

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Business

School of Society and Culture

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Music
7204

Date of Approval: July 2021

Approved Final Version for
September 2022

1. BA

Final award title:	BA (Hons) Music
Level 5 Intermediate award title(s):	Diploma in Higher Education
Level 4 Intermediate award title(s):	Certificate in Higher Education
UCAS code:	W300
HECOS code:	100070

2. Awarding Institution:	University of Plymouth
Teaching institution(s):	University of Plymouth

3. Accrediting body(ies):	N/A
Date of re-accreditation:	N/A

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

The BA (Hons) Music degree is a three-year full-time programme of study which offers students the opportunity to study a wide range of issues associated with music. Students will develop their theoretical and practical skills in (ethno)musicology, performance, composition and music technology. They will engage with the impact of music in different cultures, reflect on and analyse the role of music in our society, and draw connections between the historical, social, technological and creative aspects of musical study.

Music students develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of music through theory and practice. The programme combines lectures, tutorials, workshops and masterclasses from experienced academics and practitioners. Students have many performance opportunities which will prepare them for a career in their chosen field. Employability will be developed through targeted activities and the Plymouth University Professional Opportunities Scheme (PUPOS), available only to Music students.

We attract students with A-level Music and a post grade 8 standard of playing, but we equally recognise that there are many 'musical' people with alternative routes into creative and reflective practice. We strive to recognise the potential to succeed

in promising musicians from any stylistic background, and we trust that the balance and synergy between our diverse student sub-cultures adds richness to the experience of each of them.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA Subject Benchmark for [Music](#) (2019).

6. Programme Structure

Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
MUS4001 Performance 1: Introduction to Performance 20 Credits	SSC400 Stage 1 Placement Year Preparation 0 Credits
MUS4002 Music Theory 20 Credits	MUS4004 Illustrating Music History 20 Credits
MUS4003 Exploring Ethnomusicology 20 Credits	MUS4005 Composition 20 Credits
	MUS4006 Audio Engineering 20 Credits

Level 5	
Semester 1	Semester 2
SSC500 Stage 2 Placement Year Preparation 0 Credits	
MUS5001 Twentieth Century Music 20 Credits	MUS5004 Independent Study 20 Credits
MUS5002 Songwriting 20 Credits	MUS5005 Performance 2: Ensemble Performance 20 Credits
Choose one:	Choose one:
Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits	Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits

Optional Placement Year	
Semester 1	Semester 2
SSC600 School of Society and Culture Placement Year 0 Credits	

Level 6	
Semester 1	Semester 2
MUS6001 Negotiated Dissertation Project 40 Credits	
Choose one from:	Choose two from:
MUS6002 Ethnomusicology 20 Credits	MUS6006 Sound and Vision 20 Credits
MUS6004 Electroacoustic and Electronic Music 20 Credits	MUS6005 Performance 3: Performance Identity 20 Credits
Choose one:	
Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits	PER6004 Festival Practices 20 Credits

Specialism Modules

All undergraduate programmes in the School of Society and Culture have been designed to enable students to personalise their degree through a wide assortment of optional modules. These allow students to study more topics related to their core degree or branch out and explore up to three modules from other disciplines across the School. This flexibility starts in the second year, with students being able to choose one module from within cross-school elective pools at level 5 semester 1, level 5 semester 2, and level 6 semester 1. These are marked by the term *Specialism Module* in the programme structure above.

Students can elect to take any combination of modules from the three cross-school elective pools, and options will always be available from their core degree subject. However, students who complete three modules from another discipline will have the choice of graduating with that discipline as a specialism on their certificate: BA (Hons) Music with <specialism>. The School offers modules in the following areas:

- Acting
- Anthropology
- Art History
- Computing
- History
- International Relations
- Law
- Music

- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Dance
- Drama
- English
- Musical Theatre
- Politics
- Policing and Security Management
- Sociology

A list of available specialism modules and their associated learning outcomes can be found in the School of Society and Culture's Specialism Specification and on the programme's webpage.

7. Programme Aims

- To develop students' knowledge and understanding of music as a discipline and as a cultural activity within human society as a whole;
- To equip students with the ability to recognise and analyse musical organisation whether aurally or by studying the written score and respond to it critically;
- To enable students to develop the coordinative skills, collaborative skills and technical skills necessary to the successful practice of music-making within a contemporary technological society;
- To develop in students a capacity for the exercising of initiative and personal responsibility and the development of new skills within a structured and managed environment.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed knowledge and understanding of:

1. The range and diversity of musical activity within western culture and also a broad appreciation of the diversity of music-making worldwide.
2. The workings of music both as a theoretical form of knowledge and as an artistic practice.
3. The scientific study and technological manipulation of both live performance and recorded sound.
4. The methodology of arts research as it pertains to music in a variety of contexts.
5. Factors which influence the development of particular musical practices including social, cultural, economic, technological and historical forces; the psychological drives and expressive needs which underlie music-making.

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed an ability to:

1. Reason critically, creatively and playfully.
2. Reflect on their own aesthetic stance, musical practice and development as artists.
3. Apply knowledge of theory in interpretation of experience, and use experience to make sense of theory and to interrogate assumptions underpinning theory and research.
4. Identify, discuss, and tackle different kinds of problems.
5. Demonstrate and exercise independence of mind and thought informed by awareness of the conventions of musical communication.
6. Be able to frame musical problems in terms of structured logical systems.

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Assimilate information and synthesise and organise relevant outputs.
2. Develop ideas and construct arguments and evaluate such ideas and arguments critically.
3. Demonstrate competence in the practical skills traditionally associated with music.
4. Work independently, show self-motivation and critical self-awareness.
5. Continue in lives of intellectual curiosity and creative practice.
6. Demonstrate an awareness of the musical application of advanced technologies and be able to use it where appropriate.

8.4. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. The ability to present work in an accessible form intelligible to expert and non-expert audiences.
2. Understanding of and practice in how to tailor their creative explorations to a given brief.
3. Collaborative skills suitable for the workplace.
4. A constructive and wide-ranging approach to problem-solving that draws on a variety of perspectives.
5. IT skills necessary to support their professional lives.
6. Confidence that musical training provides a range of practical, cognitive, and personal skills useful in a variety of workplaces, and the ability to articulate and present these to potential employers.

8.5. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. Mastery of their own instrument and/or technological resources as appropriate to their own musical practice.
2. The capacity to imagine, articulate and organise the presentation of a musical work in several voices.
3. The ability to demonstrate musical understanding through musical activity.
4. A facility with the essential components of musical language.

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements

All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade 4 or above (equivalent to a Grade C as per the GSCE grading system until 2017).

Entry Requirements for BA (Hons) Music	
A-level/AS-level	Normal minimum entry requirements are A level/AS level/Vocational A level: 104-112 points
BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma	Candidates can be interviewed before an offer is made. Grade Pass MMM - DMM in any subject.
Access to Higher Education at level 3	Candidates can be interviewed before an offer is made. Pass an Access to HE Diploma in any subject, including GCSE English and Maths grade 4 or above or equivalent with at least 33 credits at Merit/Dist.
Welsh Baccalaureate	Accept as add on points; in addition to 2 A Levels
Scottish Qualifications Authority	104-120 points
Irish Leaving Certificate	Obtain H4, H4, H4, H4, H4 - H3 H3 H4 H4 H4 (all at Higher level)
International Baccalaureate	26-30 overall to include 4 at in any subjects at Higher Level. English accepted within Higher Level = 4+ (A1) or 5 (A2/B) Standard Level = 5+ (A1) or 6 (A2/B) If overseas and not studying English within IB – MUST have IELTS: 6.0 overall with 5.5 in all elements.

10. Progression routes/criteria for progression to Final and Intermediate Awards

Certificate in Higher Education	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4 .
Diploma in Higher Education	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4 and 120 credits at level 5.
BA (Hons) Music	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4, 120 credits at level 5, and 120 credits at level 6.

11. Non Standard Regulations

N/A

12. Transitional Arrangements for existing students looking to progress onto the programme

N/A

Appendices

Programme Specification Mapping (UG) – core/elective modules

Appendix 1: Programme Specification Mapping (UG): module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes
CORE MODULES: tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes.

Core Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																								Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1- exam E2 – clinical exam T1- test C1- coursework A1 – generic assessment P1 - practical			
		Knowledge & understanding					Cognitive & intellectual skills						Key & transferable skills						Employment related skills						Practical skills					
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1			2	3	4
Level 4	MUS4001	x	x	x		x	x	x						x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x		x		Y	P1 100%	
	MUS4002		x						x			x	x		x											x	x	Y	P1 25%, T1 75%	
	MUS4003	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x				x			x	x	x		x	x	Y	C1 100%		
	MUS4004	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x				x			x	x	x		x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
	MUS4005	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x			x		x		x	x		x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
	MUS4006			x		x		x		x					x			x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
Level 4 LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Level 5	MUS5001	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x	Y	C1 100%		
	MUS5002	x	x			x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x	x	Y	C1 100%		
	MUS5004	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
	MUS5005		x	x		x		x			x				x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	Y	P1 100%		
Level 5 LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
L6	BAMU600		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x	N	C1 100%			
Level 6 LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Confirmed Award LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				

ELECTIVE MODULES: tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes. Insert rows and columns as required.

Elective Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																								Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1- exam E2 – clinical exam T1- test C1- coursework A1 – generic assessment P1 - practical			
		Knowledge & understanding					Cognitive & intellectual skills						Key & transferable skills						Employment related skills						Practical skills					
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1			2	3	4
Level 6	MUS6002	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x				x	x		Y	C1 100%		
	MUS6004	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x		x	x		x	x	x	x		Y	C1 100%		
	MUS6005	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		Y	P1 100%		
	MUS6006	x	x	x		x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
	PER6004		x			x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		Y	P1 100%	
Level 6 LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Confirmed Award LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				