

3.2 Programme specification

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| Full Title of the Course | BA (Hons) in Professional Musicianship |
| Mode of Attendance | Full-time |
| Length of course | This course is taught as either a two-year course at levels 5 and 6, or a one-year top-up course at level 6 |
| Start date | Initial validation of two-year course in 2003: first cohort 2003/04. Revalidation of two-year course and validation of one-year course in 2006: first cohorts 2006/07 Revalidation of 1 year & 2 year course plus Diploma exit award April 2009: first cohorts 2009/10 |
| Awarding Institution | University of Sussex |
| Teaching Institution | Brighton Institute of Modern Music |
| Final Award | Diploma In Higher Education (exit award at level 5) Bachelors Degree with Honours |
| FHEQ Level | 40 credits at Level 4 (bridging modules) 120 credits at Level 5 120 credits at Level 6 |
| Reference Points | QAA Subject Benchmark in Music FHEQ QAA Code of Practice QAA Guidance on Course Specifications UoS Partnership Procedures |
| Minimum Period of Registration | For the two-year course at levels 5 and 6: 2 years For the one-year course at level 6: 1 year |
| Maximum Period of Registration | 7 years (2 year programme) 5 years (1 year programme) |
| Admissions Criteria | 160 UCAS tariff score (2 A levels at grade C), plus successful completion of the BIMM level 4 PDC, achieving an overall grade of Merit or above, plus a Merit or above in the Business Studies Module. Admission with advanced standing from BIMM's Level 5 - FdA Professional Musicianship. An equivalent qualification is acceptable via our AP(E)L processes ASBM Grade 8 or above (or equivalent) is the normal requirement |

Educational Aims

The course aims to provide graduates with the knowledge and skills appropriate to a range of career outcomes in the music industry. Students are encouraged to develop their individual creative ability and support this with the development of a high level of technical skill. In particular, the course aims to enable students to develop:

- A range of physical, creative, technical and performance skills relevant to employment in professional musicianship and the creative industries
- An understanding of the key critical, social, cultural, historical and business concepts, issues and debates relevant to the area of modern music, and to organise and sustain an argument
- A comprehensive knowledge of contemporary practice for careers in the music business and the creative process in the professional field in which they will specialise, together with an awareness of current areas of development and innovation in music and the music industry
- The ability to make creative use of and experiment with new and existing methodologies in contemporary professional musical practice
- A clear understanding of where their creative strengths lie and how these can be utilised in the music industry and potential career opportunities
- Skills in research, analysis, problem solving and critical reflection and the visual, written and verbal communication skills required of a graduate entrant to the music industry
- Initiative and personal responsibility, experience of collaborative working methods and the ability to be responsive and adaptable to changing needs and the transferable skills and competencies which enable lifelong learning within the context of professional musicianship
- Transferable skills, in planning and analysis, communication, problem solving, IT and presentation skills relevant to a career in the music industry
- To describe, comment upon, analyse and discuss particular aspects of current research or equivalent advanced scholarship at the forefront of contemporary popular music and the music industry
- An appreciation and recognition of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge within music and the music industry
- The ability to manage and organise their own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources, such as research articles and/or original materials appropriate to professional musicianship.

BA Y2 Level 5 Course Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

Able to:

- A1. Demonstrate awareness of the key issues in their area(s) of study, and an appreciation of why these areas are important
- A2. Identify, decode, rework and reproduce symbols representing music
- A3. Digest pertinent academic literature and relate it to music practice
- A4. Apply concepts from fields of study to a related area of practice
- A5. Make connections between the historical, social, cultural, political, philosophical, economic context of music

Intellectual (thinking) skills

Able to:

- B1. Collect, combine and appraise information, using quotes from appropriate texts
- B2. Analyse information to create and evaluate relevant arguments and ideas
- B3. Acknowledge quotations and ideas from other's work and question their hypotheses and assumptions
- B4. Conceptualise and apply pertinent theories and concepts in relation to their own work

Subject practical skills

Able to:

- C1. Demonstrate technical proficiency and sustained application of skills in relation to instrumental or vocal performance or in composition
- C2. Identify the human mechanics and psychology involved in playing an instrument or singing
- C3. Implement appropriate forms of expression to perform music convincingly
- C4. Identify musical styles and genres aurally or by written score
- C5. Utilise appropriate musical equipment for creating music
- C6. Perform effectively as part of an ensemble

Key/Transferable skills

Able to:

- D1. Employ information and communication technology (word processing, e-mail, online sources and other electronic information services) appropriately
- D2. Present work in public, recognising audience expectations
- D3. Use appropriate professional procedures
- D4. Utilize disciplined professional development: practice, learn new repertoires, explore freelance opportunities, obtain new skills, initiate career moves
- D5. Apply time management skills to demonstrate reliability and consistency

BA Yr 3 Level 6 Course Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

Able to:

- A1. Demonstrate comprehension of key aspects in their field of study based on the latest advances in their discipline
- A2. Evaluate theoretical and aesthetic concepts, relating them to practice
- A3. Draw upon a varied repertoire
- A4. Discover and assimilate new musical sounds, concepts and repertoires

Intellectual (thinking) skills

Able to:

- B1. Synthesise techniques of analysis and enquiry using established procedures
- B2. Discuss, debate and appraise issues in current research and scholarship
- B3. Acknowledge and evaluate the imperfections and limits of understanding within the discipline
- B4. Combine inputs (materials, knowledge, intuition, convention) to generate informed and original outputs in written, aural and practical work
- B5. Propose, prepare, execute and appraise original work

Subject practical skills

Able to:

- C1. Compose or select a performance repertoire that demonstrate stylistic versatility and personal strengths
- C2. Employ original ideas in an imaginative way
- C3. Draw upon contextual knowledge, musical analysis, personal development and listening skills to creatively interpret the chosen repertoire
- C4. Execute work effectively, acknowledging and responding to an audience

Key/Transferable skills

Able to:

- D1. Direct their own learning, drawing on scholarly material such as research articles and/or original materials
- D2. Work as a productive member of a team, responding to others and demonstrating awareness of partnership and leadership roles and responsibilities
- D3. Synthesise original concepts from others, and present the results effectively
- D4. Employ self-guided learning and work routines to create one's own timetables, ensuring sufficient preparation time and meeting deadlines
- D5. Apply problem-solving skills to cope with new situations, translate information and ideas, manage difficult situations, and work effectively with others under pressure
- D6. Use reflective practice and critical thinking to undertake informed personal, academic and professional development.