

Programme Specification: BMus Jazz

NOTE: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detail on the specific learning outcomes, indicative content and the teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found (1) at <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/pme>, (2) in the Module Specifications and (3) in the Student Handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked within independent review processes undertaken by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Awarding Institution / Body:	Birmingham City University
Teaching Institution:	Birmingham Conservatoire
Interim Awards and Final Award:	CertHE, DipHE, BMus Jazz, BMus (Hons) Jazz
Programme Title:	BMusJazz
Main fields of Study:	Music
Modes of Study:	Full time; Part time (final year)
Language of Study:	English
CUKAS Code:	BMus: W340
JACS Code:	W340

Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external reference points used to inform programme outcomes:

QAA subject benchmark statement(Honours): Music 2008

Programme philosophy and aims

The BMus(Hons)Jazz is a specialist course for performers in jazz and constitutes just under 20% of the student population. Its primary aim is to help equip students for a career in the music profession as performers in the field of jazz. The course is full-time and lasts four years. Most of the other students at the Conservatoire are following the BMus (Hons) course. This is the main undergraduate course.

Since 2005/06 there is additionally the Graduate Diploma in Jazz. This is a one year course designed for relatively experienced performers who want a specialist training in jazz. The course shares modules with BMusJazz3 and 4 and also has some bespoke

modules of its own.

Future performers in Jazz will face very exacting demands upon their musicianship. They will be expected to be original yet show an understanding of their tradition, spontaneous yet show the ability to adhere to harmonic and structural systems and also be a soloist showing great individuality while being equally adept at ensemble work. These are the diverse and contrasting abilities demanded of the professional Jazz musician. The course recognises the need for Jazz performers to have a highly developed approach to creativity reinforced by a thorough grasp of musical techniques.

Whilst performance and composition remains at the heart of the course, students have opportunities to develop skills both in complementary areas of performance and in other disciplines according to their specific needs. The course provides a secure foundation for postgraduate study and entry into the profession.

The aims of the programme are to:

- prepare jazz musicians for the profession;
- nurture artistic sensibilities and allow scope for individual stylistic direction;
- develop high standards of musicianship and technique;
- promote an open-minded and enquiring attitude to a broad range of styles and genres;
- provide a culture and environment for students to develop improvisatory processes;
- guide students in their career aspirations and equip them with a range of transferable skills;
- cultivate an appreciation of key historical concepts and analytical processes to enrich performance and composition;
- develop academic autonomy through the implementation of appropriate research skills;
- develop composition skills that compliment and enhance the profile of the jazz performer;
- promote self-reliance and responsibility for personal and professional development;
- enable students to develop areas of specialism;
- provide an ongoing opportunity for professional development, encouraging self-reflection and the acquisition of additional skills useful in a future career in the profession;
- promote the development of personal and interpersonal skills with particular reference to the cooperative and collaborative environment of the music profession.

Intended learning outcomes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated:

Learning Outcomes
1. Knowledge and Understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• deploy improvisational resources in the context of a small band;• perform improvisations that demonstrate an ability to apply the relevant concepts and resources;• compose original pieces for small band;• demonstrate an extended knowledge of key and specialist areas in the music;• demonstrate an understanding of the social, economic and historical context of the music;• demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the development of jazz.
2. Practical skills and musicianship <ul style="list-style-type: none">• deploy basic improvisational resources in the context of a small band;• demonstrate creative aspects of musicianship;• communicate musical ideas to fellow musicians and audience;• perform improvisations that demonstrate an ability to apply the relevant concepts and resources;• demonstrate achievement of benchmark standards in instrumental technique;• demonstrate rhythmic skills relevant to performing in a jazz ensemble.
3. Generic and graduate skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• deploy essay writing skills;• show clarity of expression and structure in the delivery of your views;• demonstrate presentation skills and engage with an audience;• conduct practical independent research (field work) into social, economic and historical realities of the music;• consider a range of possible career paths;• devise a coherent career development strategy;• be pro-active and self-motivating in the pursuit of a career;• promote yourself with self-confidence and awareness;• deploy presentation skills;• define, plan and execute a project, demonstrating an appropriate level of achievement in the chosen field of study;• evaluate the learning outcomes achieved.

Learning, teaching, and assessment methods used

- individual lessons in the first study area;
- first study master classes, workshops, ensembles and tutorials;
- academic lectures, small-group workshops and tutorials;
- online learning materials (academic modules) including lessons, quizzes and interactive documents.

Assessment methods

- first study performance;
- composition portfolio;
- vocabulary and Studies practical assessments;
- viva voce;
- essay;
- patchwork assessment;
- individual presentation;
- practical group work
- musicianship coursework;
- improvisation examination;
- professional development planning exercise;
- professional development portfolio;
- student-defined project;
- evaluation report.

Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

The structure of the course, the modules, levels and credit values, and the awards which can be gained are shown in the diagram below.

Stage 1 Level 4 (Yr 1)

Module number	Module name	Credit
HM4XXX HM4XXX	First-Study Performance	45
HM4XXX	Vocabulary and Studies	15
HM4XXX	Jazz Musicianship	15
HM4XXX	Composition (Basic Techniques)	15
HM4XXX	Rhythm Workshop	15
	History (Jazz Panorama)	15

Award: Cert HE (120 credits)

Stage 2 Level 5 (Yr 2)

Module number	Module name	Credit
HM5XXX HM5XXX	First-Study Performance	45
HM5XXX	Vocabulary and Studies	15
HM5XXX	Jazz Musicianship	15
HM5XXX	Composition and Arranging (Big Band)	15
HM5XXX	Rhythm Workshop	15
	History (Case Studies/Seminar)	15

Award: Dip HE (240 credits)

Stage 2 Level 6 (Yr 3)

Module number	Module name	Credit
HM6XXX	First-Study Performance	45
HM6XXX	Vocabulary and Studies	15
HM6XXX	Jazz Musicianship	15
HM6XXX	Composition (Extended Techniques and Concepts)	15
HM6XXX	Studio Project	15
	Jazz in Context	15

Award: BMusJazz (360 credits)

Stage 2 Level 6 (Yr 4)

Module number	Module name	Credit
HM6XXX HM6XXX	First-Study Performance	45
HM6XXX	Professional Development: Major Project	45
HM6XXX	Composition and Arranging Portfolio	15
HM6XXX	Contemporary issues	15

Award: BMus (Hons) (480 credits)

Support for Learning including Personal Development Planning (PDP)

Students are encouraged to identify and, with guidance, to reflect on their own learning needs and are offered the following support as appropriate to meet those needs:

- individual tutorials;
- mentoring;
- learning agreements;
- online resources (Moodle);
- a programme of study skills within appropriate Stage 1 modules which focuses on the planning and presentation of academic written (written work, presentations, research and use of resources);
- student handbook with information relating to the course, modules, assessment, the Conservatoire and the University;
- access to Head of Professional Development;
- regular year meetings;
- access to the Course Director, Year Tutors, Personal Tutors, Heads of Schools and the Faculty Registrar;
- access to the Liaison Librarians (Learning and Teaching, Enquiries, Collection Management);
- access to the Head of Technology;
- access to Faculty resources such as pianos, practice rooms, IT facilities and the Library, and recording facilities;
- assistance and support from the University's Academic Skills Unit;
- access to the University's Student Services, including those offered by the careers service, financial; advisers, medical centre, disability service, crèche, counselling service and chaplaincy;

Criteria for admission

Candidates must satisfy the general admission requirements of the programme.

The current admission requirements can be found under the 'Entry Requirements' tab of the web page for this course.

Methods for evaluation and enhancement of quality and standards including listening and responding to views of students

Committees:

- board of studies;
- examination board;
- faculty board;
- student/staff committee.

Mechanisms for review and evaluation:

- annual student feedback results;
- student focus groups;
- student council;
- review and validation events;
- external examiners' reports;
- annual monitoring report;
- academic quality and support.