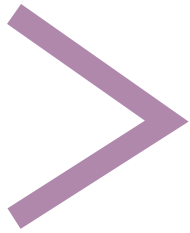


ATM Higher
Education Courses

POPULAR
MUSICIAN
FOUNDATION
DEGREE





ACCESS TO MUSIC / UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER POPULAR MUSICIAN FOUNDATION DEGREE

INTRODUCTION

This Foundation Degree is a two-year higher education course at Levels 4 and 5. It is for musicians whose primary focus is activity related to the exploitation of their own music.

The industry requires musicians who have a combination of musical skills, entrepreneurial skills and the ability to contextualise themselves within the current musical and economic climate. Modern musicians need to understand their own music and how to exploit it in order to reach its potential market. They must demonstrate an understanding of the sector and have a clear idea of how they intend to thrive within it.

This new foundation degree focuses on these issues in an exciting and practical way, fully preparing participants for gaining employment in music.

It has been developed in partnership with the University of Westminster and is delivered from the British Academy of New Music in East London.

AIMS

The Popular Musician Foundation Degree aims to:

- enable students to develop their full potential as musicians;
- prepare students for employability and entrepreneurial participation in the music industry;
- develop students' analytical understanding of the relationship between the music industry and the broad social and cultural environment in which it operates;
- enable students to manage change in popular music, its associated industries and culture;
- establish a practical and theoretical understanding of business practice within the popular music;
- develop students' self-management and interpersonal skills;
- enable students to formulate a career strategy that meets their current personal aspirations;
- prepare students for appropriate further study.



OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of the course, students will have a sound base of knowledge and skills in music business, the realisation of musical ideas, and the broad social and cultural context of popular music. In particular, they will be expected to have:

- practical skills relating to their development as musicians;
- an ability to realise their own music ideas to a professional level;
- an understanding of UK business practices within popular music;



- self management, self promotion and motivational skills;
- the ability to take responsibility for their own learning, continuing professional development, or academic progress;
- research, analysis and presentation skills relating to their musical study;
- the ability to analyse, and respond to, cultural change;
- an understanding of business practices within the global market.

DELIVERY & AREAS OF STUDY

Delivery focuses on the development and exploitation of repertoire through the workplace. Students are expected to understand the workplace and its associated areas and will need to demonstrate how it relates to them and their music. Typically the workplace may be located in independent record labels, or the club-level concert circuit.

Access To Music's current liaison with grass roots service providers is extensive. These links are incorporated into the course to promote work based learning at all levels of delivery.

AREAS OF STUDY

- **performance studies** enhance and enrich performance skills in a variety of settings;
- **music business** concerns how we organise the sale of music;
- **contextual studies** explores the relationship between music culture and society;

- **self-management** is about how musicians use markets to promote their own music in order to build a career;
- **composition** is about how musicians select and combine musical ideas for a variety of purposes;
- **study skills** focuses on the strategies needed to maximise learning.

SKILLS DEVELOPED

The mastery of the essential skills, which will equip and prepare students for continuing personal development and professional practice, is fundamental to the course. We have identified the need to be explicit about these to enable our students to appreciate these as part of the learning outcomes of the course:

- the ability to express ones ideas and put forward an argument;
- the ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility;
- the ability to make appropriate decisions in complex and unpredictable situations;
- the ability required for continued independent learning and professional development.

*‘One of the best training providers in the country’
Adult Learning Inspectorate.*



PROGRESSION

Progression from the Foundation Degree falls into two categories: into the industry and into further education/training.

The employment market within the music industry is unusual in the sense that the majority of practitioners tend to be self-employed, or engaged through short-term contracts with associated organisations and institutions. Those in full time, contracted employment tend to be in associated roles.

It is particularly important, therefore, that a course dealing with music creation and performance encourages students to take personal responsibility for managing their own career development. Through the University of Westminster's CEIG (Career



Education, Information and Guidance) provision, students may access impartial, confidential advice, in accordance with its equal opportunities policy, facilitating a thorough understanding of the market at large.

The Foundation Degree is equally appropriate for those wishing to enter the industry, as well as those wishing to continue their professional development. The clear pathway through to the B.A. Hons Commercial Music Degree at the University of Westminster provides a coherent progression route. A bridging module is included in the programme to facilitate this.

Within the design of this foundation degree is a balance between intellectual skills, practical skills and work-related learning. It complies with the QAA music benchmark statements. It uses innovative work related learning opportunities, enabling learners to take on a wide range of industry roles, thus informing their career path.

The course is also designed to enable learners to benefit from the interpretation of ideas and the experience of practice within the wider context of the music industry. The programme is one in which knowledge understanding and skills are clearly integrated.

CENTRES

The course is delivered from the British Academy of New Music in East London. See Centres on the website for more information.

APPLICATIONS

Applicants will usually be expected to possess four GCSEs grade C or above, two of which must be in Mathematics and English Language and have achieved one of the following at the start of the course:

- two A Levels;
- Level 3 Music Practitioner qualification;
- AVCE in a relevant subject area;
- National Diploma in a relevant subject area.

Applicants who are in full time or part time relevant employment in a relevant area are encouraged to apply.

Applicants with non-standard qualifications are encouraged to apply. The admissions panel reserve the right to admit applicants who do not have the previously stated qualifications, but who demonstrate outstanding ability through their portfolio and interview.

Students who do not have English as a first language are assessed to meet the IELTS 6.5 standard.

A student may be advised to undertake additional language courses or receive language support toward achieving the required standard by the start of the course, during the first term or by the end of the first year, as the situation demands.

Applications can be made via:
www.accesstomusic.co.uk or
www.ucas.ac.uk

