

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Key Information

Programme Title:	MA Music and Audio Production
Awarding Institution:	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution(s):	Buckinghamshire New University
Subject Cluster:	Music
Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):	MA Music and Audio Production
Pathways (if applicable)	
FHEQ level of final award:	7
Other award titles available (exit qualifications):	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
Accreditation details:	
Length of programme:	1 year Full time 2 years Part time
Mode(s) of Study:	Full Time Part Time
Mode of Delivery:	In person (on-site) delivery
Language of study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark(s):	Music (2019)
Other external reference points (e.g. Apprenticeship Standard):	
Course Code(s):	MAMAAPFT / MAMAAPPT
UCAS Code(s):	
Approval date:	01 December 2022
Date of last update:	

2. Programme Summary

This programme has been designed to allow you to undertake a postgraduate award specialising in critical areas of modern music and audio production. The programme aims to provide an academically rigorous education with a strong practical focus. The modules on the programme are underpinned by research and professional practice in record production, sound design, audio-visual composition, sound art, creative audio production, and music business, which will provide you with instruction on the latest approaches to music and audio production. This programme is aimed at you if you are seeking a future career in music production in a wide variety of contexts.

3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

1. Develop a detailed understanding of the professional environment of the audio and music production sectors and the entrepreneurial skills necessary to exploit current opportunities as well as instigate new lines of professional activity
2. Engender creativity and originality in the application of knowledge and skills, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are applied within audio and music production
3. Develop a conceptual understanding that enables the learner to evaluate critically current practices in the field of audio and music production
4. Develop a conceptual understanding that enables the learner to evaluate methodologies employed within audio and music production and to develop critiques of them

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding (K)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
K1	Synthesise knowledge of the key concepts and language of production knowledge and practice.
K2	Express with confidence an understanding of the key challenges facing music production.
K3	Comprehend key aspects of audio and music production, including the acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge which is informed by the forefront of defined aspects of the discipline.
K4	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the potential for collaborative business approaches across the creative industries.

Analysis and Criticality (C)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
C1	Apply complex 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.
C2	Respond with originality to contemporary issues, including the use of technology, facing practitioners within audio and music production settings.
C3	Design appropriate research strategies to develop improvement and/or solutions to contemporary music production issues.
C4	Critically examine current academic discourse as it applies to music and audio production.

Application and Practice (P)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
P1	Work in combination with others on joint projects or activities including the development of advanced skills in teamwork, negotiation, organisation and decision-making.
P2	Show leadership within a creative team collaborate in music-making, through co-creation, audio production, or analogous activities.
P3	Convey personal expression and imagination in practical music-making through employing appropriate technical and interpretative means.

Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
T1	Be self-directive and creative in tackling and solving audio and music production problems.
T2	Make decisions in complex and unpredictable situations.
T3	Exercise initiative and personal responsibility.
T4	Act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level.

Graduate Attributes

The BNU Graduate Attributes of: Knowledge and its application; Creativity; Social and ethical awareness and responsibility; and Leadership and self-development focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens.

On this programme, attributes are developed through various teaching and assessment methods, which are designed to allow the learner to explore the evolution of key concepts, theories, techniques and challenges within the area of music and audio production (K1, K2, K3, T1). We encourage learners to critically evaluate the current state of the creative industries in the context of audio production and to research further and analyse avenues in which to explore the design of new working creative methodologies within the field (C2, C3, C4, T2). Ultimately, we strive for learners to develop academically rigorous evaluations of the industry and practical skill sets that will prepare them for professional employment within the area of music and audio production (C1, T3). Practical collaboration is a cornerstone of teaching and learning within BNU, where we endeavour to develop advanced teamwork, leadership, and decision-making skills through participation in the co-creation of audio production projects (K4, P1, P2, P3, T3, T4).

4. Entry Requirements

The University's [general entry requirements](#) will apply to admission to this programme with the following additions / exceptions:

- A typical applicant will hold a 2:1 degree in a relevant area and have an interest in pursuing a career in audio or music, or have several years' experience in the industry at an appropriate level.

If you do not meet the entry requirements you may, if you have relevant professional experience, still be invited for interview, where you will be required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course.

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules in accordance with our [accreditation of prior learning](#) (APL) process.

5. Programme Structure

MA Music & Audio Production

<p>Level 7</p>	<p>Core modules: PER7062 Approaches to Recording & Mixing (20 credits) PER7063 Sound Art & Composition (20 credits) PER7059 Immersive Audio Production (20 credits) PER7064 Research Methods (20 credits) PER7053 Research Project/Independent Work (60 credits)</p> <p>Option modules: Choose modules to the total of 40 credits:</p> <p>PER7060 The Recording Performance (20 credits) Future Production Technologies (20 credits) PER7061 Sound Design for Linear Media (20 credits) PER7057 Social Media Marketing (20 credits) PER7058 The Live Music Industry (20 credits)</p>	<p><u>Exit Awards</u></p> <p>Postgraduate Diploma in Music and Audio Production: 120 Credits from all core and optional modules, excluding the dissertation.</p> <p>Postgraduate Certificate in Music and Audio Production: 60 Credits from core modules and optional modules, excluding the dissertation</p>
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Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to changes in the subject area.

6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and teaching

The learning and teaching strategy enables learners to accommodate their academic journey within their personal and professional lives. Learners will therefore be able to select modules both based on their chosen pathway/area of interest but also, where available, on the mode of attendance.

The University's VLE is central to the learning and teaching strategy, and all modules make use of this environment. This will provide learners with a means of accessing a range of resources and other learning activities. Both the face-to-face workshops and the University VLE will be actively employed as a forum for learners to develop working relationships with colleagues while considering critical issues relevant to learning, teaching and assessment and research in music.

Some modules require face-to-face workshops facilitated by members of the course team. Sessions will include contributions from relevant practitioners from within the University and external experts where appropriate. Learner will furthermore be encouraged to engage with appropriate opportunities in their professional environment (where appropriate) to better understand contextual issues within their setting and sector of interest.

Assessment

Summative and formative assessments are used in all modules. Formative assessments are seen as a fundamental vehicle through which to offer learners feedback and coaching in their exploration and application of different theoretical paradigms and research principles. Summative assessments will focus on a learner's ability to identify, summarise, and evaluate key aspects of theory and research and to relate this meaningfully and creatively to the practice setting and/or area of interest.

The following types of assessment activity may be used on this programme (subject to the learner's chosen pathway). These include:

- Practical assignment
- Report
- Essay
- Portfolio
- Reflective commentary
- Research proposal
- Dissertation
- Practical project

Contact Hours

Learners can expect to receive up to 12 hours of scheduled learning activities per week. This may include lectures, seminars, workshops, or practical demonstration. A full breakdown of contact hours can be found in individual module descriptors.

7. Programme Regulations

This programme will be subject to the following assessment regulations:

- Academic Assessment Regulations

8. Support for learners

The following systems are in place to support you to be successful with your studies:

- The appointment of a personal tutor to support you through your programme
- A programme handbook and induction at the beginning of your studies
- Library resources, include access to books, journals and databases - many of which are available in electronic format – and support from trained library staff
- Access to Blackboard, our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is accessible via PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device
- Access to the MyBNU portal where you can access all University systems, information and news, record your attendance at sessions, and access your personalised timetable
- Academic Registry staff providing general guidance on University regulations, exams, and other aspects of learners and course administration
- Central learner services, including teams supporting academic skills development, career success, learner finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability and counselling
- Support from the Bucks Learners' Union, including the Learners' Union Advice Centre which offers free and confidential advice on University processes.

9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU has a number of ways for monitoring and reviewing the quality of learning and teaching on your programme. You will be able to comment on the content of their programme via the following feedback mechanisms:

- Formal feedback questionnaires and anonymous module 'check-ins'
- Participation in external surveys
- Programme Committees, via appointed learner representatives
- Informal feedback to your programme leader

Quality and standards on each programme are assured via the following mechanisms:

- An initial event to approve the programme for delivery
- An annual report submitted by the External Examiner following a process of external moderation of work submitted for assessment
- The Annual Monitoring process, which is overseen by the University's Education Committee
- Review by the relevant PSRB(s)
- Periodic Subject Review events held every five years
- Other sector compliance and review mechanisms

10. Internal and external reference points

Design and development of this programme has been informed by the following internal and external reference points:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- The QAA Subject Benchmark Statement – see detailed mapping below
- The QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy

Mapping of Subject Benchmark Statement and any relevant Apprenticeship Standard to Programme Learning Outcomes

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)				Analysis and Criticality (C)				Application and Practice (P)			Transferable skills and other attributes (T)			
	K1	K2	K3	K4	C1	C2	C3	C4	P1	P2	P3	T1	T2	T3	T4
Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice	X	X	X			X	X	X				X			
Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship	X		X		X	X	X	X						X	X
Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding	X		X		X	X		X				X		X	X

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)				Analysis and Criticality (C)				Application and Practice (P)			Transferable skills and other attributes (T)			
	K1	K2	K3	K4	C1	C2	C3	C4	P1	P2	P3	T1	T2	T3	T4
of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline															
Demonstrate a conceptual understanding that enables the learner: - to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline - to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose.	X		X		X	X	X	X				X		X	X
Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)				Analysis and Criticality (C)				Application and Practice (P)			Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	C1	C2	C3	C4	P1	P2	P3	T1	T2	T3	T4
absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences																
Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level		X		X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level	X		X				X			X	X	X	X	X		X
Show the ability to explore, evaluate, apply or challenge associated scholarship and research.	X		X				X	X					X		X	X

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)				Analysis and Criticality (C)				Application and Practice (P)			Transferable skills and other attributes (T)			
	K1	K2	K3	K4	C1	C2	C3	C4	P1	P2	P3	T1	T2	T3	T4
Show an awareness of the implications of an interdisciplinary approach to music for creation, innovation and research.			X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Show critical awareness of issues of debate or uncertainty raised from analysing musical materials.	X	X	X			X	X	X				X			X
Demonstrate an individual musical personality or 'voice', through advanced technical skills and deeper levels of interpretative insight.	X		X			X					X	X	X	X	X

Mapping of Programme Learning Outcomes to Modules

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)				Analysis and Criticality (C)				Application and Practice (P)			Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	Module Code (Core)	K1	K2	K3	K4	C1	C2	C3	C4	P1	P2	P3	T1	T2	T3	T4
Level 7																
Approaches to Recording & Mixing	X	X	X		X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sound Art & Composition	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Immersive Audio Production	X	X	X		X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Research Methods			X	X	X		X	X						X	X	X
Research Project/Independent Work			X	X	X		X	X					X	X	X	X