

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	Advanced Postgraduate Diploma Music (Professional Performance)
2	BCU Course Code	PT1269
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	

6	Course Description
	<p>Our Advanced Postgraduate Diploma (APD) is at 'post-masters level' and is ideal for you if you are an advanced postgraduate performer who already has a Masters degree and are beginning to accept professional engagements. The course will help you to raise your performance standards to the next level, with highly specialised one-to-one tuition in the department most relevant to your specialism. You can study full-time over 12 months (September-September) or part-time (2 years).</p> <p>Balance your study with professional experience</p> <p>The Professional Performance APD allows you to take on performance engagements both within and outside Royal Birmingham Conservatoire as part of your course. Assessment focuses on your work in professional contexts, via a Professional Performance Portfolio module and a choice of External Engagement and Professional Project modules. We also provide a Career Management and Self-Promotion module designed to help you deal with those niggling, but vital, non-performance aspects of your professional career.</p> <p>If you are a home or EU student you have the option to study part-time, which allows you to take the course alongside your already-developing career.</p> <p>What's covered in the course?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops your already advanced skills with high-quality tuition and professional performance opportunities. • Leads to a practical and performance-focused post-masters level qualification (Level 8). • Helps support and advance your career as a professional musician or performer. • Gives you access to specialist, experienced tutors. • Provides numerous performance opportunities at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, including ensembles, coaching workshops and masterclasses. • Makes use of our excellent links with organisations such as City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO), Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG), Birmingham Royal Ballet, Birmingham Bach Choir, Ex Cathedra, Opera North, Welsh National Opera, and Orchestra of the Swan via our professional schemes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enables you to be part of a small cohort of colleagues who are also at the high, professional standard required to be admitted to this course, which is limited to a small number of students per year.
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Music (Professional Performance)	8	120
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Not applicable		

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compensation of marginal failure is not permitted on any modules. 2. Condonement of failed modules is not permitted on any modules. 3. For modules with more than one item of assessment, all items of assessment must be passed in order to pass the module.

9	Delivery Patterns			
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
	Full Time	City Centre	12 months	PT1269
	Part Time	City Centre	2 years	PT1248

10	Entry Requirements
	<p>The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/.</p>

11	Course Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge and Understanding
1	You will be able to demonstrate a systematic understanding of the constituent elements within your specialist area.
2	You will be able to make an original contribution to musical performance, demonstrating interpretative independence through intellectual and critical engagement with a substantial body of repertoire.
3	You will be equipped with the knowledge to produce a professional repository of resources to assist in self-promotion.
4	You will possess a mature awareness of the personal qualities and strategies needed to secure work within your specialist area.
	Cognitive and Intellectual Skills
5	You will be able to employ independent, advanced research skills and analytical expertise in relation to your specialism, and to use your findings to make informed judgements in your professional practice.
6	You will be able to show high-level critical thinking and an innovative approach to problem-solving and decision-making.
7	You will be able to recognise and challenge accepted standards and conventions in performance, and respond in a way that shapes your artistic identity.
	Practical and Professional Skills
8	You will be able to demonstrate outstanding performance skills commensurate with those of a professional artist.
9	You will be able to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships, and to assess the effect of your own behaviour on artistic collaborators.
10	You will be able to conceptualise, design and implement projects independently and/or collaboratively in order to pursue your own questions and ideas.
11	You will be able to recognise your untapped potential, seek out opportunities and devise strategies to maximise your ongoing professional development.
	Key Transferable Skills
12	You will be able to exercise personal responsibility, adaptability and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent environments.
13	You will be able to show resilience, using your creativity to overcome challenges and obstacles, in order to thrive within in a competitive market.
14	You will be able to demonstrate the initiative, self-discipline, organisational, managerial and interpersonal skills necessary to promote your work and further your career.
15	You will be able to communicate effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences in a medium appropriate to the context.

12	Course Requirements		
12a	Level 8: <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 80 credits):</i>		
	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
	MUS8XXX	Professional Performance Portfolio	60
	MUS8XXX	Career Management and Self-Promotion	20
	<i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules:</i>		
	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
	MUS8XXX	External Engagement	40
	MUS8XXX	Professional Project	40

12b Structure Diagram

Course Design

The three modules which make up the course (two core, one optional) are interrelated and complementary. The flexibility of content is such that you are able to tailor the course to suit your own needs and aspirations.

The larger of the core modules focuses purely on performance and on two assessments which are effectively (unpaid) professional engagements which mimic the real-life situation. The External Engagement option allows you undertake a further assessed performance, but which is distinctive in being in an external venue, and in being organized by you. The Project option gives you the chance to undertake an activity which may or may not have performance at its centre, but is again instigated and driven by you. Both options require you to reflect critically on the experience of undertaking the activity, critical reflection being an essential skill for a successful professional performer. The smaller of the two core modules serves a practical function in requiring you to do two further things essential for the early-career performer seeking to maximize their chances of securing work: i) to ensure that you have an online presence befitting of a twenty-first-century professional musician; and ii) to build up a portfolio of evidence of professional activity which will inspire confidence in promoters.

While your performance work will be supported by individual tuition and departmental activity (as described elsewhere in this Course Specification), work on other aspects of your professional development are underpinned by a series of classes and tutorials designed to serve not only the Career Management and Self-Promotion module, but also the organisational, managerial and promotional activity within your choice of option modules.

Course Diagram		
CORE Professional Performance Portfolio	60 credits	L8
CORE Career Management and Self-Promotion	20 credits	L8
OPTIONAL Either External Engagement or Professional Project	40 credits	L8

Full-Time: the above modules will unfold over a 12 month period commencing in September.

Part-Time: there is some flexibility with regard to how the two-year version of this course can unfold, though typically the two performances within the Professional Performance Portfolio will be spread across the two years (one to be taken in each year) and Career Management and Self-Promotion will be taken and completed in the first year. Submission deadlines for External Engagement and Professional Project will normally fall at the end of the course, with preparation ongoing throughout.

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 8

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	178
Directed Learning	782
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	67%
Exam	33%
In-Person	