Programme specification

MA Music Production

School: Performance and Media Production
Entry from: 2017/8 in: September
Awarding institution: York St John University
Teaching institution: York St John University
Delivery location: York St John University
Programme/s accredited by:
Exit awards:
Postgraduate Certificate Music Production
Postgraduate Diploma Music Production
UCAS code / GTTR / other: Not applicable
Joint Honours combinations: Not applicable
QAA benchmark group(s): Not applicable
Mode/s of study:
Full-time for 1 year
Part-time for 2 years
Language of study: English

Introduction and special features

The MA Music Production at York St John University places you at the interface between the art and business of music production. You are given the opportunity to develop an appreciation and understanding of the discipline of music production in terms of academic critique as well as the industry-specific context of production practice, so areas of critical and historical study are understood in terms of their relationship to the economic, technological and professional factors that continue to shape the music production marketplace.

MA Music Production provides you with the opportunity to develop your own production practice and your own thinking, in the context of your business and entrepreneurial activity. At its core is the dynamic interrelationship between theory and practice; theoretical concepts will be explored in relation to music production practice, and your practical experience will in turn be informed by your exploration of the theory. Modules will be delivered in a variety of learning contexts including seminars, workshops, studios and virtual environments.

The programme has also been designed to address the important dynamic interrelationship between theory and practice, and business and entrepreneurial activity. All modules are delivered through a variety of learning contexts enabling you to form lasting connections between your studies and your practice as music producers during and beyond your time of study. The programme provides you with the opportunity to develop yourselves as music producers within the constantly developing modern music industry, forging your own thinking, and establishing business and entrepreneurial networks to expand your opportunities.

The programme will provide you with reflective and research strategies through which you will develop your portfolio as thinking innovators in the field of music production.

This programme provides possibilities for cross-disciplinary study and collaborative projects with other art forms, and opportunities for developing new insights and experiences in the cross-fertilisation between the disciplines.
The programme is designed to address dynamic interrelationships between theory and practice, in the context of business and entrepreneurial activity. All modules are delivered in seminar, workshop, studio and virtual environments enabling you to relate your studies directly to your own practice as record producers. Theoretical concepts are explored in relation to practice: practice informs the conceptualisation of theories. You will be given the opportunity to develop your own practice in relation to the music business, forge your own thinking, and establish business and entrepreneurial networks to expand your work.

The theoretical and practical modules reflect the most up to date research from across the globe, derived from conference proceedings and the latest publications within the discipline – for example, as reported by the Audio Engineering Society, or the musicology of record production literature produced by the Europe/US based Art of Record Production community. Modules with a practical slant incorporate teaching which reflects the latest developments in industry standard music technology as well as newly emerging techniques and aesthetic positions relating to the use of such technologies. All staff are current practitioners in both the technical and research based areas of the discipline and keep abreast of the progress of the field.

Programme Enhancement Activities
In addition to the curriculum-related activities and studies the programme is enhanced by a number of events and opportunities to engage with music production issues and develop the student’s professional network. For example:

- The annual Music Production Symposium provides students with the opportunity to present and engage directly with their colleagues on the programme and on the BA (Hons) Music Production programme about their current areas of research;
- The annual Music Production Industry Day enables the students to hear directly from current established practitioners in music production and network with other professional producers, including their colleagues on the BA (Hons) Music Production programme;
- The annual Azimuth Music Production Journal gives the students the opportunity to prepare their research for publication and broader dissemination;
- The silent film music recording project is run in partnership with the British Film Institute (BFI), Re:Sound UK, and musicians from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama at Abbey Road Studios in London, and gives the students the opportunity to work on a professional project in the environment of the oldest and most famous recording studio in the world.

Key features of your programme are the provision of:

- opportunities to explore the inter-relationships between knowledge and practice;
- opportunities to place your own music production practice within business, entrepreneurial and critical frameworks;
- opportunities to produce music products, especially in relation to other disciplines and collaboratively with other art forms;
- the opportunity to specialise in an area of study of particular interest to your own practice, with the choice of a practical or written submission;
- opportunities to engage with the contemporary music industry as thinking innovators capable of shaping its possible futures.

Admissions criteria
All candidates must meet the University’s general entry criteria for postgraduate study.

Candidates for the MA Music Production programme will be considered on the basis of the whole portfolio of evidence provided for the application process. This will include examples of
their existing production practice, evidence of critical engagement, reflective practice, and academic qualifications.

Normally, all candidates will be interviewed. As part of this process candidates will be asked to prepare a short presentation, and to bring a portfolio of their work for consideration. The criteria for the interview process (including the portfolio) are:

- demonstration of preparedness for graduate level study and practice;
- evidence of existing music production practice (professional or academic);
- evidence of engagement with critical and reflective thinking.

In addition to providing a robust and fair consideration of applications, this process will provide candidates with the opportunity to find out more about the programme.

Candidates will be expected to attend for interview in person, though reasonable exceptions will be made, for example, in the case of overseas candidates where telephone or Skype™ interviews may be appropriate.

Candidates will normally be invited for interview if they meet the following criteria:

- Honours degree, with a classification of at least a lower second, in a music production or music technology related subject.

OR

- experience of working in a professional music production environment relevant to the degree. In this case, the interview process will also include consideration of suitability for Master’s level study, and will conform to the University’s policies and procedures relating to APL/APEL.

International candidates will need to demonstrate the equivalent evidence for experience and/or qualifications, and, in addition, if their first language is not English, show evidence of English Language competence at IELTS level 6.0 in all areas of the test (see https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/).

Applications from candidates with disabilities are always considered. The programme admissions process conforms to the University Disability Policy.

Candidates who do not have traditional qualifications may be eligible for entry on the basis of Accredited Prior (Experiential) Learning (APL/APEL). Applications for entry with advanced standing will also be considered.

Decisions on Admissions
All applications will be considered on an individual basis. Decisions on individual candidates will be made by the Head of Programme and/or the Programme Admissions Tutor, in consultation with subject specialists.

Programme aims
The MA Music Production programme aims to provide students with the opportunities to:

- develop their individual practice in relation to current bodies of knowledge and practice in music production;
- extend academic knowledge, skills and methodology in preparation for continuing professional practice and research practice in music production;
- develop professionally confident practice through awareness and interaction with current contexts and debates;
- explore possibilities for crossing disciplines, collaborative practice and potential applications beyond music production;
• specialise in an area of study of particular interest to their own practice, applying academic research in their practice or written output;
• develop themselves as reflective practitioners and thinking innovators able to engage with the contemporary music industry and shape its future.

Programme learning outcomes

Level 7 / FHEQ L7
On successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma in Music Production, students will be able to*:
1. demonstrate a critical understanding of current issues, agendas and debates in music production;
2. demonstrate a critical understanding of historical context, current institutions and emergent practices in the business of music production;
3. demonstrate a critical understanding of developments and areas of emerging research in technology and its creative application in music production;
4. critically evaluate production strategies, process and design in the creation of music products;
5. critically reflect on their own practice of music production, and place it in the broader industry context;

In addition, for the award of Master of Arts (MA) in Music Production, students will be able to:
6. design, conduct, evaluate and produce an extended independent project from inception to completion;
7. communicate effectively the knowledge generated through the application of appropriate research methodologies to their music production practice and research activity.

*To leave with a Postgraduate Certificate in Music Production the student will have gained 60 credits from the list above. The student’s transcript will give details of modules studied and passed.

Programme structure
MA Music Production is structured to be as effective in part-time as well as a full-time mode of study. The modules form a united group, around two themes: creativity and knowledge, and reflective practice. The four initial modules can be taken in any order, and together form a progression and basis for the students to undertake an extended period of supervised practice-based research where they are expected to draw together and implement the resources developed earlier on the programme.

Modules for the Programme (Full-Time Mode)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status of Module*</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MMP001</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Critical Perspectives on Music Production</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMP002</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Business of Music Production</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMP003</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Technology &amp; Creativity</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMP004</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Producing Recorded Music</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMP005</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Music Production Project</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>CA</td>
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</table>

*C: Compulsory, CP: Compulsory for progression to the next level, CA: Compulsory for award, O: option or E: elective.

Modules for the Programme (Part-Time Mode)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Term (Year)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status of Module*</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MMP001</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
<td>Critical Perspectives on Music Production</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMP002</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2(2)</td>
<td>The Business of Music Production</td>
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<td>MMP003</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2(1)</td>
<td>Technology &amp; Creativity</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMP004</td>
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<td>1(2)</td>
<td>Producing Recorded Music</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMP005</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3(2)</td>
<td>Music Production Project</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Teaching, learning and assessment**

The programme has been designed to meet the needs of students who have just completed an undergraduate programme in a related subject, and returners to learning who may already have developed their own music production practice, or established their own music production business. Programme delivery utilises a blended approach to learning and teaching incorporating contact hours, including group work and individual supervisions, supported open learning, and learning supported by Virtual Learning Environments (VLE).

The programme provides students with the opportunity to take advantage of a range of teaching and learning strategies across the required modules. These are structured to facilitate successful achievement of the learning outcomes for each module.

The range of teaching and learning strategies utilised across the modules include:

- reflective learning;
- independent learning;
- collaborative learning;
- facilitated learning.

These are enacted through workshop and studio sessions, seminar discussions, guest lectures and masterclasses, supervised projects and supported VLE learning. It is anticipated that semesters may be divided between periods of intense activity (extended weekends, a series of weekly sessions) and periods of independent reflection supported by specific tasks, technician supported open learning sessions (SOL), reading and engagement with virtual activities (including forums, discussion groups, web publishing, etc.).

Student learning will be supported by a variety of teaching methods, appropriate to the level and subject, including:

- lectures;
- demonstrations;
- seminars;
- individual and group supervisions;
- peer critiques;
- group and individual presentations;
- visiting speakers/lectures;
- visits to appropriate venues, performances and studios;
- use of audio-visual material;
- use of e-learning/VLE;
- use of appropriate IT;
- workshops with key practitioners;
- supported open learning.
Work Related Learning (WRL)
The MA Music Production programme has been designed for students wish to develop or who already have an established music production practice. The focus of the study throughout is on the theoretical study of music production, and the active participation in the practice of music production. You are expected to continually reflect on your own practice in the context of your studies. From this perspective all aspects of the programme may be considered ‘work related’.

The practical work and reflective study you are required to undertake as part of the study activities and assessment submissions on the programme are directly related to the work place, and therefore constitute WRL in its primary form. For example, you may undertake work for a client, or aimed at a specific aspect of industry practice, etc. in this way you learn and are assessed in direct relation to the workplace.

Work Related Research is closely allied to this, in that it is research that directly informs and investigates institutional practices within the contemporary music industry. This will form an integral part of your studies as you reflect on your own practice and set it into the wider industry context. For example, you may undertake historical research related to the origins and purpose of copyright law, or investigative research into the attitudes towards the commodification of music, etc. in this way your research relates directly to the contemporary music industry workplace.

Progression and graduation requirements
The University’s general regulations for postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation:
- The four initial modules must be passed before students can undertake the Music Production Project module.
- The award of Master of Arts will be dependent on the successful accumulation of 180 credits

Internal and external reference points
This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- University Mission Statement [see page two]
- Strategic Plan 2015-20 [see page four]
- QAA subject benchmark statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

Further information
Further information on the programme of study may be obtained from:

- Admissions entry profile (Admissions);
- Programme validation document (Registry – Academic Quality Support);
- Regulations (Registry – Academic Quality Support);
- Student programme handbook (School);
- Module handbooks (School).

Date written / revised: Nov 2015, July 2017
Mode of delivery amended by Registry QSC PASP 25/04/17