



The Royal Northern College of Music was chosen for the Outstanding International Student Strategy Award for a project that supports international students in adjusting socially and academically, while also encouraging interaction between home and international students.

Students at the Royal Northern College of Music come from more than 60 countries, and many face specific challenges when they arrive. In addition to language difficulties, some students who have studied Western musical repertoire in their home countries struggle to put the work into cultural and historical context.

According to the head of international relations, this presents further challenges in the students' academic and social lives. The college therefore designed "Read with the World" to help international students develop their language skills and cultural competencies.

The college pairs an international student with a home student, and the pair together choose a book to read from the college's suggestions, which cover a range of topics and include literature from different countries. The book-pals meet regularly to discuss what they have learned.

The judges said: "The Read with the World project is a wonderful example of a simple and imaginative idea that is scalable and replicable in other institutions."

They added that the scheme "goes beyond a simple buddying scheme by providing structure and content for building friendships that help create a greater understanding of each other's background and lead to a richer environment in classroom and campus".