

COURSE SPECIFICATION - BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance



1. General information

Course Title	BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance
UCAS code	W315
Course / Award Title	BMus (Hons)
Awarding Institution	Leeds Arts University
Institution at which course is delivered	Leeds Arts University
Professional Accreditation (if applicable)	n/a
Relevant QAA Benchmark(s)	Music Subject Benchmark Statement 2019
Date of most recent review/approval (for new courses)	January 2022
Date of next review	2027-28

Awards	Credits	Duration	Mode of study
BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance	360 (180 ECTS)	3 years	FT
BMus Popular Music Performance*	300 (150 ECTS)	3 years	FT
DipHE in Popular Music Performance*	240 (120 ECTS)	2 years	FT
CertHE in Popular Music Performance*	120 (60 ECTS)	1 year	FT
*Exit award only			

2. Course Aims

This course aims to provide you with:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A specialised course of study in popular music performance, production, and composition. • A high-quality popular music education fostered within a stimulating and specialist arts learning and teaching community. • Opportunities to collaborate with co-creators, including those from other artistic disciplines, in order to communicate musical intentions effectively to a listener. • An academically rigorous course of study that reflects a wide range of popular music performance, production and composition approaches. • The ability to use practical and intellectual skills for independent, professional popular music practice, employment in a range of professional settings, or further training of a professional or equivalent nature.

- An understanding of concepts central to popular music practice and theory, and of the various models of popular music performance, production, and composition that acknowledge the expanded field of contemporary discourse and developing practice.
- The ability to apply individual research, reflection, and knowledge abilities in order to be resilient in developing and sustaining a career path (including self-employment), taking account of personal health and welfare.
- The skills and knowledge to review, consolidate, extend and apply your learning in different contextual frameworks and situations, both within the field of popular music performance, production and composition, and within appropriate professional and entrepreneurial contexts.

3. Distinctive Features

Distinctive features of the course:

BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance is an established practical, vocational and rigorous training for talented musicians which is well-resourced and fostered within a specialist arts university community.

The course emphasises practical musical performance, creation, process and experimentation as part of a creative learning and teaching community. You will engage with a range of internal and external-facing performance projects, songwriting briefs and studio tasks.

Most visibly and distinctively, the Arts University environment of the BMus course introduces students to interdisciplinary artistic collaboration, offering the possibility for creative practices not limited by subject.

In addition to the development of your instrumental/vocal skills and the stimulation of your creativity and musical curiosity, the course facilitates individual and collaborative opportunities to develop your own unique performance, production and songwriting skills and unique style on stage, and in the studio.

The course offers a holistic approach to performance, production and composition, providing a distinctive higher education learning experience to graduates entering the creative arts with a focus on harnessing creativity, nurturing innovation, and cultivating employability.

Integrating these creative strands within the Leeds Arts University BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance course provides students with an immediate creative and competitive advantage, as working musicians are required to navigate these disciplines with ease.

The uniqueness of the course is underpinned by students' individuality, experiences, and creativity. This approach influences and guides the course intention to create an environment and curriculum that meets the needs of (a) current and future undergraduates and (b) the developing creative music industries.

Key to the success of this aim is a dynamic blend of individual and group work, a wide range of taught seminars and workshops, collaborative briefs, and group critiques. BMus students learn how to work as part of a team, and identify their roles within the creative community.

BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance graduates are prepared intellectually, practically and professionally to engage with the contemporary music industries and creative sector as creative musicians. Future employability is embedded throughout the curriculum, encouraging resilience in developing and sustaining a career path (including self-employment), and taking account of personal health and welfare.

Course links to industry are underpinned by an active programme of visiting professionals from various performance, production and composition contexts. Additionally, students are able to access Creative Network events, specialist performance and skills workshops, and external visits.

The performance, production and composition of original work is prioritised at each level of study.

The course is distinctive in that it:

- is delivered by one of the UK's leading specialist arts institutions, in the heart of Leeds' thriving live music scene;
- integrates performance, composition, and production in the context of the BMus award;
- provides opportunities for collaboration and interdisciplinary work with students from other Leeds Arts University courses and sub-disciplines;
- is concerned with developing complete, creative and versatile musicians, ready to build and sustain a career in the contemporary music industries;
- utilises a purpose-built, highly-resourced and bespoke environment;
- reflects real-world professional practice through its teaching and learning strategies.

4. Course Structure

4a. Module Framework

Level 4	Credit Points	ECTS	Learning Hours
LAUPMP401 Popular Music, the Stage and Studio	60	30	600
LAUPMP402 Engaging the Audience	40	20	400
LAUPMP403 The Business of Music 1	20	10	200
Level 5	Credit Points	ECTS	Learning Hours
LAUPMP501 Popular Music, Meaning and Media	60	30	600
LAUPMP502 The Business of Music 2	60	30	600
Level 6	Credit Points	ECTS	Learning Hours
LAUPMP601 Popular Music, Negotiated Practice	60	30	600
LAUPMP602 Popular Music, Professional Practice	60	30	600

4b. Course Map / Structure

Level 4		
Semester One	POPULAR MUSIC, THE STAGE AND STUDIO (LAUPMP401) <i>60 credits</i>	
Semester Two	ENGAGING THE AUDIENCE (LAUPMP402) <i>40 credits</i>	THE BUSINESS OF MUSIC 1 (LAUPMP403) <i>20 credits</i>
120 credits (60 ECTS credits)		Certificate of Higher Education (Exit Award)

Level 5	
Semester One	POPULAR MUSIC, MEANING AND MEDIA (LAUPMP501) <i>(60 credits)</i>
Semester Two	THE BUSINESS OF MUSIC 2 (LAUPMP502) <i>(60 credits)</i>
120 credits (60 ECTS credits)	
Diploma of Higher Education (Exit Award)	

Level 6	
Semester One	POPULAR MUSIC, NEGOTIATED PRACTICE (LAUPMP601) <i>(60 credits)</i>
Semester Two	POPULAR MUSIC, PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE (LAUPMP602) <i>(60 credits)</i>
120 credits (60 ECTS credits)	
BA (Hons) [COURSE] (Exit Award)	
*Students who fail to complete 360 credits but have accumulated no fewer than 300 credits will be awarded an Ordinary degree.	

5. Course Learning Outcomes

Learning is assessed at each level of the course. This develops from introductory work within the specialism of the course at level 4, through development of skills and ideas at level 5, progressing to application and synthesis of skills, originality, and theory in practice at level 6 as indicated by the FHEQ qualification descriptors.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) comprise the Level Learning Outcomes, which define what you are expected to be able to do on completion of each level. Level Learning Outcomes are achieved through successfully completing all modules at that level. Expectations for your learning are expressed within each module.

Level 4 (CertHE)

Level Learning Outcomes	Modules
<i>By the end of Level 4, you will be expected to:</i>	
4.1 Demonstrate the practical ability to interpret, analyse, evaluate and apply underlying concepts, principles and skills which are standard features of popular music performance, production and composition.	LAUPMP401 LAUPMP402
4.2 Demonstrate an awareness of different professional contexts, including an awareness of contemporary issues in the cultural and creative sectors (for example, policy, funding, organisations).	LAUPMP402 LAUPMP403

4.3 Demonstrate an awareness of popular music performance, production and composition as a professional activity, of its critical and contextual dimensions, and of requirements which include the biomechanical, physiological, and psychological demands of musical performance.	LAUPMP401 LAUPMP402 LAUPMP403
4.4 Demonstrate the ability to generate ideas, using different approaches, appropriate technologies, and techniques for problem solving associated with popular music performance, production, and composition, including convergent and divergent thinking.	LAUPMP401 LAUPMP402 LAUPMP403
4.5 Present a structured and coherent body of work as a demonstration of ideas through to material outcomes in popular music performance, production and composition, using appropriate methods/practice that employ practical and theoretical research evidenced during the creative process.	LAUPMP401 LAUPMP402 LAUPMP403
4.6 Demonstrate self-management skills and the ability to articulate, record and present opinions, observations and evaluations through appropriate methods of written, verbal and musical communication.	LAUPMP401 LAUPMP402 LAUPMP403
4.7 Identify strengths and areas for development as learners.	LAUPMP401 LAUPMP402 LAUPMP403

Level 5 (DipHE)

Level Learning Outcomes	Modules
<i>By the end of Level 5, you will be expected to:</i>	
5.1 Demonstrate gaining a practical understanding and application of the concepts, principles, processes, skills, and critical discourses which are standard features of popular music performance, production and composition, and the way in which those principles have developed.	LAUPMP501 LAUPMP502
5.2 Select, analyse and make appropriate use of popular music performance, production and composition materials, processes, environments, and information, using a range of techniques.	LAUPMP501 LAUPMP502
5.3 Demonstrate gaining the ability to adjust to professional boundaries and interact through collaboration and negotiation with others.	LAUPMP501 LAUPMP502
5.4 Apply generic and subject-specific intellectual qualities to a range of relevant popular music performance, production, and composition problems and/or situations, with the inclusion of scenarios outside the context in which they were originally studied.	LAUPMP501 LAUPMP502
5.5 Articulate and apply key methods of practical and theoretical research and ideas development in popular music performance, production and composition, and critically evaluate the appropriateness of these methods.	LAUPMP501 LAUPMP502
5.6 Apply generic and subject-specific skills in order to establish an appropriate direction in popular music performance, production and composition practice, in preparation for a career in the field.	LAUPMP501 LAUPMP502

Level 6 (BA Hons)

Level Learning Outcomes	Modules
<i>By the end of Level 6, you will be expected to:</i>	
6.1 Evidence a high level of process and subject-specific skills that demonstrate a critically informed practical and theoretical application of the professional skills of popular music performance, production, and composition practice.	LAUPMP601 LAUPMP602
6.2 Demonstrate an independent critical understanding, specific knowledge, and specialist understanding of the professional and contextual location of their popular music performance, production and composition practice.	LAUPMP601 LAUPMP602
6.3 Evidence the synthesis of knowledge and understanding to generate effective creative solutions within popular music performance, production, and composition practice in order to progress into employment or further training of a professional or equivalent nature.	LAUPMP601 LAUPMP602
6.4 Manage your own learning, and make use of primary and secondary sources in order to review, consolidate, extend and apply your knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects.	LAUPMP601 LAUPMP602
6.5 Use information, experiences and a range of appropriate communication methods to present yourself as a professional practitioner.	LAUPMP601 LAUPMP602

6. Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies

Our overall approach to engagement is outlined in our statement on [Undergraduate Teaching & Learning at Leeds Arts University](#).

6a. Teaching and Learning

Level 4

At level 4, you will develop a sound knowledge of the fundamental concepts of popular music performance, production and composition, through an engagement with practical music-making.

You will undertake taught sessions concerning different approaches to collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving, designed to mirror real-world popular music performance, production, and composition scenarios.

You will be expected to communicate the results of your musical research and learning journey reliably and accurately, and will develop the transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility.

Level 5

In addition to the skills demonstrated at level 4, at level 5 you will continue to develop and demonstrate a sound knowledge of the concepts of popular music performance, production and composition through an engagement with practical music-making and will apply these more widely.

You will develop a vocational approach to popular music performance, production, and composition, applying research, reflection, and knowledge abilities in order to be resilient in

developing and sustaining a career path (including self-employment) within the musical and creative industries, and taking account of personal health and welfare.

You will demonstrate the qualities necessary for employment in situations requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making.

Level 6

In addition to the skills demonstrated at level 4 and level 5, at level 6 you will develop and apply understanding of a complex body of concepts concerning popular music performance, production and composition.

Through this, you will develop analytical techniques and problem-solving skills that can be applied in many types of employment. You will be able to evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions, in order to reach sound judgements and to communicate these effectively and with clear evidence of musical creativity.

Holders of the BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance will be able to demonstrate qualities needed for employment in situations requiring the exercise of personal responsibility, and decision-making in complex and unpredictable circumstances.

6b. Assessment

The aim of assessment is to inform you of your individual progress as you work through the course. Feedback is an essential element of assessment and explained in more detail in 6c. Assessment also ensures that you are meeting the required academic standards for the award.

Assessment reflects the teaching and learning content and is an integral part of the learning process. Specific assessment strategies and submission requirements are explained in the briefs that you will receive at the start of each module. Assessment is designed to reflect creative and academic practice and is aligned with the appropriate level of study. As far as possible assessment will be authentic in simulating professional practices.

The Leeds Arts University assessment approach regards ‘performance’ as the key term for the diverse creative outputs submitted in assessment across its provision. Your creative output therefore, is the performance of your learning, and will demonstrate the extent to which you have learned, developed, assimilated and mediated your knowledge, understanding and skills into appropriate forms for submission requirements. You will evidence module expectations, as expressed as ‘what you are expected to learn’ in module specifications.

The assessment of the modules is holistic; all material presented for assessment in each module is taken as a whole and a single mark is arrived at. Most assessment is by portfolio submission, the exact nature and content of which is determined by the subject matter, content and learning expectations for each module and is specified in your module briefs.

Your work will be assessed holistically using the undergraduate Assessment Criteria and Marking Scheme. These are used to evaluate your learning against the learning expectations specified for each module. Levels are clearly differentiated by learning outcomes, module expectations, teaching and learning approaches and assessment design.

6c. Feedback

Tutors will provide feedback, both in support of your ongoing development, as well as in direct response to your work formally within assessment contexts.

Provision of ongoing feedback - defined as information communicated to students with the intention of improving learning - is a significant and distinctive strength of the course. It is demonstrated through frequent and ongoing discussions between staff and students.

Feedback is an essential element of assessment. You will be provided with written summative feedback on all of your module assessments at the end of each module. You will take part in continuous evaluation within the teaching and learning on the course, developing skills in reflection and dialogue, and receiving continuous formative feedback from the teaching staff and peers.

Both summative and formative feedback approaches are designed to meet the 'assessment for learning' and 'feed-forward' values described in Chapter B3, page 6 of the UK Quality Code. All the modules on this course contain formal formative feedback sessions using the assessment criteria, where you will receive written feedback on your progress.

Formative

You will receive formative feedback on your progress throughout the module in a number of ways. You will partake in ongoing evaluation within the teaching and learning on the course, developing skills in reflection and dialogue and receive ongoing formative feedback from the teaching staff and peers. All the modules on this course contain formal formative feedback sessions using the assessment criteria where you will receive feedback on your progress to meet this developmental aim.

Examples of formative feedback include (without being limited to):

- Peer Reviews
- Group Tutorials
- Individual Progress Tutorials

Summative

At the end of the module you will receive summative feedback represented by a grade with tutor comments on your work. This feedback will help you to understand how you performed on the module, clarify your strengths and identify areas for further consideration.