

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Programme Title	CertHE Songwriting
Intermediate Awards Available	N/A
UCAS Code	W102
Professional Body Accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	Subject Benchmark Statement for Music, 2019 Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, 2014
Specification Last Updated	Date: July 2023
	Name: Shane Beales

Programme Aims

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Synthesise your skills, knowledge and command of songcraft;
- Develop and hone your creative instincts to conceive and courageously pursue creative possibilities;
- Develop your collaborative skills, creative resilience and reflexive practice;
- Develop your business knowledge and skills in order to establish career opportunities;

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

1. The evaluation of contemporary songwriting, performance and production techniques and approaches within a range of cultural and stylistic contexts;
2. The development of skills, qualities and behaviours associated with successful songwriting practice within contemporary music industries;
3. An understanding of business practices within contemporary music industries.

Thinking skills

4. Development of skills for communication, imagination and creativity;
5. The ability to construct a reasoned, evaluative argument with an independent point of view.

Subject Specific Practical Skills

6. Established techniques to write, redraft and refine song material;
7. The use of digital audio workstations as a compositional and production tool;
8. A practical understanding of music theory as a tool for writing songs;

Skills for life and work (general skills)

9. Evaluation and organisation of your own learning;
10. Work independently, managing your own time, motivating yourself and managing your own schedule.

Learning and Teaching

Knowledge is developed through:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Workshops

Thinking skills are developed through:

- Lectures
- Tutorials
- Group workshops

Practical skills are developed through:

- Skills workshops
- Lectures
- Seminars

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through:

- Project based work supported by tutorials / workshops
- Mentorship scheme

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Essays
- Recorded tracks
- Chord and lyric charts
- Presentations
- A technical exercise

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Essays

Practical skills are assessed by

- Recorded tracks
- Live performance of original material
- A technical exercise

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- Collaborative Work
- Recorded tracks

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.

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Programme Structure

All programmes are credit-rated to indicate the amount and level of study required. One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time, which includes all components of the programme (e.g. lecture, seminar and independent study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course.
- 4 Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 5 Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 7 Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Programmes are made up of modules that are each credit-weighted.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by Distance Learning? Y/N
4	BASW4001	Creative Songwriting II: Establishing Songcraft	20	Core	N

4	BASW4002	Creative Songwriting: Exploring Songcraft	20	Core	N
4	BASW4003	Fundamentals for Writer-Producers	20	Core	N
4	BASW4004	Music Business for Songwriters	20	Core	N
4	BASW4005	Theory and Musicianship for Songwriters	20	Core	N
4	BASW4006	Fundamentals for Writer-Performers	20	Core	N

Typical Duration of Programme

The expected duration of this course is 1 year full-time.

Additional Costs

The following equipment is recommended to enable students to fully engage with their songwriting studies:

- Device with internet connection
- Computer with DAW software & headphones/suitable monitors
- Audio interface, microphone & necessary cables
- Midi Keyboard/input device
- Musical instrument to compose with

Further Information

Please consult:

- [ICMP web site](#)
- Programme Handbook

Module title and code	Contact Hours	Self-directed Study	Modes of teaching/student learning time	Total Hours
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BASW4001 Creative Songwriting II: Establishing Songcraft		164	Workshops, seminars Seminar reading and preparation / assignment preparation / background reading / on-line activities / group work / portfolio / diary preparation, unsupervised studio work	200
BASW4002 Creative Songwriting: Exploring Songcraft	36	164	Workshops, seminars Seminar reading and preparation / assignment preparation / background reading / on-line activities / group work / portfolio / diary preparation, unsupervised studio work	200
BASW4003 Fundamentals For Writer-Producers	36	164	Workshops, seminars Seminar reading and preparation / assignment preparation / background reading / on-line activities / group work / portfolio / diary preparation, unsupervised studio work	400
BASW4004 Music Business For Songwriters	24	176	Lectures, seminars Seminar reading and preparation / assignment preparation / background reading / on-line activities / group work	200
BAW4005 Theory And Musicianship For Songwriters	36	164	Workshops, seminars Seminar reading and preparation / assignment preparation / background reading / on-line activities / group work / portfolio / diary preparation, unsupervised studio work	200
BASW4006 Fundamentals For Writer-Performers	36	164	Workshops, seminars Seminar reading and preparation / assignment preparation / background reading / on-line activities / group work / portfolio / diary preparation, unsupervised studio work	200