

Course Specification

Course Summary Information			
1	Course Title		FdA Popular Music
2	BCU Course Code	UCAS Course Code	UF0508 W34F
3	Awarding Institution		Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)		South and City College Birmingham
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)		n/a

6	Course Description
	<p>Birmingham City University is at the heart of a vibrant, diverse community and its mission is to transform the prospects of individuals, employers and society. Delivered at our respected partner institution, South and City College Birmingham, the Foundation Degree in Popular Music programme is also situated in the heart of Birmingham's Creative Quarter. You will greatly benefit from studying in Birmingham's culturally rich, quickly developing economy in an area of the city where arts and media specialisms abound, and where the quality of education provision is high: both college and university gained Silver status under the Teaching Excellence Framework 2016-17.</p> <p>The Foundation Degree in Popular Music programme is a two-year programme designed to develop your musical skills, research skills, personal/transferable skills and industry readiness. It runs concurrently with the first two years of the longer BA (Hons) programme. Because the skills required both to understand and succeed in the contemporary music sector are diverse and creative, the programme enjoys a rich combination of musical, technical, technological, performance, live sound, studio, music production, musicology, online strategies, marketing and promotion work. The programme's creative and ambitious content is aimed at the needs of the contemporary music sector, which is far-reaching, quick to develop and internationally ever-present in a global media-consumption-rich economy.</p> <p>There is a significant focus on Personal Development Planning on the Foundation Degree, preparing you for industry work through teaching and assessment modelled on genuine industry scenarios. At the end of year 2, you will be prepared to meet the challenges of a changing industry, competent as researchers and practitioners, able to evaluate, create, produce and plan for change. You can choose to finish at the end of year 2, but there will also be the facility to transfer to the longer sister programme, the 3-year BA (Hons) Popular Music if you wish to progress further educationally. Transfers will be approved according to an individual's attainment/progress on the course at the ends of each academic year, and you will be supported to make the transition through additional bridging activities.</p> <p>The college is blessed with excellent resources, being superbly equipped to deliver an exciting and contemporary popular music programme. With a 600-capacity auditorium and multi-purpose live music venue, The Crossing, three recording studios, two music software suites, six rehearsal rooms and on-site technical support. The main venue has hosted bands and companies at the top of the music industry (BBC 1Xtra, BBC1, Island Records, The Vamps).</p>

The college provides a supportive and nurturing learning environment, with access to all staff throughout the course. You will be encouraged to explore musical boundaries, and raise the breadth and depth of your understanding and practice-based techniques. You will have an increased knowledge of the wider musical world, its structures, practices, technology, industry and cultural values. Thus you will develop your musicianship, employability outcomes as well as yourself.

A range of creative assessment types ensures that your learning experience is engaging, and that your varied skillsets are valued and developed. Many assessments include an element of negotiated content, promoting a sense of individualized learning and ownership. A combination of essays, live performance, music production work, personal development portfolios and project-work ensures that musical, technological, academic and transferable skills are all assessed. These are the multiple skills that you will need whether you graduate into self-employment – typical of the music sector – or formal employment where creative graduates are highly valued.

The programme builds in depth and professionalism as it progresses. The second year culminates in a musical Showcase and a double-credit module entitled Professional Music Practice, in which you amass a series of professional and musical ‘evidences’ based directly on the needs of the contemporary industry; both of these modules will help you to develop an industry-ready skillset and to bridge the gap between education and employment. Experienced tutors on the programme come from a wide range of professional backgrounds and are widely and currently active within the music industry (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Channel 4 TV, TED Global etc.). Their contemporary expertise will inform the teaching you experience, ensuring that you enjoy an engaging, relevant and challenging programme based on the latest research.

Additionally, you will receive weekly individual instrumental lessons, provided by highly experienced and qualified visiting staff from one of the country’s leading instrumental education providers, Services for Education. These sessions will greatly benefit your musical and technical development.

You will be a full university student as well as a college student. You will have full access to all university support, learning, physical and online resources: with the two campuses being just a short walk from each other. Both institutions are highly valued for their student support: whether it be additional academic support, learning or disability needs, well-being, enrichment, finance or accommodation, we are there for you.

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Foundation Degree in Arts Popular Music	Level 5	240
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Certificate of Higher Education Popular Music	Level 4	120

8	Derogation from the University Regulations		
	n/a		

9	Delivery Patterns		
9a. Mode(s) of Study	9b. Location	9c. Duration of Study	9d. Code
Full Time	SCCB Digbeth	2 years	UF0508

10	Entry Requirements	
	Home:	<p>Learners must be aged 18 years on or before 31st August of the academic year that the programme commences.</p> <p>48 UCAS Points, Music at level 3, English at level 2. All learners will additionally be required to audition.</p> <p>It is recognised that some learners may have significant relevant work experience or other professional qualifications and therefore may be admitted to the programme through the auditions process.</p> <p>Examples of level 3 qualifications are:</p> <p>2 x GCE 'A' Level passes 1 x GCE 'A' Level pass plus AS level passes in appropriate subjects BTEC National Diploma or Extended Diploma BTEC National Certificate A Level 3 Diploma or equivalent such as NVQ, GNVQ, International Baccalaureate, Scottish Certificate of Education City and Guilds, Technical Baccalaureate A recognised (Kite marked) Access Course Other relevant international qualifications</p> <p>We recognise that some applicants may have significant experience in music technology, performance, composition or live sound and may not hold formal qualifications. We operate an audition process for applicants with this experience. Auditions and informal discussions regarding suitability for the programme can be held in person or using technology.</p>
	EU:	<p>Learners must be aged 18 years on or before 31st August of the academic year that the programme commences.</p> <p>48 UCAS Points, Music at level 3, English at level 2.or IELTS average of 5.5</p> <p>It is recognised that some learners may have significant relevant work experience or other professional qualifications and therefore may be admitted to the programme, through an auditions process.</p>
	International:	<p>48 UCAS Points, Music at level 3, English at level 2.or IELTS average of 5.5</p> <p>It is recognised that some learners may have significant relevant work experience or other professional qualifications and therefore may be admitted to the programme, through an auditions process.</p>

	Access:	<p>Learners must be aged 18 years on or before 31st August of the academic year that the programme commences.</p> <p>Candidates who hold a recognised (Kite marked) Access Course in Music and have a Pass of 60 credits - of which a minimum of 45 credits must be at level 3.</p> <p>Candidates who hold a recognised (Kite marked) Access Course in another discipline and have a Pass of 60 credits - of which a minimum of 45 credits must be at level will be accepted upon satisfactory completion of the audition process.</p>
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11	Course Learning Outcomes
	<i>Knowledge:</i>
1	Understand a range of contemporary music techniques
2	Explain facets and structures of the music industry and evaluate their impact on the working musician
3	Discuss and relate issues in musicology and contextual study
	<i>Skills:</i>
4	Utilize skills and techniques confidently in chosen areas of music practice (live performance, live sound, technical work, recording, programming, composition etc.)
5	Demonstrate academic and critical skills (understanding of cultural/contextual issues, industry structure etc.)
6	Apply common practice in the contemporary music sector (e.g. in music technology, music business, promotion, online etc.) and be able to research ongoing developments.
7	Demonstrate personal skills required in music industry practice e.g. adaptability, creativity, creative collaborative practice, problem-solving, resilience and resource management.
8	Undertake Personal Development Planning to equip you to be industry-ready and effective within your chosen music discipline, whether in self-employment or formal employment.

12	Course Requirements																																											
12a	<p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <p>Level 4:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MUS4053</td> <td>MAST (MIDI, Audio, Studio Techniques)</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS4059</td> <td>Understanding Style</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS4055</td> <td>Working Live</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS4056</td> <td>Technical Development</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS4060</td> <td>Show Me The Money</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS4058</td> <td>Creative Portfolio</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <p>Level 5:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MUS5051</td> <td>Production Cycle</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS5056</td> <td>Personal Development Portfolio</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS5053</td> <td>Technical Development 2</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS5057</td> <td>Professional Music Practice*</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS5058</td> <td>Final Showcase/Product</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Module offered with employer contribution, or is workplace driven.</p>		Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MUS4053	MAST (MIDI, Audio, Studio Techniques)	20	MUS4059	Understanding Style	20	MUS4055	Working Live	20	MUS4056	Technical Development	20	MUS4060	Show Me The Money	20	MUS4058	Creative Portfolio	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MUS5051	Production Cycle	20	MUS5056	Personal Development Portfolio	20	MUS5053	Technical Development 2	20	MUS5057	Professional Music Practice*	40	MUS5058	Final Showcase/Product	20			
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12b Structure Diagram
Level 4

<u>SEMESTER ONE</u>	<u>SEMESTER TWO</u>
Core: MAST (MIDI, Audio, Studio Techniques) - 20 Understanding Style - 20 Working Live - 20	Core: Technical Development - 20 Show Me The Money - 20 Creative Portfolio - 20

Level 5

Core: Production Cycle - 20 Personal Development Portfolio - 20 Technical Development 2 - 20	Core: Professional Music Practice - 40 Final Showcase/Product - 20
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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. 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, written examination and practical examination) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, written examination and practical examination is shown below.

Level 4

Workload

34% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	276
Directed Learning	132
Private Study	792
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	60%
In-person	40%
Exam	0%

Level 5

Workload

34% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	240
Directed Learning	168
Private Study	792
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	67%
In-person	33%
Exam	0%