

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

The Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes.

SECTION A: DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME AND AWARD

Programme Title	BA (Honours) Music Production and Performance BA (Honours) Music Production and Performance with Foundation Year
Awarding Body	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution / Programme Location	Buckinghamshire New University / High Wycombe, UCAV & Uxbridge
Faculty	Design, Media & Management
Name of Final Award	Bachelor of Arts with Honours, BA (Hons)
NQF/FHEQ Level of Qualification	Level 6: Bachelor's degree with honours
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s)	Mapped to QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Music (2016)
UCAS Code	23M7
Course Code(s)	BG1MPP1 BG1MPP4
Mode of Delivery	Full Time
Length of Study	3 years 4 years/ full-time delivery
Number of Intakes	2: September & February
Regime of Delivery	Campus based
Language of Study	English
Programme Accreditation	N/A
Month and Year valid from	01 September 2017
Publication & Revision Dates	01 September 2017 Foundation Year added Nov 2017, revised January 2018, August 2019, November 2019

Programme Introduction

The BA (Hons) Music Production & Performance degree has at its core the aims to produce creative graduates with the necessary technical, theoretical and professional skills for employment within the creative industries. The programme will provide comprehensive training in key elements of Music Production and Performance: critical listening and analysis, music performance and composition, and live audio and studio techniques. By integrating studies in creative music practice, critical listening and audio production, the programme enables students to understand the connections between these different activities and how they can be integrated in future careers as producers, performers, researchers or educators. The programme develops different skill sets simultaneously and to an advanced degree, so that by the final stage of the programme students can undertake original research in a range of key areas including production, performance and composition.

Distinguishing Features of the Programme

This is a multi-disciplinary applied music production and performance degree. It uniquely caters for aspiring music performers, producers and composers who seek to develop and manage their music production, performance and composition skills to align with the modern day music industry. The study of music in academic contexts is continuously changing in response to external developments, particularly in the music industry, music technologies, and the practice of music performance and production. Given the ever-changing nature of the field, we encourage a focus on building a research community within the Music Production and Performance course. This will enable students to maintain an awareness of current trends, and create original research and practice portfolios that take into consideration new practices in music and audio. We will develop students' ability to approach their careers in unique ways, and demonstrate the various ways in which music production and performance skills can be utilised outside of the normal studio-based contexts to generate multiple income streams.

Distinguishing Features

Knowledge and understanding

- Students will gain new knowledge and skills in contemporary music production and performance
- Students will develop songwriting and composition skills, especially as these apply to their performance and production practice
- Students will be exposed to a wide range of audio production tools and techniques, including through interfacing with leading industry partners
- Students will develop critical thinking and analytical skills, which they will apply in contexts ranging from critically analysing existing productions/performances to generating advanced, original research projects
- Students will develop team-building and collaboration skills in various contexts

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Critical listening
- Performance (individual and collaborative)
- Composition and songwriting
- Use of professional software and hardware tools for studio recording and live audio production techniques
- Audio production, post-production
- Research skills and analytical writing

Employment skills

- Ability to work independently and in collaboration with others
- Demonstrating skills in leadership, listening, critical reflection, teamwork, organisation, decision making
- Intellectual curiosity and the potential for continuing artistic and creative development
- High level of competence in the use of music equipment and technology

Admission Requirements

For BA (Honours) Music Production and Performance

The Music Production and Performance course is aimed primarily at those who have successfully completed A levels, a National Diploma or similar, and who wish to develop the skills, knowledge and employability profile that will provide them with the opportunity to gain employment in the creative industries. More specifically the course is orientated toward music performers and composers who also have an interest in the technical side of music production, and so we encourage applications from students with both technical and performance based skills.

Applicants will be expected to have a minimum of two A-levels at Grade C. Applicants will normally have achieved one of the following:

- Two A levels achieving a minimum of 80 points
- A National Diploma or Certificate in an appropriate subject at Merit level

- An art or design foundation course or Level Zero course
- A Merit level Advanced GNVQ in an appropriate subject
- An equivalent qualification

Mature applicants without the above qualifications are also welcome to apply and entry is subject to a review of qualifications and relevant experiential learning. Applicants for whom English is a second language should have achieved IELTS 6.0 (with 5.5 the lower limit in any of the elements of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) or equivalent for entry into Level 4.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Students are normally expected to enter at Level 4, but can be admitted to any level of the course, which is considered suitable, after a review of previous academic credits or consideration of other learning or experience relevant to the subject matter of this course, using the Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (CATS).

For BA (Honours) Music Production and Performance with Foundation Year

Applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements for the 3-year programme, or those who do not feel fully prepared for a Level 4 course, will be considered for the 4-year programme including a Foundation Year.

Please see the University's [General Entry Requirement](#) webpages for requirements for entry at this level.

For Burnley College

This programme has been mapped to the Burnley College Foundation Degree (Arts) Music at level 4 and level 5 stages. Applicants who have achieved this award will be eligible to apply for direct entry into level 6.

Employability Statement / Career Prospects

Previous audio production and music performance management students have found employment in such diverse areas as commercial and public radio, recording studios, record labels, TV, PR, venue management, festivals & events, statutory industry bodies and gaming. This new programme, would offer the same prospects, although with an additional emphasis placed upon the engagement of professional music performance experience and composition skills, the programme could propagate opportunities in many professional music performance and production areas related to being a freelance musician, music producer, DJ, audio engineer, composer, or sound artist.

Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body Accreditation

N/A

SECTION B: PROGRAMME AIMS, OUTCOMES, LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

Programme Aims

This programme is designed to give students the opportunity to develop:

- A high level of teamwork skills specifically related to practical production and performance work.
- Problem solving skills related to practical production and performance work.
- A range of practical production skills and knowledge relevant to a variety of practices and formats.
- Creative skills in relation to the generation of practical project work.
- The ability to research and write in relation to production and performance project work.
- The ability to critically evaluate work in relation to the technology and contexts of production and performance practice.
- General key skills

Table 1: Programme Learning Outcomes and Mapping to Modules
On successful completion of Level 6 BA (Hons), a graduate, will be able to:

Programme Learning Outcomes				
K	Knowledge and Understanding	Core Modules (Code) Level 4	Core Modules (Code) Level 5	Core Modules (Code) Level 6
K1	Gain knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with music production and performance, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these.	AP414 AP415 AP424 AP425 AP418	MC547 AP512 AP508 MC518	MC613 MC650
K2	Develop a critical understanding of the well-established principles pertaining to the study of sound, performance, composition and audio production, and of the way in which those principles have developed.	AP414 MC468 AP424 AP425 AP414 AP418	MC568 AP512 MC518 AP508	MC613 MC650
K3	Develop songwriting and composition skills, especially as these apply to their performance and production practice.	AP424 AP425 MC468 AP415	MC568 MC518 AP512 AP508	MC650 MC613
K4	Be exposed to a wide range of audio production tools and techniques, including through interfacing with leading industry partners.	AP422 AP423 AP414 AP415	AP501 AP512 AP508	MC654 MC650
C	Intellectual/Cognitive Skills			
C1 *	Present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgments in accordance with basic theories and concepts pertaining to the study of music production and performance.			MC690
C2	Demonstrate conceptual understanding that enables the student: to devise and sustain arguments pertaining to the study of music production and performance.	AP422 AP423 AP414 AP415 AP424 AP425 AP418	AP501 AP508 MC518 AP512	MC613 MC650 MC690
C3	Solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of this subject discipline, to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the subject discipline of music production and performance. *	AP422 AP423 AP414 AP418	AP501 AP512 MC518 AP508	MC690
P	Practical Skills			

P1	Demonstrate key interpersonal skills pertaining to collaborative production and performance tasks, such as oral and written communication skills and those required to coordinate production projects.	AP422 AP423 AP414 AP424 AP425 AP418	AP501 AP508 MC518 AP512	MC613 MC650 MC654
P2	Demonstrate music literacy and critical listening skills in relation to production and performance.	MC468 AP414 AP415 AP418	MC568 AP512 MC518 AP508	MC613 MC650
P3	Demonstrate refined performance (individual and collaborative), composition and production techniques in and out of the studio.	AP415 AP424 AP425 AP422 AP423 MC468	MC568 AP501 AP508 MC518	MC613 MC650 MC654
P4	Demonstrate proficiency in professional software and hardware tools for studio recording and live audio production techniques.	AP422 AP423 AP415	AP501 AP508 MC568	AP606 MC650
T	Key/Transferable Skills			
T1	Apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied, including, where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context.	AP422 AP423 AP424 AP425	AP501 MC518 AP508	MC613 MC690 MC650 MC654
T2	Deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline	MC468 AP414	MC568 AP508	MC690 MC650
T3	Work independently and in collaboration with others.	MC468 AP422 AP423 AP415 AP424 AP425 AP418	AP501 AP512 MC568 MC518 AP508	MC613 MC650 MC690 MC654
T4	Demonstrate skills in leadership, listening, critical reflection, teamwork, organisation, and decision making.	AP422 AP423 AP415 AP424 AP425 AP418	AP501 AP512 MC518	MC650 MC654 MC690
T5	Demonstrate intellectual curiosity and the potential for continuing artistic and creative development.	MC468 AP424 AP425 AP414 AP418	AP508 AP512 MC518 MC568	MC613 MC650 MC690

On successful completion of a Level 6 Ordinary degree,

Graduates will have achieved the majority of the learning outcomes specified above for the full Honours award with the exception of those marked with a *.

The above learning outcomes will be demonstrated by the achievement of a combined total of 300 credits comprising 120 credits at Level 4, 120 credits at Level 5 and 60 credits at Level 6 from the following modules (excluding the dissertation):

Level 6:

- Professional Performance Management (MC613)
- Production Company Project (MC650)
- Live Show Design (MC654)

On successful completion of Level 5 DipHE a graduate will be able to:

- Demonstrate (either in writing or through discussion) a critical and systematic understanding of key aspects of music production, performance and composition, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of a discipline.
- Work effectively as part of a production team (or equivalent) and/or problem solve as necessary.
- Recognise a range of practical production and performance skills relevant to music production, performance and composition.

The above learning outcomes will be demonstrated by the achievement of a combined total of 240 credits comprising 120 credits at Level 4 and 120 credits at level 5 for this programme.

On successful completion of Level 4 Cert HE a graduate will be able to demonstrate achievement of the following learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate (either through writing, practice, or via discussion) knowledge of underlying concepts and principles associated with music production, performance and composition.
- Evaluate particular aspects of current research, or equivalent scholarship, relevant to music production and performance.

The above learning outcomes will be demonstrated by the achievement of 120 credits listed at Level 4 for this programme.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods to achieve the Programme Learning Outcomes

The teaching, learning and assessment methods for the BA (Hons) Music Production and Performance have drawn substantially upon the Music (2016) QAA benchmarks.

Teaching in the BA Music Production and Performance honours degree will involve a substantial component of small-group teaching. Much of the best teaching is an interactive process, with students, professional practitioner-teachers and academics gaining mutual benefit within a research and/or professionally informed environment. The interaction between teaching, research (which includes the informed expertise of creative practitioners) and scholarship is a key element.

A student studying in the Music Production and Performance honours degree will typically experience the following teaching methodologies:

- supervision, which supports the development of creative skills in composition, production and performance, personal development planning, and self-directed research skills in individual projects.
- other forms of small-group teaching and learning in which students have the opportunity to work together as a team.
- one-to-one interaction, particularly supporting the development of self-direction, intellectual independence and research skills through dissertations, analysis and individual projects.

- lectures, encouraging discussion and further reading/listening by which students can extend their own knowledge and understanding.
- workshops and master classes, normally addressing the acquisition of creative skills and techniques within a group context, and often benefiting from the experience of visiting specialists.
- writing (essays, learning journals, etc.) as a means of developing research techniques, acquiring knowledge, and presenting ideas and arguments in written form.
- practical exercises, usually connected with the development of creative, analytical and aural skills.
- independent learning, whether as directed reading and listening related to essay writing or dissertation/project work or as practice for developing creative skills.
- studio or laboratory work, including hands-on experience in the use of equipment for production, performance and composition.
- use of computer-assisted learning (Blackboard) for discussion groups or tutorial supervision, and of other forms of ICT.

For students completing the BA (Hons) in Music Production and Performance, intellectual and technical development links key areas of study across three years. The development of technical skills and understanding studio-based audio production takes place from Level 4 (Music Production Principles/Practice) to Level 5 (Studio Production Techniques/Process) with a self-guided project integral to the Level 6 equivalent (Production Company Project). These modules link with and often overlap with the equivalent live audio modules from Level 4 (Disciplines in Live Audio), Level 5 (Audio Production Techniques: Live) and again a more applied focus at Level 6 (Live Show Design).

Running concurrently with the audio production modules are the creatively centered performance and composition modules, which are introduced at Level 4 (Professional Performance Context/Music Composition) and developed further at Level 5 and 6 (Advanced Music Composition, Professional Performance Practice and Management). These modules offer students the opportunity to develop their practical performance and composition/songwriting skills through workshops, seminars, guest lectures, and practical assessments.

With learning at all levels, the objective is to develop students as independent critical thinkers with professional music production and performance skills. To achieve this a selection of lectures, master-classes, seminars, and workshops are provided along with a supplementary selection of online learning resources. The course makes use of contact hours in a variety of ways. Students typically experience three hours per week of contact time over two semesters of a 30 credit module, or over one semester of a 15 credit module. This is uniformly the case across the first two years of the three-year full time programme, albeit with the addition of more self-directed learning, practice and skills development as project work develops during the second year and increasingly into the third year. During the third year the module is quite different in some areas, such as in the *Dissertation Project*, where students are guided through a dissertation on the basis of an average of 12 minutes of one-to-one contact time per week; a Faculty norm.

How will students be assessed?

Assessment methods considered most appropriate to the nature of the Music Production and Performance programme will include both formative and summative assessment (some elements of coursework fall into both categories). Formative assessment methods provide an opportunity for tutors to deliver written and/or oral feedback to students. Throughout their learning journey students are prepared for the assignments through seminars and workshops. Informal formative assessment takes

place on an ongoing basis through seminars that are specifically structured to include activities that assist students in developing the knowledge and skills required to fulfil the module learning outcomes.

During the Foundation Year, students will be exposed to a variety of summative and formative assessments whilst developing the academic skills to be a successful student at university; course content and Learning Outcomes strongly relate to students developing their knowledge and understanding of the subjects being studied and assessed.

Approaches include:

- Creative projects, often assessed by a mixture of continuous assessment, documentation and final presentation, and especially relevant for interdisciplinary work (for example audio and music performance in combination with live event sound and video design).
- Essays and other coursework which enable students to display a broader knowledge of subject matter than in examination papers, and test their ability to investigate a topic and organise their material and ideas to a prescribed deadline.
- Extended dissertations, individual projects and portfolios as products of advanced understanding, knowledge, research skills and/or creative achievement.
- Reports on empirical work, which may take the form of fieldwork or laboratory experiments, might include audio-visual or other documentary evidence, and should demonstrate the student's ability to apply appropriate analytical methods, whether qualitative or quantitative, and to plan and carry out a research project in a manner appropriate to its cultural context.
- Group and individual portfolios of written work and audio content that will include research, pre-production, production and post-production work submissions. Where group work is undertaken there will be a requirement for individuals to clearly define their own contribution.
- Critical self-evaluation and role analysis in the form of individual reflective written evaluations.
- Peer evaluation in the form of discussion of work in groups.
- Tasks aimed at the assessment of specific production, performance and composition skills, which will target each individual's career aspirations.

Work-Based / Placement Learning

N/A

SECTION C: PROGRAMME STRUCTURE(S) AND HOURS**Table 1: Programme Structure Table**

Programme Title		BA (Hons) Music Production and Performance							
Course Code		BG1MPP1							
Mode of Study		Full-time							
Credit Value		UK	360	ECTS			180		
Module Code	Module Title	QCF/FHEQ Level	Course Stage / Year	Status in Award (/Core / /Optional)	Credit Value	Assessment Regime			Semester Taught *
						Written Exam %	Coursework %	Practical %	
Level 4									
AP424	Professional Performance Context	4	1	C	15		100	100	S2
AP425	Professional Performance Reflection	4	1	C	15		100		S1
MC468	Music Composition	4	1	C	15			100	S2
AP418	Performance Development	4	1	C	15			100	S1

AP415	Introduction to Recording	4	1	C	15			100	S2
AP414	Introduction to Pro Tools	4	1	C	15			100	S1
AP422	Introduction to Live Audio: Analogue	4	1	C	15			100	S1
AP423	Introduction to Live Audio: Digital	4	1	C	15			100	S2
Level 5									
MC518	Professional Performance Practice	5	2	C	30		100		Both
AP508	Audio Production Techniques: Studio	5	2	C	30			100	Both
MC568	Experimental Music Composition	5	2	C	15			100	S1
AP512	Professional Performance and Musicianship	5	2	C	15			100	S2
AP501	Audio Production Techniques: Live	5	2	C	30		40	60	Both
Level 6									
MC613	Professional Performance Management	6	3	C	30			100	Both
MC650	Production Company Project	6	3	C	30		50	50	Both
MC690	Dissertation	6	3	C	30		100		Both
MC654	Live Show Design	6	3	C	30		25	75	Both

Programme Title	BA (Hons) Music Production and Performance with Foundation Year								
Course Code	BG1MPP4								
Mode of Study	Full-time								
Credit Value	UK	360	ECTS			180			
Module Code	Module Title	QCF/FHEQ Level	Course Stage / Year	Status in Award (Core / Optional)	Credit Value	Assessment Regime			Semester Taught *
						Written Exam %	Coursework %	Practical %	
Level 0									
FY026	Preparing for Success Knowledge and Creativity	0	1	C	n/a	100%			S1/S2
FY027	Preparing for Success Self-development and Responsibility	0	1	C	n/a	60%	40%		S1/S2
FY028	Inquiry and Research Skills	0	1	C	n/a	100%			S1/S2
FY014	Introduction to Music Management, Production and Performance	0	1	C	n/a	100%			S1/S2
Level 4									

AP424	Professional Performance Context	4	1	C	15		100	100	S2
AP425	Professional Performance Reflection	4	1	C	15		100		S1
MC468	Music Composition	4	1	C	15			100	S2
AP418	Performance Development	4	1	C	15			100	S1
AP415	Introduction to Recording	4	1	C	15			100	S2
AP414	Introduction to Pro Tools	4	1	C	15			100	S1
AP422	Introduction to Live Audio: Analogue	4	1	C	15			100	S1
AP423	Introduction to Live Audio: Digital	4	1	C	15			100	S2
Level 5									
MC518	Professional Performance Practice	5	2	C	30		100		Both
AP508	Audio Production Techniques: Studio	5	2	C	30			100	Both
MC568	Experimental Music Composition	5	2	C	15			100	S1
AP512	Professional Performance and Musicianship	5	2	C	15			100	S2
AP501	Audio Production Techniques: Live	5	2	C	30		40	60	Both
Level 6									
MC613	Professional Performance Management	6	4	C	30			100	Both
MC650	Production Company Project	6	4	C	30		50	50	Both
MC690	Dissertation	6	4	C	30		100		Both
MC654	Live Show Design	6	4	C	30		25	75	Both

*Semester taught should align with the module descriptor e.g. S1, S2, SB.

Table 3: Breakdown of Contact Hours

Note: Hours are worked on the basis of full-time study. 1 Academic Credit is equated to 10 notional learning hours. A full-time undergraduate student will normally study 120 credits in an academic year which is therefore equated to 1200 notional hours. A full time postgraduate student will normally study 180 credits in an academic year which equates to 1800 hours. Module Descriptors provide detailed breakdowns of the categories given below.

Year of course	Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities	Guided Independent Study	Placement / Study Abroad	Total
Year One	381	819	0	1200
Year Two	469	731	0	1200
Year Three	402	798	0	1200
Total	1252	2348	0	3600

*These hours should be calculated based on the hours stated in the module descriptors.

Students who study this programme with a Foundation Year will complete an additional 1200 hours during that year.

SECTION D: ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

This programme complies with the approved University Academic Assessment Regulations and procedures as detailed on the University website.

The following modules will be non-compensable:
MC690 Dissertation

The calculation of this award will be as follows:

Level 5: 33%

Level 6: 67%

Exit Awards Available

Exit Award Type	Award Title	Credits Achieved
Certificate of Higher Education	CertHE Music Production and Performance	120 Credits
Diploma of Higher Education	DipHE Music Production and Performance	240 Credits
Ordinary Degree	BA Music Production and Performance	300 Credits

No exit award is available for students who withdraw at the end of the Foundation Year.

SECTION E: FURTHER INFORMATION

Reference Points

The following reference points were used when designing the programme:

- University Strategy 2016-2021
- Buckinghamshire New University Approval of Academic Provision policy and procedure
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for: Music (2016)
- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2014)
- Equality & Diversity Teaching & Learning Toolkit
- QAA Education for Sustainable Development
- University Academic Qualifications Framework
- Recommendation and feedback from external subject academic and industry professional

Annual Review and Monitoring

This programme will be monitored annually through the University's Programme Review and Enhancement process, which is a continual cycle of review and enhancement. This process is supported by both the periodic review of departments and the periodic re-approval process for individual

programmes. All processes are completed in consultation with students via the Students' Union or student representatives.

The re-approval of this programme is scheduled for academic year: 2023

Ethics

The following ethics sub-committee will be responsible for ensuring good research practice and student awareness of ethical concerns and risks.

Department of Media and Creative Industries Ethics sub-committee

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