

DSA Study Needs Assessment

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

Course Overview

The BA (Hons) Music (Folk) degree is usually studied over three years. As a performer, composer, or both, students explore folk music from its origins in oral tradition and its interpretation through different cultures and musicians. They will discover how different folk styles evolved in different communities and nations, and how traditions have been created and preserved. From this grounding in traditional music students experiment with other genres and cultural identities, forming and joining innovative ensembles, building a repertoire in performance or composition, capturing field recordings and collaborating with students from other pathways. Alongside a strong foundation in ensemble performance or composition, issues of style and repertoire will be discussed and taught. Composers will be specifically composing for group ensembles.

Methods of Assessment

Assessment is through a combination of performance recitals, musical portfolios, technical tests, spoken analysis (pre-recorded and submitted as an mp3 audio file), one 1000-word essay, one 2000-word essay, presentations and written work. (No examinations take place.)

IT Hardware and Software

Core music-software packages used on the Folk pathway are Logic Pro (music recording and arranging software) and Pro-Tools. Students can work on either Microsoft or Apple platforms when using Pro-Tools. Logic will only run on the Apple platform but it is not a prerequisite for students to use this software.

Music software applications use a large amount of memory, particularly when run concurrently with accessibility software such as Zoom Text or TextHelp, so extra RAM may be required to avoid slowing down the operating speed of any recommended computer system. It is preferable to specify a machine with a smaller core hard drive but greater additional memory rather than vice versa, because the Logic software uses a large amount of RAM on its own.

The course software is available in some specialist studios and Apple Mac suites within the conservatoire, but these rooms are heavily timetabled throughout the day, which significantly limits individual student access to these facilities. Leeds

Conservatoire recognises that assessors may therefore wish to consider recommending the course software if they feel the student has sufficient additional needs.

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 and coping with the high-density multiple screen setup of information in Logic. 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 this course.

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.

This course involves a significant amount of moving between different studios and performance venues in and out of the conservatoire, and for this reason we have found that many of our disabled students benefit from having a laptop computer so they can access their work and supporting specialist software in all situations.

For notetaking and lecture recording purposes, a digital recording device with a built-in two-way microphone is recommended as a useful aid to learning to enable the recording of music excerpts used alongside orally and visually presented information in lectures.

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.

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

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