

DSA Study Needs Assessment

Course information for assessors:
BA (Hons) Music (Music Production)

Course Overview

The BA (Hons) Music (Production) degree is usually studied over three years and consists of three strands, Specialist Study, Musicianship and Professional Studies, focused on the use of advanced music technology skills for the creation and production of music.

Areas of study include:

- studio and computer-based music production
- composing and arranging
- digital recording
- music theory
- the music industry
- various specialist modules in areas such as music for film and television

Specialist option modules are undertaken in the second and third years of the course. There are approximately 16 guided learning hours per teaching week and students are advised they should undertake at least a further 10 hours of private study.

The Foundation Degree in Music Production is a two-year vocationally focused course broadly following the same three strands of study as the BA (Hons) but with assignments focused on the reflection of current music industry practice and producing a professional portfolio of work.

Methods of Assessment

Modules on the BA (Hons) are assessed through a combination of music recordings with supporting written work and presentations, essay-style written assignments and practical work in various studios both in and out of college. All students undertake a major studio-based project in their third and final year for their dissertation, with supporting written work.

The Foundation Degree includes a work placement plus a yearlong independent project in the second year that requires students to create a fully marketable professional music product.

Conservatoire Facilities and Resources

The conservatoire has a programme of continuous investment in high-end facilities for our students to work with. For production students this includes professional quality recording studios in which students are taught and which they can additionally book to complete their assignments. For performance students this includes soundproofed practice rooms, ensemble rooms and purpose-built performance suites and venues.

Our specialist music courses are taught on the Apple Mac platform because this is the music industry standard. We have a number of Mac computer suites that students can access. These facilities are available until 3am on weekdays and during the daytime at weekends. Students have access to our music production Macs when teaching is not taking place (normally only between 7pm and 3am) – these are open access for students. Production students are allowed to book 6 hours per week per studio group and can also book other available slots within a 24-hour period in order to get the most from the production resources (potentially a total of 9 hours a week).

The core music software package in extensive use on Production pathways is Apple Logic Studio 10 and students take additional Apple-authorized training qualifications on the Logic software. Students wishing to study on the combined pathway of Music Production and Classical Music or Music Production and Jazz will also need to use Avid Sibelius (musical score writing software). This is cross-platform and can therefore be run on Windows machines. Likewise, students are required to use Ableton Live with Max with Live and Pro-Tools, both of which operate on Mac or Windows platforms.

All course information and lecture notes are accessed only via Space, the online Virtual Learning Environment. The majority of assignments are submitted online via the VLE and use of the internet for research is also required.

For notetaking and lecture recording purposes, all main lectures in large groups taught in classroom and lecture theatres are captured by Panopto and made available online via Space, the college intranet. However, it is not possible to record one-to-one tuition, small group sessions, studio sessions and seminars, thus a digital recording device with a built-in two-way microphone may be a useful aid to learning.

Mind Genius mind-mapping software is available for all students to use on the additional PC clusters in the Learning Resources room and the Library, with MS Office provided for producing assignments. TextHelp Read & Write Gold software is available on the PCs in the Learning Support Service room only, for use during sessions with students having One to One Specialist Study Skills Support (DSA NMH Support Band 4).

Extended library loans are available.

Disabled Students studying music

Students with specific learning difficulties that affect their working memory or information processing speed often experience extra difficulty in reading music, accurately handwriting musical scores or inputting information into music writing software. Coping with the high-density multiple screen set-up of information in the music software programmes, especially Logic, can be challenging. This is similar to the difficulties experienced when producing word-processed written work and the process of working with music goes alongside working with other written information as a core part of the learning process on our courses.

Mental health or other difficulties causing concentration problems can also make specialist music software more difficult to use due to the volume and complexity of information the user is required to input and manipulate.

Further information on the support available at Leeds Conservatoire is available on our website:

<https://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/student-life/student-services/disability-support/>

Contacts

The Student Disability Advice Team is located in Student Services in room 401.

Phone 0113 2223421

Email disability@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk.