Host the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual event in June/July 2025. Focusing on raising awareness of the variety of study options, skills they'd develop, and how they relate to graduate opportunities. Including interactive and engaging sessions to expose, explore, and empower black humanities. Activities are aimed to inspire and also champion more diverse curriculums.
- **In-school workshops.** Begin delivering in-school workshops with the assistance of the Student Advisory board. Using already existing lesson plans and resources along with new workshops.
  - Skills and opportunities workshop
  - Film making workshop
  - BHP Creative Anthology Workshop
- **Website.** Develop the online resources and awareness of the project.
- **Developed relationships.** Further develop relationships across the campus and externally.

Expose. Explore. Empower. Event 2023  
Student Coordinators filming podcast documentary



# Impact on Student Coordinators



<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/publications/shape-skills-at-work/>





# THANK YOU

Project website: <https://empower.uea.ac.uk>

Project email: [empower@uea.ac.uk](mailto:empower@uea.ac.uk)

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**Created for Students, by Students**

**UEA** University of  
East Anglia  
[everwondered.uea.ac.uk](http://everwondered.uea.ac.uk)

**neaco**  
[takeyourplace.ac.uk](http://takeyourplace.ac.uk)

**Ofs** Uni Connect  
Programme