

Music Technology BSc (Hons)

COURSE FACTS

Faculty	Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment
School	Digital Media Technology
Application	Apply through UCAS. Institution code B25, Course code W350
Location	City Centre Campus, Millennium Point
Duration	Full-time: three years, sandwich: four years



KEY FACTS

- Run jointly by the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment and Birmingham Conservatoire, this course develops creative, practical and technical skills in music production.
- Our city centre campus includes cutting-edge facilities, including the largest University TV studio, housed within a purpose-built Media Centre at The Parkside building.
- The Birmingham Conservatoire is recognised by the European Association of Conservatoires (AEC) and all Conservatoire tutors are professional musicians; the vast majority are still active composers or performers.
- Access a range of technical resources at Conservatoire including two professional concert halls and six recording, editing and mix studios.
- Our close industry links add currency, consistency and colour to your subject, putting you in prime position to take advantage of industrial placements, real-life projects and career opportunities.

WHY CHOOSE US?

- The programme uniquely combines a significant grounding in technology, with musical accolades normally associated with a Conservatoire education.
- You will enjoy professional-quality resources and access to highly accomplished musicians from genres including classical, folk, jazz, rock and electronic.
- Access a wide range of potential placements that students may pursue such as working in recording studios, record companies, in professional audio and theatres. There are also various opportunities to pick up valuable work experience in areas such as live sound.
- You will have various opportunities to interact with industry professionals through guest lectures and masterclasses that have previously explored areas such as studio production and mastering.
- Although composition is not formally assessed as part of the course there are many opportunities for you to draw upon your compositional skills if this is something that you wish to pursue.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The programme is aimed at creating multi-skilled and versatile graduates who can use technology to create, perform and distribute music, as well understand the underlying principles that are needed to make informed decisions about technologies.

Graduates will be fully prepared for employment in this dynamic sector. They will have a firm scientific understanding of the technology employed in this fast-evolving business and an understanding of business principles that will inform and augment their creative abilities and practical skills in music production.

Industry and Interactive Theme	Music and Critical Studies Theme	Digital Systems and Project Theme		Acoustics and Audio Electronics Theme		Sound Recording Theme
YEAR 1						
Music and Audio Industries 15 Credits	Music and Critical Studies 15 Credits	Digital Audio Technology 30 Credits		Audio Electronics 15 Credits	Musical Instrument Acoustics 15 Credits	Music Technology and Sound recording 30 Credits
YEAR 2						
Media Production Management 15 Credits	Music and Critical Studies (2) 15 Credits	Digital Signal Processing for Music Technology 15 Credits	Networks for Music Technology 15 Credits	Audio Systems 30 Credits		Music Technology and Sound Recording (2) 30 Credits
YEAR 3						
Interactive Music Systems 15 Credits	Music and Sound for Visual Media 15 Credits	Technology Project 45 Credits		Acoustic Engineering 15 Credits		Music Technology and Sound Recording (3) 30 Credits

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course comprises five themes:

The **Industry and Interactive theme** is intended to give students an understanding of the business and financial framework of the music and audio industries, an appreciation of the impact of new technologies, and to develop skills for project management and entrepreneurship. This develops into an understanding of audio and control systems for live music performance.

The **Music and Critical Studies theme** develops skills of critical analysis. Exploring a wide range of music styles there is a focus on the changing relationships of performers, composers and listeners. In the final year, this experience feeds into implementing the principles and practice of music production in film.

The **Digital Systems and Project theme** develops an understanding of the fundamentals of signals, sound and synthesis, moving on to data transfer networks in an audio context, DSP for music applications, interactive, generative and algorithmic music. In the final year students get to explore an area borne out of the course of their choice in more depth. There is an emphasis on research and the articulation

and analysis of results. Final year projects often include a practical output that could be related electronics, sound production or other aspects of the course.

The **Acoustics and Audio Electronics theme** moves from basic AC and DC theory, circuits and components to digital circuitry, filters and signal generating circuits. The principles of the operation of audio equipment are explored. This theme goes on to examine the acoustics of instruments, studios and auditoria.

The **Sound Recording theme** covers recording techniques, microphone techniques and project management skills. Practical synthesis, sampling, editing, mixing, mastering and delivery techniques are explored across a range of hardware and software systems as production skills are developed.

As a training centre for Pro Tools software, it is possible to gain these accreditations alongside your degree programme.

ASSESSMENT

A range of assessment methods are used throughout the course including continuous assessment, in-class tests, examinations, laboratory exercises and project work.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 300 points minimum from two six-unit or one 12-unit A Level (GCE or VCE)
- Pass National Diploma with Merit/Distinction/Distinction
- Advanced Diplomas are accepted
- AGNVQ overall Merit and GCSE Maths at grade C or above
- GCSE Music at grade C or above, Music Theory grade 5, or proficiency of performance on one instrument equivalent to ABRSM or RockSchool Grade 5.
- Irish Leaving Certificate: 300 points
- Scottish Highers: 300 points from four Highers
- International Baccalaureate: 32 points

FURTHER STUDY

The University offers a range of taught (MSc) and research (MPhil and PhD) postgraduate courses. Details can be found on the postgraduate section of the website.

EMPLOYABILITY

Graduates from the school have gone onto work for companies including Universal Music, EMI Music, Dolby UK, Audient, Prism Sound, The Music Group, Wavelength StageCo Event Management, West Yorkshire Playhouse Theatre, Talkback Thames, BBC Big Screen, BBC Cardiff and An Ideal World [California].

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