## DSA Study Needs Assessments 2020-21: Information for Assessors

## Overview of Courses

**Undergraduate Pathways on BA (Hons) Music:**

- Classical (with possible Foundation year)
- Jazz (with possible Foundation year)
- Popular Music (with possible Foundation year)
- Production (with possible Foundation year)
- Film Music (with possible Foundation year)
- Folk
- Music Business
- Songwriting (with possible Foundation year)

Combined – any two of Classical, Jazz, Folk, Popular and Production as a major and minor pathway

Students on the Classical, Jazz, Folk and Popular Music pathways are required to have a Specialist Study of either Performance or Composition, in their chosen genre.

Students following a combined pathway will have specialist study 1:1 lessons on their major pathway, and specialist group study lessons on their minor pathway. Students following a single pathway will have both specialist study 1:1 lessons and specialist group study lessons on their Single pathway.

**Undergraduate Degrees BA (Hons):**
- Acting
- Actor Musician
- Musical Theatre

**Undergraduate Foundation Degrees FdA:**
- Electronic Music Production
- Music Production

**Postgraduate Pathways MA/PGDip:**

- Music

Further information on our courses is available on our website:
- https://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate-study/undergraduate-courses/

- https://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate-study/mapgdip-music/

**Methods of Assessment**

Modules on the BA (Hons) are assessed through a combination of performances, compositions and recordings with supporting critiques, individual and group presentations, essay style written assignments and practical work in various studios both in and out of college. All students undertake a major project in their third and final year, with supporting written work.

There are formal timed written examinations on the BA (Hons) pathways, and students may be required to take music theory examinations, timed technical performance or composition and studio-based assessments.

The Foundation Degrees include a work placement plus a yearlong independent project in the second year that requires students to create a fully marketable professional music product.

Postgraduate pathways are assessed via essays, performances and compositions with accompanying critiques, performance recitals and viva voce oral exams.

**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, with the exception of Classical Music, are taught on the Apple Mac platform as this is the music industry standard. Classical Music can be taught using either Mac or Windows platforms.

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 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).

Due to the restricted networking capabilities of Apple Macs and software licensing restrictions, Leeds Conservatoire is unable to provide students with individual licenses of all the course specific software they require for their pathway of study. All students are expected to be taking advantage of in-house facilities as they are of professional standard. Students will need to use them as much as possible to

complete their studies whilst here during term time.  These facilities are provided in-house so each student is not required to own an Apple Mac with a professional specification level capable of running all of this software.

Leeds Conservatoire is not able to help students with the £200 basic computer contribution required by Student Finance England for DSA nor with any extra costs should the student choose to upgrade from a PC to a Mac platform.  Students are expected to use the professional standard conservatoire facilities as described above.

The core music software packages used on the Production and Film pathways are:

Year 1 onwards: Pro Tools, Logic Pro X

Year 2: Ableton Live and Max for Live (Production pathway only)

Pro Tools and Logic Pro have equal standing although the first year curriculum is geared more towards Pro Tools initially.  Production pathway students take additional Apple Authorised Training qualifications on the Logic Pro software.  These are provided in-house at Leeds Conservatoire as we are an Apple Accredited training provider.

The core music software packages in use on the Jazz and Pop pathways, dependent upon module choices, are Ableton Live, Logic Pro X and Pro Tools.  Students who major in Composition for their first study, as opposed to performance as a first study, will make much more extensive use of Ableton, Logic Pro and Pro Tools.  Classical students will use Avid Sibelius.

All course information and lecture notes are accessed only via Space, the conservatoire's 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 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, so 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 from the conservatoire's Library service for some items, and the Library can advise on the availability of resources such as e-books and journals. Students can access course reading lists on Space once they have enrolled.

**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, 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-support/disability-support/

**Contacts**

The Disability Support Team is located in Student Services in room 401.
Phone 0113 2223421
Email disability@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk.