

Course Specification

Published Date:	21-Sep-2020
Produced By:	Laura Clode
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Performing Arts		
Course Code(s):	MU002H01UV	Full-time	3 Years
	MU002H31UV	Part-time	6 Years
Course Title:	BMus(Hons) Popular Music		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Music with Honours Popular Music Bachelor of Music Popular Music Diploma of Higher Education Popular Music Certificate of Higher Education Popular Music University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	04/Apr/2017		
Last Review:	2014/5		
Course Specification valid from:	2009/0		
Course Specification valid to:	2020/1		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Mr Steve Cooper
Head of Department:	Sarah Browne

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS)

2017 Entry

- CCC from 'A' Levels
- BTEC QCF Extended Diploma grade MMM
- BTEC QCF Diploma grade DD
- Access to HE Diploma full award (Pass of 60 credits - of which a minimum of 45 credits must be at level 3 including 18 at Merit or Distinction).
- If you've got other qualifications or relevant experience, please contact [The Gateway](#) for further advice before applying.
- International entry requirements and application guidance can be found [here](#)
- Successful completion of the [International Foundation Year in Social Sciences](#) or [International Foundation Year in Arts](#)

Other Requirements

Those meeting the entry requirements will be shortlisted for an audition.

The audition is an opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their skill as a performer on their primary instrument. Candidates should select a piece (or two short extracts) that communicates musicality and expression rather than pure technical demands. In addition, candidates will also be asked to demonstrate an understanding of music notation.

Students must have studied a minimum of two years post GCSE level. However, it is expected that some applicants will be mature students with work experience, who wish to further their career development. These applicants will be processed through standard procedures, which may involve an interview as part of the process. Please see <http://wlv.ac.uk/mature> for further information.

Those who do not meet the entry requirements may be offered an alternative course.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

You will experience a range of practical modules designed to enhance your skills and abilities that align directly with a portfolio career in the music industry. With a clear emphasis on Creating, Understanding, Shaping and Experiencing music you will study performance across a wide range of settings including group, solo and improvisation lessons as well as developing your own technique as an instrumentalist.

The craft of songwriting consistently underpins your development whilst the latest music technologies will help you express and disseminate your creative work to the largest possible audience. These are renowned features of the course and we have significant feedback from former students testifying to the quality of experience gained.

We are very proud of our excellent, well-established team of visiting musicians, who contribute to the programme. As a provider of HE degree study, we consider the challenges you face as a learner in the 21st century and provide flexible study patterns to suit you.

You will network with a wide range of practitioners and make long-lasting musical friendships that will underpin your future in the music industry.

Educational Aims of the Course:

The BMus (Hons) Popular Music degree at the University of Wolverhampton prepares you for a career in the music industry. This course stimulates your innate love of popular music, explores and identifies what music is, what music does, and what music means and provides a structured approach to your career progression as a performer, composer, technologist, teacher or academic.

You will experience a range of practical modules designed to enhance your skills and abilities. With a clear emphasis on Creating, Understanding, Shaping and Experiencing music you will study performance across a wide range of settings including group, solo and improvisation lessons as well as developing your own technique as an instrumentalist. The craft of songwriting consistently underpins your development whilst the latest music technologies will help you express and disseminate your creative work to the largest possible audience. In addition, research and analysis modules will enable you to understand and apply music theory to professional practice, widening your career choices and future directions.

An experienced staff of performers, composers and producers will encourage and stimulate your interest and passion for popular music and will help sharpen your musical development over three years of study.

The University of Wolverhampton continues to develop state of the art facilities at its Walsall campus and the Performance Hub boasts exceptional teaching and learning facilities for music, dance, drama and musical theatre all under one roof, to support student learning at the highest level. The Hub also doubles up as a performance venue, with shows and independent cinema at the Black Box Theatre.

The university's proximity to many established and nationally recognised gig venues, such as The Jamhouse, HMV Institute and Robin 2, allows you to perform at a professional level. You will also be able to meet, network and learn from a range of national and international musicians, whose master classes and seminar sessions will assist you in becoming a professional musician.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12250.00
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3050.00
2020/1	Overseas	Part Time	£6125.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Year 1

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4MU014	Musicianship Skills	20	SEM1	Core
4MU047	Introduction to Research	20	SEM1	Core
4MU015	Performance Workshop	20	SEM2	Core
4MU017	DAW 101	20	SEM1	Core
4MU045	Arranging and Remixing	20	SEM2	Core
4MU010	Music Theory: Essential Concepts	20	SEM2	Core

September (Full-time)

Year 2

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5MU009	The Music Industry Practitioner	20	YEAR	Core
5MU011	Songwriting and Composition	20	YEAR	Core
5MU049	The Studio Musician	20	SEM1	Core
5MU048	Research Methods	20	SEM1	Core
5MU016	Creative Group Performance	20	SEM2	Core
5MU050	The Music Arranger and Producer	20	SEM2	Core

September (Full-time)

Year 3

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6MU027	Music Professional Project	40	YEAR	Core
6MU004	Music for Image	20	SEM2	Core
6MU008	The Improvising Musician	20	SEM1	Core
6MU010	Employability and Enterprise in Music	20	SEM2	Core
6MU012	Music History: Untold Stories	20	SEM1	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

AFRSC 14/38.3

1.2.3. Exemption to permit 40 credit year-long modules at levels 4 and 6 and extend delivery of some 20 credit module to year-long mode (4MU045, 5MU009).

Reference Points:

- QAA Music Benchmark
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- Equality Act 2010
- School Equality Policy.

Learning Outcomes:

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 1 (CHECLO1)

Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with your area(s) of study, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the context of that area of study

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 2 (CHECLO2)

Demonstrate an ability to present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of your subject(s) of study.

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 3 (CHECLO3)

Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study and/or work

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 4 (CHECLO4)

Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 5 (CHECLO5)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 1 (DHECLO1)

Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of your area(s) of study, and of the way in which those principles have developed with an understanding of the limits of your knowledge, and how this influences analyses and interpretations based on that knowledge.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 2 (DHECLO2)

Demonstrate the ability to apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied, including, where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 3 (DHECLO3)

Demonstrate knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in the subject(s) relevant to the named award, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in the field of study

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 4 (DHECLO4)

Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 5 (DHECLO5)

Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 6 (DHECLO6)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment, requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making and undertake further training, developing existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations.

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 1 (ORDCLO1)

Apply analytical, critical and creative skills to popular music

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 2 (ORDCLO2)

Have in-depth knowledge and understanding of the history, theory, and global and cultural context of music, popular music and music technologies

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 3 (ORDCLO3)

Show the attributes of an enterprising, professional musician

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 4 (ORDCLO4)

Demonstrate a sound practical ability on your principal instrument or voice

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 5 (ORDCLO5)

Become an adaptable and flexible musician with the ability to work with digital technologies

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 6 (ORDCLO6)

Have confidence in communicating effectively using a range of media

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 1 (DEGCLO1)

Apply analytical, critical and creative skills to popular music

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 2 (DEGCLO2)

Use your knowledge and understanding of the history, theory, and global and cultural context of music, popular music and music technologies

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 3 (DEGCLO3)

Apply and reflect on the attributes of an enterprising, professional musician

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 4 (DEGCLO4)

Demonstrate an excellent practical ability on your principal instrument or voice

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 5 (DEGCLO5)

Conduct yourself as an adaptable and flexible musician with the ability to work at the forefront of digital technologies

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 6 (DEGCLO6)

Communicate effectively and professionally, using a wide range of media

Overview of Assessment:

Module	Title	Course Learning Outcomes
4MU010	Music Theory: Essential Concepts	CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO5
4MU014	Musicianship Skills	CHECLO1, CHECLO3, CHECLO4
4MU015	Performance Workshop	CHECLO1, CHECLO3, CHECLO4
4MU017	DAW 101	CHECLO1, CHECLO3, CHECLO5
4MU045	Arranging and Remixing	CHECLO1, CHECLO3, CHECLO5
4MU047	Introduction to Research	CHECLO2, CHECLO5
5MU009	The Music Industry Practitioner	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO6
5MU011	Songwriting and Composition	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
5MU016	Creative Group Performance	DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5
5MU048	Research Methods	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
5MU049	The Studio Musician	DHECLO1, DHECLO4
5MU050	The Music Arranger and Producer	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
6MU004	Music for Image	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO6, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO6
6MU008	The Improvising Musician	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO4, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO4
6MU010	Employability and Enterprise in Music	DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, DEGCLO4, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO3, ORDCLO4
6MU012	Music History: Untold Stories	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO6, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO6
6MU027	Music Professional Project	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, DEGCLO6, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO3, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5, ORDCLO6

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

A student studying an Honours Degree in Popular Music will typically experience a range of learning activities drawn appropriately from the following:

- seminars or other forms of small-group discussion, sometimes involving individual or group student presentations to develop oral presentation, negotiation and communication skills
- other forms of small-group teaching and learning in which students have the opportunity to work together as a team (for example, a joint technology or performance project)
- one-to-one interaction, particularly supporting the development of self-direction, intellectual independence and research skills through dissertations, analysis and individual projects, and the development of creative skills through composition and performance
- lectures that stimulate thought, discussion and debate, and which encourage further reading, listening and research by which students can extend their own knowledge and understanding
- individual or small-group vocal or instrumental instruction, developing experience of repertoire, techniques of performance, musicianship, interpretation and presentation, often under the guidance of professional practitioners
- corporate performance activity, groups ranging in size from small ensembles to large choirs and orchestras, developing teamwork and leadership skills
- workshops and master classes, normally addressing the acquisition of creative skills and techniques within a group context, and often benefiting from the experience of visiting specialists

- peer learning where students discuss critically their colleagues' work, usually performances or compositions
- writing (essays, learning journals, concert reviewing etc) as a means of developing research techniques, acquiring knowledge, and presenting ideas and arguments in written form
- practical exercises, usually connected with the development of creative, analytical and aural skills
- independent learning, whether as directed reading and listening related to essay writing or dissertation/project work or as practice for developing creative skills
- studio or laboratory work, including hands-on experience in the use of electronic equipment for composition and/or recording, and for various forms of empirical work
- use of computer-assisted learning, of email for discussion groups or tutorial supervision, and of other forms of ICT
- external placements, often with a vocational slant, such as work experience in schools and arts organisations.
- fieldwork projects, where students study a musical culture in situ, by such methods as attending, observing and participating in events, and interviewing performers, patrons or listeners
- A wide variety of non-assessed curricular activities, especially those involving the participation in or attendance at performances.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
 Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
 Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

The BMus Popular Music programme has been designed to develop the skills of a practising musician and so includes individual and small-group tuition on an instrument or voice. This will enable students to plan their development alongside a professional musician who can offer experience and close contact with the music industry.

Academic study skills are supported throughout the course, beginning by developing academic skills at level 4 and then moving to more formal research methods at level 5, and culminating in the application of study skills to significant work-related and career-related activities in The Professional Project at level 6.

All of the essential learning materials are made available through the University's Virtual Learning Environment (Canvas) to enable students to engage with their learning off-campus and at any time. This is complemented by an on-line skills development website that provides advice and guidance on a wide range of academic skills and processes.

Employability in the Curriculum:

A Popular Music degree opens the door to a fulfilling and varied career that enables you to follow your interests and talents. Performing professionally as a solo artist, a member of a band or as a session player is a natural progression for many students. Careers as a songwriter, arranger, transcriber, programmer, instrumental teacher or musical director are other pathways you can pursue as a graduate. A sustained career in popular music however will most often be a portfolio of these roles and a degree in popular music from the University of Wolverhampton will provide you with the range of skills you need for an established career in a

field that you already love.



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