

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	BA Music Performance with Production
Award	BA (Hons) BA (Hons) with Study Abroad
School	School of Communication & Creativity
Department or equivalent	Department of Performing Arts
UCAS Code	W300
Programme code	USMUSC USMUSA
Type of study	Full Time
Total UK credits	360
Total ECTS	180

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The BA (Hons) Music Performance with Production degree at City, University of London offers a future-focused curriculum in the heart of central London. The aim of the degree is to equip you with specialist skills in readiness for a successful career in the music industry. You will have access to outstanding performance and recording facilities with multiple creative/performance opportunities as part of an established and high-achieving Music community that values collaboration and nurtures individuality. Practice-based learning is underpinned with current thinking in music delivered to you by tutors who are internationally recognised. City Music graduates are known for sparking and leading change in whichever musical environments they transition into. This is our ambition for you too.

This cutting-edge music programme is designed around core pathways that provide coherence as you progress through each year. Your studies will span contemporary music genres and styles, including pop, electronic music, global musics, and classical. Core pathways focus on live and studio performance, studio recording and production, independent music creation, critical engagement with the contexts of contemporary music-making, along with industry skills and entrepreneurship.

Year 1 develops your skills in solo and group performance, provides a foundation in studio recording and production, and expands your knowledge of the broad range of practices across contemporary music. Year 2 extends your skills and experience in performance and studio production, adds depth through the study of music in its global contexts, and provides an eclectic array of elective modules that allow you to develop specialised expertise. In Year 3 you engage in advanced-level individually supervised work by devising a Major Project in Performance, Recording & Production, Composition, or Dissertation. A broad range of elective

modules enable you to enhance your professional skills and employability and to gain high-level skills in specialist areas.

Performing opportunities are offered across a number of modules and range from solo and small group work to larger ensembles that include students from all three years. You will have access to gigs and concerts at City and also at external venues across London in the role of performer, songwriter/composer, sound engineer, and/or producer. You will also benefit from interacting with our numerous industry partners.

This is the degree for you if you are aiming for an ambitious career in the ever-evolving music industries. You will benefit from 1:1 performance tuition while also gaining experience performing in small groups and recording sessions. You will gain advanced skills in studio recording and production, setting you at a distinct advantage in the professional music world. A wide range of elective modules allow you to develop specialism in areas including songwriting, studio composition, and audio-visual work. Employability-focussed modules such as The Music Business, Producing an Event and Freelancing & Entrepreneurship will set you up with the knowledge and skills to succeed as a music professional.

Aims

- To immerse you in the practice and study of music at the highest level.
- To provide knowledge and experience that enables you to succeed as a music professional.
- To develop, nurture and challenge your musical 'voice' in whichever creative and performative contexts this may sit.
- To develop in you not only a broad range of practical musical skills, but also the intellectual capacity to articulate and confidently present your ideas in written and verbal forms.
- To give you the tools and strategies to collaborate successfully within musical teams.
- To provide appropriate employability-focused learning and opportunity that supports sustainable freelance careers in music.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

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

Knowledge and understanding:

- Devise and adopt critically informed interpretative strategies across your creative pursuits, including performance, studio production, and songwriting/composition.
- Identify and appraise the contexts of contemporary music and sound production across a wide range of genres, cultures and traditions.
- Identify your strengths as a performer and/or producer/creator and understand areas for further development.
- Identify the key stages in the studio recording and production process.
- Specify your future career goals based on analysis of your skills and professional experience.

Skills:

- Demonstrate imagination, originality and creativity in your practice as a performer, producer, and/or songwriter/composer.
- Perform in solo and group contexts with confidence, technical fluency, and interpretative awareness.
- Apply research skills to the investigation of key issues and questions relating to the contexts of music and studio production.
- Develop ideas and construct arguments, presenting these in clear and accessible written and verbal forms.
- Plan and manage studio recording and mixing sessions.
- Apply musicianship and critical listening skills to performance, studio production, and songwriting/composition.
- Use professional experience as a platform to develop your project management and employability skills.

Values and attitudes:

- Work independently, showing discipline and self-reliance.
- Respect and acknowledge the ideas and work of others.
- Commit to regular independent practice as a performer and/or producer.
- Reflect critically and constructively on your developing creative and technical practice.
- Respond thoughtfully and effectively to feedback on your work and develop the ability to construct feedback for others.
- Communicate and collaborate effectively with artists and producers.
- Nurture curiosity, an enquiring attitude, and willingness to explore the applications of your learning in professional contexts.
- Act as an independent and proactive learner who goes beyond the academic curriculum to engage with developing your employability.

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA Subject Benchmark for Music.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn through varied forms of teaching and assessment with an emphasis on practical exercises that replicate the professional world.

The department is committed to a student-centred approach to learning and to facilitate your participation in the learning process. Modules are delivered using a combinations of lectures, seminars and practical workshops, supported by individual and small group tutorials.

Lectures provide commentary and explanation on key subjects areas, while seminars provide an opportunity to engage in discussion and debate. Practical workshops support hands-on learning guided by industry experts in performance, musicianship, studio recording and production, and composition.

You will receive 20 hours of one-to-one tuition in instrumental and/or vocal performance throughout the first two years of the programme, with the option to continue into the third year through the Major Project: Performance. Performance is additionally supported through regular group workshops across all three years.

Throughout your studies you will be required to undertake reading and independent research in order to understand the topics covered in lectures and seminars, and to broaden and deepen your knowledge. Your self-directed learning will be supported in a variety of ways, including Moodle, group work, external visits, extensive use of online resources, and showcases of creative work.

Music as a discipline demands commitment including daily practice to hone existing skills and techniques and to advance those skills levels to allow you to succeed across the range of your studies. Applying a consistently high work ethic to your studies will help you achieve your full potential and prepare you for the demands that you will encounter as a music industry professional.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Throughout your course, your learning is assessed through a combination of practical, creative, project and written tasks. Marks obtained in all years contribute to the final degree awarded. Practical and project work can account for the majority of your marks, depending on elective choices.

Most modules include a final assignment in the form of a practical or written task. In solo and group performance modules the final assessment takes the form of a concert, gig or recital. Many modules include a smaller assignment in addition to the final assignment, in the form of a seminar presentation, a practical examination, or a short essay.

You are provided with assessment support throughout the programme in various forms, including individual and small group tutorials, on-going feedback on formative assignments, structured seminar exercises, and consultations with academic staff during weekly drop-in hours.

In Group Performance 1, 2 and 3 you will be assessed through performance in end-of-Module assessments and through ongoing participation and engagement in classwork. It is a programme level requirement that you must attend 80% of the timetabled contact teaching sessions throughout the programme unless there are extenuating circumstances. This is a pass/fail module component, it will be monitored, and you must pass this component in order to pass the module. If not achieved, you will be eligible for a resit (pass/fail); further details will be provided by the module tutor. This component will be zero-weighted in the module mark calculation.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade- Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade- Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme

handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with institutional Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module assessments feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year Major Projects may be longer. The full policy can be found at:

https://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits. You also need to pass each Programme Stage of your Programme in order to progress to the following Programme Stage. The weighting for each Programme Stage of your Programme is given in the below table.

The Pass mark for each module is 40%. You may be required to achieve a minimum mark in different assessment components within individual modules. See the relevant module specifications for further information.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

1. Compensation: where you fail up to 30 credits or one sixth of the total credits within a Programme Stage, whichever is greater, you may be allowed compensation if:
 - Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the What will I Study section of the programme specification), and
 - It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Programme Stage, and
 - A minimum overall mark of no more than 10% below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
 - An aggregate mark of 40% has been achieved for the Programme Stage, and
 - The total volume of credits compensated over the entire degree does not exceed 45 credits.

Where you are eligible for compensation at the first attempt, this will be applied in the first instance rather than offering a resit opportunity.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you will be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks will be retained in the record of marks and your

original module mark will be used for the purpose of your Award calculation.

2. Resit: where you are not eligible for compensation at the first attempt, you will be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress to the next Programme Stage and the Assessment Board will require you to be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Programme Stage or the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at: http://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Certificate in Music Performance with Production / Stage One

For all of you completing Stage One *or* the Certificate in Music Performance with Production you will develop skills in solo and group performance, musicianship, studio recording and production, and creative composition. You will also be able to discuss underlying concepts and principles associated with the socio-cultural contexts of music and interpret these within the context of your practice.

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	4	120	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without classification	40

Diploma in Music Performance with Production / Stage Two

For all of you completing Stage Two *or* the Diploma in Music Performance with Production you will extend your skills and experience in performance, musicianship, and studio production as you develop your individual musical identity. You will develop skills of enquiry in the socio-cultural study of music applying these to the interpretation of music in its global contexts. A range of elective modules provides you with the opportunity to develop specialised expertise in areas including songwriting, studio composition, composition for moving images, the music business, global popular musics, and electronic dance music.

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	4	120	10	With Distinction	70
2	5	120	90	With Merit	60
				Without classification	40

Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Music Performance with Production / Stage Three
For all of you completing Stage Three or the BA in Music Performance with Production you will develop a coherent and detailed knowledge of your specialist area through an individually supervised Major Project in Performance, Recording & Production, Composition, or Dissertation. You will also consolidate professional skills through modules that focus on careers and employability. Elective modules provide the opportunity to further develop detailed knowledge and practical skills in subjects including computer programming, rhythm, video game music, and sound/image interaction.

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	4	120	10	I	70
2	5	120	30	II upper division	60
3	6	120	60	II lower division	50
				III	40

Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in Music Performance with Production with Study Abroad
Successful completion of the requirements for the Degree and a 'sandwich' year of study abroad at an approved partner institution will lead you to the award of BA(Hons) with Study Abroad.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Programme Stage 1

You take eight core modules totalling 120 credits.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Music Today 1 – Being Creative	MU1500	15	C	Y	4
Music Today 2 – Audiences & Media	MU1501	15	C	Y	4
Creative Composition	MU1504	15	C	Y	4
Solo Performance 1	MU1505	15	C	Y	4
Group Performance 1	MU1502	15	C	Y	4
Musicianship 1	MU1506	15	C	Y	4
Studio Recording 1 – Recording Techniques	MU1507	15	C	Y	4

Studio Recording 2 - Tracking, Mixing & Producing	MU1503	15	C	Y	4
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Programme Stage 2

In Year 2, you take core modules totaling 75 credits, and choose a further 45 credits from a range of elective modules.

Core modules:

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Solo Performance 2	MU2115	15	C	N	5
Musicianship 2	MU2300	15	C	N	5
Studio Recording 3 - Advance Mixing & Signal Processing	MU2503	15	C	N	5
Music Today 3 – Global Cultures	MU2105	15	C	N	5
Group Performance 2	MU2301	15	C	N	5

Electives:

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Global Popular Musics	MU2054	15	E	Y	5
Electronic Dance Music	MU2201	15	E	Y	5
Songwriting	MU2500	15	E	Y	5
Composition: Studio	MU2143	15	E	Y	5
Composition: Moving Images	MU2145	15	E	Y	5
The Music Business	MU2501	15	E	Y	5
Technology & The Voice	MU2502	15	E	Y	5
Writing About Music	MU2206	15	E	Y	5

Programme Stage 3

In Year 3, you take core and core-elective modules-totaling 75 credits and choose a further 45 credits from a range of elective modules. Core-elective modules include one Employability-focused module from a range of choices and a Major Project option worth 30 credits from: Performance 3 (MU3115), Recording & Production (MU3***), Composition (MU3103), or Dissertation (MU3143).

Core/Core-elective modules:

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
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Music Today 4 – Shaping the Music Industries	MU3500	15	C	Y	6
Group Performance 3	MU3502	15	C	Y	6
Core Elective: Major Project Performance	MU3115	30	CE	N	6
Core Elective: Major Project Composition	MU3103	30	CE	N	6
Core Elective: Major Project Dissertation	MU3143	30	CE	N	6
Core Elective: Major Project Recording and Production	MU3503	30	CE	N	6

Core Employability Electives:

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Mentoring and Coaching for Leadership	BM3106	15	CE	Y	6
Micro-Placements	SA3000	15	CE	Y	6
Industry Projects	SA3100	15	CE	Y	6
Freelancing & Entrepreneurship	SA3400	15	CE	Y	6

Electives:

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Rhythm	MU3203	15	E	Y	6
Video Game Music	MU3210	15	E	Y	6
Popular Music Now!	MU3116	15	E	Y	6
Music, Sound and the Environment	MU3134	15	E	Y	6
Computer Programming for Musicians	MU3400	15	E	Y	6
Sound and Image Interaction	MU3151	15	E	Y	6
Producing an Event	MU3501	15	E	Y	6

WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?

Graduates of the BA programme include performers, recording artists, songwriters, producers, sound recording engineers, music managers, music administrators, music therapists, teachers (schools and independent sector), marketers and entrepreneurs. Others pursue further study at postgraduate level, including Masters degrees and PhDs.

The BA degree also equips you with professional skills that are transferrable to a wide range of professions beyond music. Some of our alumni have gone into careers in finance, marketing, management, media production (television, radio, theatre), arts management, digital industry and events organisation among other areas. If you would like more information on the Careers

support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

As an Undergraduate student you can undertake a period of study abroad whilst completing the programme. This is possible through the SCC Exchange Programme, a year of study at one of our European and/or international partner universities via a sandwich year, which is undertaken between completing Programme Stage 2 and entering Programme Stage 3, extending the degree to four years.

The resulting degree title awarded would be: BA Music Performance with Production with Study Abroad.

Participation in the SCC Exchange Programme is through an application process. You are encouraged to investigate the opportunities available to you within your Department in your first year at City.

Information and support for this programme is provided by the SCC Exchanges Team (SPGA-SCC-outgoing@city.ac.uk).

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

You will have the opportunity in Year 3 to undertake CO3000 Micro Placements.

The module seeks to enhance career exploration and will provide you with professional level experience in the form of a self-contained project with one of City's external employer partners.

1) You should discuss your plans with your Personal Tutor, preferably during the spring term of your second year. Your Micro-Placement project will typically last for 4 week full-time, with a provision for part- time projects, and will take place from June once your second year (Level 5) finishes.

2) The placement must be approved by City as providing suitable supervision and training – see the guidance provided in the relevant module specification.

The module will provide you with a set of building blocks which you can use to begin developing your career. The module will increase your confidence in your ability to go for the career of your choosing whilst utilising the skills you're developing through your degree discipline.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

We welcome interest from instrumental and vocal performers, singer/songwriters, composers and producers, acknowledging that many emerging musicians cross-over some/all of these areas.

We will be pleased to consider your application and musical abilities in a variety of ways including:

- Submission of a portfolio of audio/video files eg YouTube excerpts
- On-campus or online audition/interview as appropriate
- Associated Board/Trinity qualifications

Overseas applicants will normally be required to submit a suitably verified video recording of their performance.

Applicants should normally have passes in at least two subjects at A-level or BTEC equivalent. Although offers may vary according to individual circumstances, applicants will be expected to obtain grades in the region of 120 UCAS tariff points. This may typically be met by achieving BBB at A-level, but we are pleased to consider a range of other qualifications included in the UCAS Tariff point system (e.g. Advanced GNVQ, BTEC, SCE (H), IB, etc.)

Grades 6, 7, and 8 of the practical music examinations offered by examination boards such as ABRSM will qualify for UCAS tariff points and will be considered as part of an offer where there is no duplication of points awarded in other qualifications.

Applicants whose first language is not English must supply evidence of their proficiency in English, including for example an IELTS score of at least 6.5. Full details of acceptable qualifications are given in the Undergraduate Prospectus.

Applicants have opportunities to visit the Department's and City's facilities at Open Day events at points throughout the year. Offer holders are invited to a day of music workshops and to meet each other plus current students and staff in the Spring term, with a corresponding online event for our international offer holders.

RPL/RPEL Requirements

Mature applicants (aged 21 years or over) who do not possess conventional qualifications are invited to provide samples of their musical abilities. Each mature applicant will be considered on their individual merits.

Applications from students who have achieved 120 HE Level 4 credits from another institution will be considered on their individual merits.

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Information is provided subject to Terms and Conditions for study at City, University of London.