

Module Specification

Module Title: Final Project

Module code:	TBC	NQF level:	Level 6
Credit value:	40 credits	Semester of study:	1 and 2
Applicable pathways:	Business, Classical, Film Music, Folk, Jazz, Popular, Production and Songwriting	Pre-requisites:	None

Aims

This module is designed to offer students flexibility in order to give opportunities for them to study an area of interest in detail e.g. a student may wish to explore deep contextual relationships with their specialist study in the form of a practice-based research project.

The module aims to:

1. Engage the student in an extensive and substantial study.
2. Allow a choice of projects from the areas of Performance, Practice-based Research, Composition, Production or Business.
3. Enable students to develop their academic and practical strengths.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Devise, prepare and deliver a stylistically/critically informed project showing a command of appropriate musical, critical or entrepreneurial skills and knowledge.
2. Evidence strategic thinking, planning, creativity and the integration of theory and practice for an artistic/musical discourse or business model.
3. Communicate complex or sophisticated ideas through an appropriate medium for a chosen project.
4. Evidence contributions to group work through assignment specific contribution targets (group projects only).

Mandatory Constraints

1. Any project that requires group-work will be formalised and arranged by the appropriate Curriculum Leader and Module Coordinator to ensure that, ensembles/bands have appropriate membership. It is permissible to allow a student to play in more than one ensemble/group to aid this process, but any one student may only be assessed in one ensemble/group identified at the beginning of the process.
2. Students may not re-contextualise/repurpose work underway in other modules or work that has been completed previously as part of their course of study. This includes, but not limited to, previous productions, performances or composition portfolios.
3. Jazz students whose specialist study is composition cannot undertake project 3 (composition project).
4. Students may only choose projects identified in their pathway. Some projects are designed to be cross-pathway and will be offered accordingly.

Learning and teaching methods

Teaching and learning is designed to ensure that students can interact with peers with similar interests and objectives. Contact time will therefore take place in seminars or workshop scenarios. For example, if a student chooses a **Group/Ensemble based project**, teaching will take place in the conservatoire's rehearsal spaces. Those who wish to take a **practice-based research project** will be placed in seminar groups where research can be shared and research skills honed throughout the duration of a project. Those undertaking a composition project may work with a complementary art-form that is sourced by themselves (e.g. a composer may work with a film director to produce a score). Composers will also be grouped into seminar groups as appropriate. In addition a series of guest lectures will take place to ensure that all projects are supported by current practice. The lectures will be specified for pathways to ensure that students receive relevant information and knowledge.

Contact hours and directed study (over semesters 1 and 2)

Delivery type	Student hours
Indicative hours for learning and teaching activities	50 hours
Indicative hours of directed study	350 hours
Total hours (100hrs per 10 credits)	400 hours

Opportunities for formative feedback

Students will have opportunities to receive regular formative assessment through timetabled workshops or seminars.

Indicative Projects

Composition Project. It is recognised that jazz performance and composition can be seen as a holistic entity due to the nature of improvisation and that all students engage in improvisation strategies at level 4 and 5. In recognition of this, students undertaking specialist study performance as their specialist study have the option of furthering their composition skills by undertaking this 30 minute project. Students will compose a portfolio of original compositions. The portfolio should demonstrate a broad pallet of structural technique, culminating in both scores and 'live' recordings of each composition. The portfolio should include vehicles for improvisation and ensemble interplay.

Ensemble Composition Project (Composition). Students will compile a portfolio of original compositions and arrangements for ensemble (not more than 50% of the portfolio should be arrangements). This process should involve collaboration with instrumentalists/singers. Submitted portfolios should be accompanied with evidence of collaboration (recordings of completed pieces and/or works in progress).

Enterprise Project. Building on knowledge attained from level 5, this project aims to draw together the group experiences achieved in Specialist Group Study 1 and 2 into a final year project, in which a company is publically launched. This could take the form of an online distributor, artistic management, record company, app development or similar entrepreneurial endeavour linked intrinsically to the music business. Students produce a strategic and marketing campaign that ultimately will produce a set of sales figures. They will also manage those professional and legal processes relevant to the task, to include establishing ownership of copyrights in the music or project.

Group/Ensemble Project (Performance/Composition).* This project allows the student to build on the work undertaken at level 5 to enable them to demonstrate enhanced and refined understandings of the techniques of ensemble performance to a sophisticated level. As part of a band/ensemble, students will deliver a stylistically appropriate performance of a professional standard. The performance will be no shorter than 27 minutes and no longer than 33 minutes in duration. Repertoire for the final performance will be researched and composed by the students in consultation with their tutors and should make up both a well-structured and appropriately challenging programme which reflects both a high level of skill and a unique style and musical voice. The performance must be from memory and show a high degree of instrumental/vocal fluency, musicianship and sense of style.

Group interdisciplinary and collaborative Projects. Students are required to produce either a 'music based product' using music production technologies within the context of a collaborative creative arts project (music production) or a 'film music based product' using music production technologies and featuring sampled instruments and acoustic instrumentation (if required) within the context of a collaborative creative arts project (film music). They will be responsible for sourcing their own project working with an individual or group from a discipline outside of music with assistance and guidance from the tutor. The student will need to provide evidence of the final product/performance in the format of video evidence. The video can be continuous or a selection of excerpts dependent on the product. Students are also required to produce a 'myPortfolio' page evidencing the working process of their project, their project management skills and their reflections on the collaboration. They will need to document the integration and execution of production technologies within the project. Their work should contain a variety of sources including a chronological diary including a list of attended project sessions with dates, Word documents, screen shots, podcasts, SoundCloud links, MP3s and videos etc. Students will be expected to evidence their personal contribution to the collaborative project.

Practice in Context Research Project. This project allows the student to examine their specialist area in order to ascertain a contextual framework for their practice. Through seminars they will identify their title and approach with the tutor and will discuss ideas with their peers. The seminars will be used ensure students are equipped with analytical and research skills needed to complete a substantial piece of written work.

Transcription Project. Students will present a portfolio of original transcriptions. The work should derive from celebrated artists who play the student's principal instrument. Each transcription should include score, analysis and performance. The performances should demonstrate an ability to perform the transcriptions from memory, with and without the recording, and manipulate aspects of the language within an improvised setting. Students will take part in a 20-minute performance (based on transcriptions and improvised manipulations).

*To support the stylistic and professional requirements the focus of Artistry and Performance will continue to develop and will include the evolution of creative concepts, artistic identity, branding and styling, and the integration of those aspects into holistic performances and in media.

Assessment Method

Group/Ensemble Project

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Performance/Composition	30 minutes	100%	1, 2, 3, (4)

Practice-based Research Project

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Practice-based Research Project	6000 words plus supporting documentation of practical work	100%	1, 2, 3

Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Projects

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Video evidence of final project – continuous or selections	10 minutes	50%	1, 2, 3, (4)
Online portfolio – video commentary of the making of the project	5 minutes	20%	1, 2, 3, (4)
Online portfolio	4000 words	30%	1, 2, 3, (4)

Transcription Project

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Performance based on written transcriptions and improvised interpretations	20 minutes	100%	1, 2, 3

Business Enterprise Project

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Presentation	15 minutes	40%	1, 2, 3, (4)
E-portfolio	4000 words	60%	1, 2, 3, (4)

Re-Assessment Method

Group/Ensemble Project

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Performance/Composition	30 minutes	100%	1, 2, 3, (4)

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Indicative Reading List

- The tutor will provide indicative repertoire/research materials/reading per specialism.