

Programme specification

BA (Hons) Music Production

<i>School:</i>	Performance and Media Production
<i>Entry in:</i>	2017 In: September
<i>Awarding Institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching Institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery Location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s Accredited by:</i>	choose an item:
<i>Exit Awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education Music Production Diploma of Higher Education Music Production BA (Ord) Music Production
<i>UCAS Code / GTTR / Other:</i>	J930
<i>Joint Honours Combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA Benchmark Group(s):</i>	Music (2008)
<i>Mode/s of Study:</i>	Full-time for 3 years Part-time for 6 years
<i>Language of Study:</i>	English

Introduction and Special Features

Music Production is contemporary take on a traditional degree subject, a music degree whose focus is on the creation of music through the application of music technology. Our aim is to support you to become creative and reflective practitioners; to be producers, musicians and entrepreneurs; to enable you to become the seminal producers of tomorrow.

We prepare you for work in the field of music production. As such, personal organisation, project management, business skills and entrepreneurship are embedded in the heart of the programme, and flow throughout its veins and arteries. Firmly entwined with this, we are committed to ensuring you engage with the academic core of degree study, so the focus on working in music production provides focus on contemporary issues and ensures your study is practically relevant and directly applicable to your lived experience as musician-producer-entrepreneur.

Encompassing these features the distinctiveness of the programme is defined by the methodology by which this ethos is put into practise. The programme delivery revolves around your practical work. This is grounded in the educational theories of David Kolb and others. The student experience is defined by your continuous rolling cycle of engagement with practical projects, active reflection on your experience and incessant development of your practice. In this way, you not only grow in knowledge and ability, but in experience too. And along with it you will develop a substantial body of work by which you are able to demonstrate your skills as a producer.

The student experience is an intensely practical one, driven by researched and reasoned reflection on this experience. This cycle of action and reflection forms a strong foundation for a practitioner at the forefront of their field, equipped to quickly react to new developments and unfamiliar scenarios, never ceasing to grow and develop professionally throughout their career.

Summary of special features:

- integrated business and entrepreneurship throughout
- continuous practical industry involvement
- learn by producing music, with industry partners

- special events, such as Annual Music Production Symposium, Industry Days, Production Weeks, Create 15, Zenith networking event, etc.
- guest speakers, specialists, leaders in their field, industry practitioners, etc.
- external trips, such as Abbey Road, Valley Wood Studio, ELFM, etc.

Admissions Criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <http://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements.aspx>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme Aims

The BA (Hons) Music Production aims to

- equip students with knowledge and skills in business and enterprise, enabling them to engage in music production business and entrepreneurship;
- provide students with a broad contextual knowledge of music, creative industries and arts;
- ensure students develop a critical and analytical approach to the practice of music production;
- engage the students with the political, social and cultural significance of music production;
- nurture the students' critical and creative skills in the application of appropriate technology and techniques to produce music for multifarious audiences and markets;
- produce motivated graduates prepared to contribute and be sector leaders in the arts and creative industries;
- foster research, analytical and evaluation skills in students engagement with music production;
- instil students with robust practical personal and project management skills.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Note: Modules that map to the Programme Learning Outcomes are indicated in brackets after each outcome.

FHEQ L4

(Certificate of Higher Education in Music Production)

On completion of FHEQ Level 4 students will be able to

1. demonstrate an understanding of the rudiments of music (i.e. melody, harmony, rhythm, etc.) and communicate effectively using traditional notation (Song Writing)
2. apply appropriate lyric-writing, music composition and arrangement skills in writing a song (Song Writing)
3. employ project management techniques and skills in personal organisation and time management to successfully contribute to and complete a music production project (Being a Producer)
4. demonstrate an understanding of the contemporary music industry and the wider creative industries (Being a Producer)
5. demonstrate an understanding of business management in the music industry, and initiate and develop a creative response to a commission or musical scenario (Being a Producer)
6. demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles of sound and music (Engineering & Production)
7. accurately communicate essential components of sound and recording identified through listening (Engineering & Production)
8. demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to apply appropriate technology and techniques in the creation of a music product (Engineering & Production)
9. Demonstrate knowledge of a variety of musical styles through creative and technical projects or exercises (equates to BA (Hons) Music et al PLO 4.4)
10. Evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data in accordance with basic theories and concepts of music (equates to BA (Hons) Music et al PLO 4.5).

FHEQ L5

(Diploma of Higher Education in Music Production)

On completion of FHEQ Level 5 students will be able to

1. demonstrate a critical understanding of fundamental music theory (harmonic progression, instrumentation, etc.) and communicate effectively using traditional notation (Song & Artist Development)
2. apply a range of established techniques in composition and arrangement in the creation of a music product (Song & Artist Development)
3. demonstrate a critical and creative understanding of artistic identity and apply it in developing musical material specifically for a client in the creation of a music product (Song & Artist Development)
4. employ personal organisation and project management techniques to direct yourselves and others in the creation of a music product (Professional Producer)
5. demonstrate the ability to interpret a commission from a client or a musical scenario and propose solutions to problems arising from the requirements of the brief (Professional Producer)

6. critically analyse the cultural and commercial development of the contemporary music industry, and demonstrate a detailed theoretical and practical application of business and entrepreneurship (Professional Producer)
7. demonstrate an understanding of current issues, agendas and debates that inform research into music production practice (Critical Perspectives on Music Production)
8. discuss in written work seminal recordings with reference to key theories and concepts deriving from the field of music production research (Critical Perspectives on Music Production)
9. apply a critical understanding of the physical dimensions of sound, compound and detailed operations, and theoretical concepts of the recorded outcome in the creation of a music product (Producing Music)
10. critically evaluate the plan made, process undertaken and outcome achieved in the creation of a music product (Producing Music)
11. identify and analyse, through listening, sound and music in a production context (Producing Music)

FHEQ L6

(BA (Ord) in Music Production)

(BA (Hons) in Music Production)

On completion of FHEQ Level 6 students will be able to

1. apply appropriate technical and creative skills to produce a high quality music product (Production Project)
2. demonstrate effective and efficient project management skills and personal organisation to successfully complete a music production project (Production Project)
3. manage appropriate financial, physical and human resources to successfully complete a music production project (Production Project)
4. critically evaluate the project outcome and its commercial, industrial and social context (Production Project)
5. synthesise insights, theories, practice and knowledge in contemporary scholarship (Research Project)
6. utilise research methodologies and deploy analytical skills to sustain a coherent intellectual critique (Research Project)
7. demonstrate sustained and effective time, resource and project management (Beyond Production)
8. construct a researched, grounded and aspirational plan, and an effective presentation of your skills and experience, to support your continuing professional development (Beyond Production)
9. produce and critically evaluate project outcomes from the application of your technological knowledge and skills in areas beyond music production (Beyond Production)

Programme Structure

Your first year of the programme, Level 4 FHEQ, consists of modules that lay the foundation of practical skills and academic study that run through the length of the programme, and underpin the practice of the Music Producer. *Song Writing* covers practical musicianship in composition and arrangement, along with the ability to communicate with other musicians using basic music notation forms. *Engineering & Production* and *Being a Producer* interlink to ensure you develop skills, knowledge and critical understanding of your practice as a producer, and the technological and creative abilities used to create music products according to a given brief.

Perspectives on Music provides an essential introduction to debates and critical theories relating to music, ensuring that you engage widely with musical genres and cultures. The latter module is studied together with BA (Hons) Music students.

NOTE: You must achieve all 120 credits to progress to Level 5, or to be awarded the exit award of Certificate of Higher Education in Music Production.

Level 5 FHEQ, the second year of the programme, requires you to develop your skills and understanding, and deepen and broaden your appreciation of music. *Song & Artist Development* builds on the previous year's work in this area, to engage with more developed and detailed song writing techniques, and the arrangement and notation of songs for instruments and ensembles. Coupled with these skills you will work with the artists who perform the songs, and learn how to work with them to develop their art and the performance of the song. *The Professional Producer* and *Producing Music* interlink similarly to the equivalent modules previously, and they require you to establish your professional working practices, engage with industry partners on multiple projects, which will provide you not only with learning opportunities, but some with commercial opportunities as well. *The 21st Century Audience* provides further development and preparation of your critical and writing skills for your dissertation (*Research Project*) in your final year. In this module you will study the impact of technology on music, and the resultant musical culture we experience and seek to exploit.

NOTE: You must achieve all 240 credits to progress to Level 6, or to be awarded the exit award of Diploma of Higher Education in Music Production.

In the final year of the programme, Level 6 FHEQ, you will undertake two projects that cover content you have proposed yourself. The first is the *Production Project*, which at 60-credits is a large proportion of your degree marks, but this is the core of what you have been working towards throughout your previous two years – the ability to manage a large-scale music production project to successfully produce a music product. The *Research Project* is the equivalent of the traditional dissertation, though cast in the practical context of a research journal article, to give it a more tangible outcome. Both of the project modules are supported by group lectures, group tutorials, and individual supervisions, some of which require mandatory attendance, some are allocated for you to arrange flexibly with your supervisor. In order to ensure consistent contact and support throughout your final year *Beyond Production* runs two weekly sessions: a workshop and a small-group supervision. These provide consistent weekly support as you explore ways to apply your music production knowledge and skills in areas of the creative industries beyond music production, and ensure you carefully and thoughtfully prepare for the development of your future career.

NOTE: You must achieve all 360 credits to be awarded the degree of BA (Hons) Music Production. Otherwise you may be awarded the degree of BA (Ord) Music Production if you achieve a minimum of 300 credits, in accordance with York St John University regulations.

Modules for the Programme

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Status of Module*
1MP010	4		Engineering & Production	40	CP
1MP011	4		Being a Producer	20	CP

1MU303	4		Perspectives on Music	40	CP
1MP012	4		Song Writing	20	CP
2MP010	5		Producing Music	40	C
2MP011	5		The Professional Producer	40	C
2MP013	5		Song & Artist Development	20	C
2MP014	5		Critical Perspectives on Music Production	20	C
3MP010	6		Production Project	60	CA
3MP011	6		Research Project	20	CA
3MP012	6		Beyond Production	40	CA

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

Study Abroad

At level 5 modules are marked as 'Compulsory' as opposed to 'Compulsory for Progression' in order to facilitate study abroad opportunities. Students will still be required to achieve 120 credits at that level in order to progress.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Teaching on the programme primarily takes the forms of lecture, seminar, workshop and supervision. The traditional lecture format is used where it is needed to present established frameworks, and provoke student reading and research. Seminars are for smaller groups and revolve around researched presentations and discussions of theoretical concepts and debates. Workshops are in appropriately sized small groups, and are primarily for training the student in skills that will be needed to engage with the process and produce music. Supervisions, essentially individual and small group tutorials, are so named because they always relate to at least one project, and are the primary vehicle for direct relevant immediate feedback from themselves (reflection), peers, tutors and clients.

Learning on the programme revolves primarily around the students' engagement with the subject. It is emphasised that the students are expected to be independent and professional, and as such they take responsibility for their own learning. This is evident in the students' practical project work, reading, research and practise. It will be noted that the teaching methods chosen support this expectation of the students: lectures provoke thinking on key subjects, which leads to reading and research (directed or student-choice); seminars take up the students thinking and develop it further alongside key skills of analysis and debate, which leads to further reading and research; workshops challenge the students to build up a high-level of practical proficiency in their chosen instrument of music technology, which enables them to engage in practical work, leading to reading, research and further development of their practice; supervision enables the students to deal with feedback, an essential skill in art and commerce, analysis of feedback leads to developments in the practice, and further reading and research.

Assessment on the programme takes the forms of formative and summative assessment. Students engage in practical projects, working with clients, developing their skills and understanding to improve their practice, throughout the year-long modules. Through this approach the students are given robust opportunities to develop and improve, and establish their abilities, before they are summatively assessed. The teaching methods used, particularly the supervisions, are a powerful means of supporting the students in this learning process. For this reason, the students are provided with a trajectory that leads them through developmental formative assessment to the exigencies of the summative assessment through the academic year.

The programme makes use of a varied set of Assessment Instruments. These include: essay, presentation, portfolio, timed test, practical project, reflective and critical evaluations, and dissertation. There are no traditional written examinations on the programme. Presentations may be video presentations, utilising audiovisual resources to present an argument. Timed tests are used to assess practical studio competence and aural skills. Reflective evaluations are also critical, but so named because they focus on the students' own practice. The dissertation is commonly presented in the form of a journal article submission. Portfolios are collections of artefacts of different forms, and may bring together audio, audiovisual, physical or virtual products, written commentaries, musical notations, etc. and is always awarded a single mark, never a composite one.

Progression and Graduation Requirements

The University's [general regulations for undergraduate 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:

- You must pass 120 credits (per level) at levels 4 and 5 to progress
- You must pass 120 credits at level 6 to achieve the award of BA (Hons) Music Production

Internal and External Reference Points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#)
- [Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy](#)
- [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)
- Module handbooks (School)