

Programme Specification

MUS-HND-2022: Music (Production)

Pearson Higher National Diploma awarded by Scottish Qualifications Authority (FHEQ Level 4)

Pearson Higher National Diploma awarded by Blackpool And The Fylde College (FHEQ Level 4)

Pearson Higher National Diploma awarded by Pearson (FHEQ Level 4)

Pearson Higher National Diploma awarded by Lancaster University (FHEQ Level 4)

Pearson Higher National Diploma awarded by University of Salford (FHEQ Level 4)

Pearson Higher National Diploma awarded by Liverpool John Moores University (FHEQ Level 4)

Programme Status: Approved | Version: 1

Introduction

This programme specification provides a summary of the main features of the Music (Production) programme and includes the learning outcomes that you as a student are expected to have achieved on successful completion of the programme.

Further detailed information related to this programme and the College can be found in the following resources:

- Programme Handbook
- B&FC Admissions Policy
- Work based and placement learning handbook (for foundation degrees)
- Student guide to assessment and feedback

When undertaken as part of a Degree Apprenticeship additional information is available in the following resources:

- The Programme Delivery Plan
- The End Point Assessment Guide
- B&FC Mentor Guide
- B&FC Apprenticeship Strategy

Key Programme Information

Programme Code	MUS-HND-2022
Programme Title	Music (Production)
Teaching Institution	Blackpool and The Fylde College
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) Accreditation	None
UCAS Code	
Language of Study	English
Version	1
Approval Status	Approved
Approval Date	22 September 2023
JACS Code	Other: Other
Programme Leader	Thomas Durkan

Programme Awards

Award	Award Type	Level	Awarding Body
Pearson Higher National Diploma	Higher National Certificate	Level 4	Scottish Qualifications Authority
Pearson Higher National Diploma	Higher National Certificate	Level 4	Blackpool And The Fylde College
Pearson Higher National Diploma	Higher National Certificate	Level 4	Pearson
Pearson Higher National Diploma	Higher National Certificate	Level 4	Lancaster University
Pearson Higher National Diploma	Higher National Certificate	Level 4	University of Salford
Pearson Higher National Diploma	Higher National Certificate	Level 4	Liverpool John Moores University

Programme Overview

The Music (Production) HND provides an exciting opportunity to develop understanding and skills from Level 4 studies on Music Technology HNC course. The HND course provides advanced theoretical and practical skills, knowledge and experience across all the key areas of music production. This one-year programme follows on directly from our HNC in Music Technology. Studying this course will enable you to develop advanced, industry-standard skills in music production, studio and live sound-engineering techniques, mixing & mastering, composition techniques and sound design for interactive media. You will also have the opportunity to produce your own professionally mixed and mastered EP or album as a part of this course. In addition to these practical elements you will also complete a research-based project on a topic of your own choice.

You will benefit from the expertise of the curriculum team who are actively engaged with the local industry which will provide real world work based experiences and training. You will have access to multiple rehearsal and performance studios as well as recording studios and editing/mixing suites, think spaces and a stunning public gallery. Our studios are equipped with the latest industry standard technology and are beautifully presented, providing a spacious and inspiring environment in which to work. Class sizes are smaller and this is very beneficial, affording the opportunity for a tailored personal learning situation and plenty of help and support.

Our university campus is well-positioned to the local music, entertainment and events sectors which are incredibly diverse, there are many small and large scale music industry based businesses and events. These vary from sectors such as; local recording studios to venues; The Grand, Winter Gardens, Pleasure Beach Arena and events; Blackpool Rocks, The Switch On, Lytham Festival and finally event management; KRS, SSL, Cuffe & Taylor, Piper Music Management. Furthermore, there are a number of successful events and hospitality businesses including wedding venues, hotels and pubs that create additional employment opportunities and encourage entrepreneurship in the local area.

You will be developing the skillset to work on a local, national and international capacity in a wide variety of job roles that are based on the modules in the programme.

Admission Criteria

Successful completion of a HNC in Music Technology.

Career Options and Progression Opportunities

The Level 5 Higher National Diploma allows students to specialise by committing to specific career paths and progression routes to degree-level study.

On successful completion of the Level 5 Higher National Diploma, you can develop your careers in the music sector through: entering employment, continuing existing employment, committing to Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and progressing to university. The Level 5 Higher National Diploma is recognised by Higher Education providers as meeting admission requirements to many relevant Music-related courses, for example: BSc (Hons) in Music Technology, BA and BSc (Hons) in Music Business, BSc (Hons) in Performance, BA (Hons) in Songwriting, and BA (Hons) in Music Production

Upon completion of the Level 5 Higher National Diploma, you may also wish to progress directly into employment. The skills offered as part of the Pearson BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diploma can provide you with the opportunity to work in many different areas of the Production sector, such as: sound designer/assistant, sound designer, Sound Engineer, Music producer, Artist manager, Tour manager and Music promoter.

The Level 5 Higher National Diploma is recognised by Higher Education providers as meeting admission requirements to many relevant Music-related courses, for example:

- University of Sunderland - BA (Hons) Music
- Leeds Conservatoire - BA (Hons) Popular Music
- The City of Liverpool College - BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance/Production
- Bath Spa University - BA (Hons) Professional Music Performance & Production
- dBs Sound & Music Institute - BA (Hons) Music Production & Sound Engineering
- Hull College - BA (Hons) Creative Music Production
- University of Wolverhampton - BA (Hons) - Sound Production

Employment Opportunities

Live music production covers several careers in the music industry and there are different routes to follow. Music producers create music and sound for a range of creative outputs. Live music productions may also involve running concerts, festivals or live show. Other employment opportunities include studio session musician, Live session musician, Performer, Sound designer/assistant sound designer, Sound Engineer, Music Technician, Music producer, Music education, events manager, booking agent.

Portfolio careers are also common in the music business. This means having several streams of income at the same time, often combining jobs with other freelance work. Freelance work can also incorporate seasonal live events, tours, concerts, sports games or ceremonies

Programme Aims

- Prepare individuals with entrepreneurial understanding and musical skills for success in a range of roles within the music industry.
- Enable progression to a university degree by supporting the development of appropriate academic study skills.
- To develop a wide range of technical audio and music production skills and techniques and transferrable skills that are essential to succeed in the music industry.
- To enable students to perform effectively in their chosen field and will have the qualities necessary for employment in situations requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making.
- To inform knowledge and output through contextual approaches and critical thinking, with a focus on current and future music industry practices.
- To provide a multi-disciplined approach to live music production, focused on transferrable skills, technical proficiency and understanding.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Level 5

Upon successful completion of this level, students will be able to:

1. Produce finished projects to industry standard requirements.
2. Record and produce music, using industry standard DAW platforms in a professional context

3. Apply technical expertise and critical listening skills, to enable high-quality sound reproduction in a range of scenarios.
4. Evaluate and apply a range of industry standard approaches to event management
5. Investigate the musical devices and techniques that are employed the arrangement of music for a band
6. Communicate effectively with others to identify solutions to complex problems
7. Take responsibility for their own learning and skills development

Programme Structure

Module	Level	Credits	%	Category	Description	Length/Word Count	Grading Method
Stage 1							
A/616/0228/UNIT38: Advanced Sound Engineering (Mandatory)	5	15	100%	Coursework: Portfolio / e-Portfolio	Portfolio including an Operational Plan	2000	Pass/Merit/Dist
F/616/0229/UNIT39: Advanced Sound Design for Interactive Media (Mandatory)	5	15	100%	Coursework: Portfolio / e-Portfolio	Interactive Sound Design portfolio encompassing theoretical and technical processes, resulting in a final interactive sound design product.	0	Pass/Merit/Dist
F/616/0232/UNIT42: Advanced Synthesis and Processing (Mandatory)	5	15	100%	Coursework: Portfolio / e-Portfolio	Creation of a portfolio that describes the theory and application of different forms of sound synthesis. This portfolio must also contain practical elements, showing diverse synthesis sound bank and design industry products.	2000	Pass/Merit/Dist
H/616/0230/UNIT40: Mixing and Mastering (Mandatory)	5	15	100%	Practical: Portfolio / e-Portfolio	To create a portfolio that demonstrates industry mix and mastering techniques.	0	Pass/Merit/Dist
L/616/0234/UNIT44: Live Mixing (Mandatory)	5	15	100%	Coursework: Project	n/a	0	Pass/Merit/Dist
T/616/0227/UNIT37: Advanced Music Production (Mandatory)	5	15	100%	Practical: Practical Skills Assessment	Practical skills assessment comprising of audio files, DAW sessions and technical notes.	0	Pass/Merit/Dist
Y/616/0222/UNIT31: Creative Research Project (Mandatory)	5	30	100%	Coursework: Research Portfolio	Research portfolio	0	Pass/Merit/Dist

Study Workload

For each unit, you will have a number of hours timetabled each week where you will be supported by a subject specialist academic tutor. You are expected to attend all timetable sessions. If you wish to see a member of staff at another time either drop in, make an appointment in person, by phone or email. In addition to your timetabled sessions, you will be expected to undertake further study independently as described in the section on teaching and learning.

Programme Delivery: Learning and Teaching

The Music Production HND is an exciting and highly practical programme that offers students the hands on experience with industry standard facilities and equipment across multiple different disciplines. Expect to have a wide variety of sessions that are conducted in our modern classrooms and facilities such as our Recording Studio, Production Suite and our Performance and Live Sound Suite.

There will be a mixture of practical demonstrations, workshops and theory sessions to complete tasks that are aligned to real world industry jobs. You will be working in partnership with staff that will support your learning processes and enable you to develop as a creative practitioner. You will develop skills and processes such as problem solving, deconstructing, and experimenting are all facilitated within industry relevant assignments. The teaching methods provide a range of skills and strategies to enable you to develop an understanding of the music industry and complementary sectors such as entertainment and events.

Collaboration with other programmes across the school, formally and informally, will enrich the learning environment, supporting the discursive approach to learning. Throughout the programme you will acquire skills in traditional and digital techniques, and will engage with hands-on skills, whilst building confidence in industry-standard software. Sessions will be delivered through tutor led demonstrations, one to one development workshops.

Expect to be working and learning with equipment from:

Allen and Heath
Audient
Focusrite
Shure
AKG
RODE
Apple
Alesis
Roland
Genlec
Adam

Programme Delivery: Assessment

Assessment strategies will be varied so that you are able to develop transferable skills such as independence, digital and communication skills as well as subject specific knowledge for preparation into a successful and long-term employment sector.

For the majority of practical modules you will be asked to submit a portfolio which comprises a body of work including the planning and development stages as well as the final output. Written evidence should also be submitted containing references, creative development and written reflections.

For many units, the practical demonstration of skills is necessary and, for others, you will need to carry out your own research and analysis, working independently. Overall, you will be assessed using a variety of methods:

Practical Demonstrations
Written essays and reports
Reviews and evaluations
Presentations
Online portfolios/promotion of work
Professional Development

Assessment for learning strategies will include:

- Demonstrating techniques, best recorded as practical task rather than written, such as a demonstration of the mastering process.
- Independent written research to develop arguments, reflection and evaluation.
- Potential assessment at a local work placement/session: using industry standard resources outside of the institution to demonstrate readiness for employment.
- Review of progress in the form of continuous self-reflection; may include journals, blogs, setting of and achieving targets to improve professional practice.
- The assessment of a project/product, which may include multiple assessments in different formats.

You will be expected to evidence a breadth of subject knowledge, supported by industry context. Critical analysis of existing music, peer work or individual work will evidence engagement in a reflective process supported by engagement in critical debate and argument. Music production skills, technology practices and communication skills will also be assessed in both theoretical and practical demonstrations.

Programme Delivery: Work Based and Placement Learning

The programme provides work-related learning opportunities which are designed to embed and develop a range of transferrable skills to prepare you for employment opportunities in a range of related creative professions. These include skills in spoken, written and visual communication, the ability to manage collaborative and independent projects, creative problem-solving. Assessment are related to scenarios that occur in the industry.

The curriculum team are also working professionals engaged in various aspects of the industry, alongside the expertise of the team, local employers will be engaged in certain aspects of the course which will be tailored to your development, skill set and knowledge. External engagement with industry representatives may include:

- field trips to local music gigs and performances
- inviting members of the local music community to present guest lectures
- using employers to judge the quality of assessed presentations and/or products
- establishing a panel of experts who students can pitch an idea to.

Programme Delivery: Graduate Skill Development

Upon completion of your programme of study not only do we want to ensure that you have a great qualification but it's important to us that you are fully ready to embark on an exciting career and join our successful graduates working in the creative industries. To ensure this, we've placed an enormous focus on developing and refining graduate attributes through teaching, learning, assessment and engagement with a wide range of peers, employers and other stakeholders. We call these graduate attributes and they're designed to help you prepare for employment and succeed throughout your career.

As a B&FC graduate, you'll benefit from these graduate attributes:

A commitment to lifelong learning and career development

Collaborative teamwork and leadership skills

Personal and intellectual autonomy

Ethical, social and professional understanding

Communication, information and digital literacies

Global citizenship

Research, scholarship and enquiry skills

Enterprise and entrepreneurial awareness and capabilities

Graduates successfully completing the Higher National Certificate will be able to demonstrate a sound knowledge of the basic concepts of music. They will be able to communicate accurately and appropriately, and they will have the qualities needed for employment that requires some degree of personal responsibility. They will have developed a range of transferable skills to ensure effective team working, independent initiatives, organisational competence, and problem-solving strategies. They will be adaptable and flexible in their approach to music, show resilience under pressure and meet challenging targets within a given resource.

Study Costs: Equipment Requirements

There is no demand for students wishing to study on our programme to purchase any additional equipment to support learning.

Study Costs: Additional Costs

There will be a variety of trips and other activities that may incur a small fee. We do advise on buying a set of headphones and a portable hard drive for storing, backing up and transferring large files.

The curriculum team recommend to following products:

1TB External Portable Hard drive

AKG K92 Closed Back Headphones

Beyerdynamic DT770 – 80ohms

Related Courses

Blackpool and The Fylde College offers a range of Higher Education programmes in complementary disciplines such as Fashion, Fine Art, Commercial Illustration, Photography, Musical Theatre, Acting, Filmmaking and Hospitality and Events Management. These courses offer avenues for collaborative working with other students.

This ethos is at the heart of our Higher Education provision and is something that truly enhances your experience whilst you study, your ability to develop connections, internal and external to the college, and your prospects of landing the employment you seek.