



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

BA (Hons)

Music and Popular Music

UCAS code W301

Entry requirements

A level: ABB

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

3 years

Apply by: **29 January 2025**

Starts on: **22 September 2025**

About this course

This degree offers you a great deal of flexibility and allows you to select from both our classical and popular music modules. There is no better place to study music than Liverpool: we work closely with musical venues and organisations throughout the city, including the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic; and we established the world's first specialist centre for its study – the Institute of Popular Music – in 1988.

Introduction

The modules on this programme vary, with some being practical – concerned with musical performance, composition and orchestration, song-writing or creative music technology – while others focus on music history topics or music analysis and theory. Our studio and performance modules cater for both classical and popular musical styles, allowing you to choose the route best suited to you; and a generous range of optional modules includes specialist topics such as music psychology, audio-visual media (films and videogames), and vocational modules. Throughout, you will learn to write about music from a historical, critical, sociological, or philosophical viewpoint.

Year in industry

Undergraduate students in the Department of Music have the opportunity to spend a year in industry, either in their third year, or by adding a 'follow-on year' at the end of their academic studies. These are paid placements within an organisation in industry, broadly defined, and you will receive support from the Department and the School of the Arts to source and apply for opportunities. [Find out more about the difference between these options](#), including how to apply.

What you'll learn

- A critical understanding of music from a wide range of aesthetic, cultural and social perspectives
- A detailed understanding of Western (and some other) music repertoires
- Advanced proficiency in performance, and composition
- Academic research skills
- Critical and cultural awareness
- The ability to devise and sustain complex arguments
- Written and oral communication and presentation
- Creativity
- Time management and organisations skills

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Year one

You will take two compulsory modules, and choose the rest of your modules from a range of options.

- In year 1, students:
 - Must take at least one of the following: MUSI130, MUSI140
 - Must take at least one of the following: MUSI180, MUSI181, MUSI182
 - May not take both Classical Performance and Popular Performance.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>MUSIC AS AN INDUSTRY (MUSI150)</u>	15
<u>MUSIC IN CONTEXTS: WHY MUSIC MATTERS (MUSI121)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>CLASSICAL COMPOSITION 1 (MUSI106)</u>	15
<u>CLASSICAL PERFORMANCE 1 (MUSI102)</u>	15
<u>FOUNDATIONS IN TONAL HARMONY (MUSI181)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL MUSIC HISTORY (MUSI130)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL AUDIO WORKSTATIONS (MUSI109)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>INTRODUCTION TO POPULAR MUSIC HISTORY (MUSI140)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO SOUND AND MUSIC IN AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA (MUSI170)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO SOUND AND TECHNOLOGY (MUSI171)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO SOUND RECORDING AND PRODUCTION (MUSI108)</u>	15
<u>POPULAR MUSIC THEORY IN PRACTICE (MUSI182)</u>	15
<u>POPULAR PERFORMANCE 1 (MUSI104)</u>	15
<u>THE HISTORY OF ELECTRONIC MUSIC (MUSI172)</u>	15
<u>THEORY IN PRACTICE: EXPLORING MUSIC'S CONSTRUCTION (MUSI180)</u>	15
<u>WRITING FOR INSTRUMENTS (MUSI105)</u>	15
<u>POPULAR COMPOSITION 1 (MUSI107)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year two

You will choose from entirely optional modules, the range of which balances classical and popular modules, and ensures coverage of repertoire, contexts and praxis.

In year 2, students:

- Must take at least one of the following: MUSI219, MUSI220, MUSI230, MUSI232, MUSI261, MUSI263.
- Must take at least one of and may take a maximum of four from: MUSI200, MUSI201, MUSI202, MUSI203, MUSI204, MUSI205, MUSI206, MUSI207, MUSI208, MUSI209, MUSI210, MUSI213, MUSI214, MUSI216, MUSI217, MUSI243, MUSI252 (Practical options)
- May not take both Classical Performance and Popular Performance.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
<u>CLASSICAL PERFORMANCE 2A (MUSI201)</u>	15
<u>CLASSICAL PERFORMANCE 2B (MUSI202)</u>	15
<u>COMPOSITION FOR FILM AND TELEVISION (MUSI205)</u>	15
<u>CLASSICAL COMPOSITION 2 (MUSI207)</u>	15
<u>CONTEMPORARY GENRES (MUSI263)</u>	15
<u>EXPLORING HARMONY, CHORD PROGRESSION AND PITCH (MUSI280)</u>	15
<u>GLOBAL POP: POPULAR MUSICS OF THE WORLD (MUSI261)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO CONDUCTING (MUSI200)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC PSYCHOLOGY (MUSI290)</u>	15
<u>MAX AND ABLETON LIVE (MUSI209)</u>	15
<u>MUSIC, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY (MUSI220)</u>	15
<u>MUSIC IN GAMING (MUSI273)</u>	15
<u>MUSIC IN WORLD CINEMA (MUSI270)</u>	15
<u>MUSICAL THEATRE (MUSI274)</u>	15
<u>OPERA AND POLITICS (MUSI232)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>POPULAR MUSIC COMPOSITION 2 (MUSI210)</u>	15
<u>POPULAR PERFORMANCE 2A (MUSI203)</u>	15
<u>POPULAR PERFORMANCE 2B (MUSI204)</u>	15
<u>POST-WAGNERIAN MUSIC AND PHILOSOPHY (MUSI230)</u>	15
<u>PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT (SOTA260)</u>	15
<u>RECORD LABEL MARKETING, PROMOTION AND DISTRIBUTION (MUSI215)</u>	15
<u>SAMPLING AND REMIXING (MUSI213)</u>	15
<u>SCHOOL OF THE ARTS WORK PLACEMENTS MODULE (SOTA300)</u>	30
<u>FOLEY AND SOUND DESIGN (MUSI208)</u>	15
<u>SOUND RECORDING AND PRODUCTION 2 (MUSI243)</u>	15
<u>SOUND, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY (MUSI241)</u>	15
<u>WORKING IN MUSIC INDUSTRY (MUSI252)</u>	15
<u>EARLY MUSICAL CULTURES FROM THE ISLAMICATE COURT TO THE ENGLISH REFORMATION (MUSI219)</u>	15
<u>LIVE SOUND (MUSI214)</u>	15
<u>COMPOSITION FOR DIGITAL GAMES (MUSI206)</u>	15
<u>LIVE IMPROVISATION WITH ABLETON (MUSI217)</u>	15
<u>MUSIC IN EVERYDAY LIFE (MUSI291)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>ORCHESTRATION (MUSI216)</u>	15
<u>BECOMING ENTREPRENEURIAL (ULMS254)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final year

In your final year, you will undertake a major independent project in research, performance, composition or technology. The rest of your modules will be taken from a range of options.

Specialist topics can be studied alongside advanced level analysis, performance or composition modules. There is a particular emphasis in the final year on specialism, including an extended or independent project (such as a research project, a composition portfolio or a music technology project).

In year 3, students:

- Must take at least one of the following: MUSI320, MUSI331, MUSI353.
- Must take one and only one Independent Project.

Students who take SOTA600 (Year in Industry) may not take SOTA300.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
<u>AESTHETICS OF MUSIC (MUSI320)</u>	15
<u>BEETHOVEN'S LIFE AND WORKS (MUSI331)</u>	15
<u>CURATION AND HERITAGE (MUSI353)</u>	15
<u>EXPLORING RHYTHM, FORM, AND MUSICAL TIME (MUSI380)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>INDEPENDENT PROJECT: CLASSICAL PERFORMANCE (MUSI395)</u>	30
<u>INDEPENDENT PROJECT: COMPOSITION (MUSI397)</u>	30
<u>INDEPENDENT PROJECT: CREATIVE MUSIC TECHNOLOGY (MUSI396)</u>	30
<u>INDEPENDENT PROJECT: POPULAR PERFORMANCE (MUSI398)</u>	30
<u>INDEPENDENT PROJECT: RESEARCH (MUSI399)</u>	30
<u>JAZZ (MUSI341)</u>	15
<u>COMPOSING ELECTRONIC MUSIC (MUSI308)</u>	15
<u>POPULAR MUSIC COMPOSITION 3 (MUSI310)</u>	15
<u>POPULAR PERFORMANCE CONTEXTS (MUSI303)</u>	15
<u>RECORD LABEL MANAGEMENT (MUSI315)</u>	15
<u>RECORD LABEL RECORDING, PRODUCTION AND PROJECT PLANNING (MUSI314)</u>	15
<u>SCHOOL OF THE ARTS WORK PLACEMENTS MODULE (SOTA300)</u>	30
<u>SOUND STUDIES (MUSI322)</u>	15
<u>THE FILM MUSIC OF JOHN WILLIAMS (MUSI370)</u>	15
<u>THE PLACE OF MUSIC (MUSI360)</u>	15
<u>FROM HARDWARE-HACKING TO HYPER-INSTRUMENTS (MUSI318)</u>	15
<u>SELF-MANAGEMENT FOR THE MUSIC INDUSTRIES (MUSI319)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>ADVANCED LIVE SOUND (MUSI316)</u>	15
<u>INDEPENDENT PROJECT: POPULAR COMPOSITION (MUSI394)</u>	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

We employ a range of teaching methods, including lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, master classes, 1-2-1 instrumental lessons, ensemble coaching, and online tasks and projects. The emphasis is on student participation and interaction. We fit the most appropriate mode of teaching to the particular subject, conscious that the learning process needs to be enjoyable, enabling you to acquire useful and marketable skills and knowledge.

How you're assessed

Each module has an individually determined system of assessment (by coursework, written paper, test, recital, composition or technology portfolio, presentation or podcast, examination, and combinations of these), and we select the method that best suits the nature of the module.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

Studying music opens up many career opportunities. As well as jobs in music (from performance, composition, and production, through to teaching, music therapy and community arts), employers in many sectors are increasingly seeking arts and humanities graduates for their transferable skills.

As a music student you will achieve creative flair and imagination, confidence in expressing yourself, an openness to new ideas, a capacity for hard work and an ability to analyse data. You will learn the value of working with others towards a shared, finished product and a whole range of flexible, professional skills.

As a student in the School of the Arts, you will be supported to maximise your employability from day one.

The School has its own placements and employability officer, and you will have the opportunity to undertake the following work experience opportunities:

- Work placement or a year in industry as part of your programme
- Work in our student-run record label to gain practical experience of all aspects of the music industry – from contract negotiation and project planning, through to promotion and distribution.

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year - £9,535

Year in industry fee - £1,905

Year abroad fee - £1,430 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £24,100

Year in industry fee - £1,905

Year abroad fee - £12,050 (applies to year in China)

The tuition fees shown are correct for 2025/26 entry. Please note that the year abroad fee also applies to the year in China.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. [Learn more about paying for your studies.](#)

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

As part of our application process, applicants are normally required to attend an Applicant Interview and Music Experience Day where you will either have an interview or a short audition with an academic member of staff. This is your chance to demonstrate your passion for the subject and allow us to make a decision on your application. (There is an option for phone or Skype interviews).

A levels

ABB including A level grade B in Music or ABRSM Grade 8 in Music Theory at Pass. If an applicant is taking Grade 8 in any instrument (or singing) a dual offer can be made: ABB or BBB with Grade 8 Distinction.

Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **BBB** with **A** in the EPQ.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about [how we make reduced grade offers](#).

T levels

T levels are not currently accepted.

GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

BTEC applications are encouraged. We evaluate each BTEC application on its merits and may make offers at DDM.

International Baccalaureate

33 including Higher Level 6 in Music, with no score less than 4

Irish Leaving Certificate

H1, H2, H2, H2, H3, H3 including H2 in Music

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

Scottish Highers at AABBB plus Scottish Advanced Highers grade B in Music, combinations are also welcome.

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

Accepted including 2 A levels at BB (including Music)

Access

Not acceptable without an A level in Music or ABRSM Theory Grade 8

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, you could be eligible for a Pre-Master's course. This is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. It's a specialist preparation course for postgraduate study, and when you pass the Pre-Master's at the required level with good attendance, you're guaranteed entry to a University of Liverpool master's degree.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

TOEFL Paper

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511

0510: Grade B overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade B overall.

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991

0993: Grade 6 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 6 overall.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

176 overall, with no paper below 162

LanguageCert

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- If you are returning to learning, have had a disrupted education or are switching career pathways, the one-year [Go Higher diploma](#) qualifies you to apply for University of Liverpool arts, humanities and social sciences programmes
- [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.

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