DSA Study Needs Assessment
Course information for assessors**:** Foundation Degree in Music
Production

Course Overview

The Foundation degree in Music Production is usually studied over two years and
consists of three strands, Specialist Study, Contextual Studies and Professional
Studies The course develops the use of advanced music technology skills for the
creation and production of contemporary music.

Areas of study include:

- Studio and computer-based music production
- Composing and arranging
- Digital recording
- Contextual studies
- Industry Studies
- DJ performance (optional)
- Live performance (optional)

Methods of Assessment

The course is modular with all modules being compulsory in Year 1 and certain
modules being optional in Year 2. The Foundation Degree is assessed via
coursework, musical portfolios, recordings, technical tests, presentations or written
work. (No examinations take place.) The Foundation Degree is a vocational
programme with an emphasis on practical work and assessments are designed with
industry relevance in mind. Formal assessments tend to take place at the end of
each semester or the end of the year. There are a handful of assignments that have
deadlines halfway through a semester.

Conservatoire Facilities and Resources

The conservatoire has a programme of continuous investment in high-end facilities
for our students to work with. For production students this includes professional
quality recording studios in which students are taught and which they can
additionally book to complete their assignments. For performance students this
includes soundproofed practice rooms, ensemble rooms and purpose-built
performance suites and venues.

Our specialist music courses are taught on the Apple Mac platform because this is
the music industry standard. We have a number of Mac computer suites that

students can access. These facilities are available until 3am on weekdays and during the daytime at weekends. Students have access to our music production Macs when teaching is not taking place (normally only between 7pm and 3am) – these are usually open access for students. Production students are allowed to book 6 hours per week per studio group and can also book other available slots within a 24-hour period in order to get the most from the production resources (potentially a total of 9 hours a week). Students choosing the DJ performance or live performance option in Year 2 have access to the DJ suite or rehearsal spaces.

The core music software packages in extensive use on this course are Apple Logic and Avid ProTools which run on the Apple Mac platform.

All course information and lecture notes are accessed only via Space, the online Virtual Learning Environment. The majority of assignments are submitted online via the VLE and use of the internet for research is also required.

For notetaking and lecture recording purposes, all main lectures in large groups taught in classroom and lecture theatres are captured by Panopto and made available online via Space, the conservatoire intranet. However, it is not possible to record one-to-one tuition, small group sessions, studio sessions and seminars, thus a digital recording device with a built-in two-way microphone may be a useful aid to learning.

Mind Genius mind-mapping software is available for all students to use on the additional PC clusters in the Learning Resources room and the Library, with MS Office provided for producing assignments. TextHelp Read & Write Gold software is available on the PCs in the Learning Support Service room only, for use during sessions with students having One to One Specialist Study Skills Support (DSA NMH Support Band 4).

Extended library loans are available.

Disabled Students studying music

Students with specific learning difficulties that affect their working memory or information processing speed often experience extra difficulty in reading music, accurately handwriting musical scores or inputting information into music writing software. Coping with the high-density multiple screen set-up of information in the music software programmes, especially Logic and ProTools, can be challenging. This is similar to the difficulties experienced when producing word-processed written work and the process of working with music goes alongside working with other written information as a core part of the learning process on our courses.

Mental health or other difficulties causing concentration problems can also make specialist music software more difficult to use due to the volume and complexity of information the user is required to input and manipulate.

Further information on the support available at Leeds Conservatoire is available on our website:
https://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/student-life/student-services/disability-support/

Contacts

The Student Disability Advice Team is located in Student Services in room 401.

Phone 0113 2223421
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