

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Programme Aim and Title	BA (Hons) Songwriting
Intermediate Awards Available	CertHE, DipHE, Ordinary Degree
Teaching Institution(s)	Institute of Contemporary Music Performance
Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification)	N/A
UEL Academic School	Arts & Digital Industries
UCAS Code	W102
Professional Body Accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	Subject Benchmark Statement for Music, 2019 Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, 2014
Additional Versions of this Course	N/A
Date Specification Last Updated	February 2021

Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

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, so that you are equipped for a broad range of professional and cultural contexts;
- Develop your business and enterprise skills and attributes so that you are equipped to work within and bring innovation to a range of professional contexts;
- To develop your transferable, analytical, research, and creative commentary skills to a level sufficient to engage in songwriting critique, commentary, and future study.

What you will learn:

Knowledge

1. The critical 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 enterprising songwriting practice within contemporary music industries;
3. The evaluation and analysis of business practices within contemporary music industries.

Thinking skills

4. An advanced level of communication, imagination and creativity;
5. An understanding of the wide-ranging professional applications of songwriting within music (and associated) industries;
6. The ability to construct a reasoned, evaluative argument with an independent point of view.

Subject Specific Practical Skills

7. Established techniques to write, redraft and refine professionally-crafted song material;
8. The use of digital audio workstations as a compositional and production tool;
9. A practical understanding of music theory as a tool for writing songs;
10. The development of business practices including marketing, promotion and writing business plans.

Skills for life and work (general skills)

11. Communication and collaboration within creative teams;
12. Evaluation and organisation of your own learning;
13. 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
- Project proposal
- Presentations
- A business pitch

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

- Showcase / event / project organisation
- Recorded tracks
- A business plan

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.

Work or Study Placements

As a student at the ICMP you will be regularly offered professional practice opportunities through our Careers & Industry Hub. This typically includes auditioning for tours, gigs or other musical projects.

Programme Structure

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is 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.

The module structure of this course:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by Distance Learning? Y/N
4	PA4054	Creative Songwriting: Exploring Songcraft	20	Core	N
4	PA4053	Creative Songwriting II: Establishing Songcraft	20	Core	N
4	PA4070	Theory and Musicianship for Songwriters	20	Core	N
4	PA4074	Fundamentals for Writer-Performers	20	Core	N
4	PA4058	Fundamentals for Writer-Producers	20	Core	N
4	PA4065	Music Business for Songwriters	20	Core	N
5	PA5067	Applied Songwriting: Extending Songcraft	20	Core	N
5	PA5066	Applied Songwriting II: Embedding Songcraft	20	Core	N
5	PA5083	Songwriting and Communities	20	Core	N

5	PA5074	Creative Performance Project	20	Core	N
5	PA5072	Contemporary Practice for Writer-Producers	20	Core	N
5	PA5079	Marketing Strategies for Songwriters	20	Core	N
6	PA6068	Advanced Songwriting: Creative Identity & Repertoire	40	Core	N
6	PA6088	Professional Practice	40	Core	N
6	PA6083	The Enterprising Songwriter	20	Core	N
6	PA6084	The Enterprising Songwriter II	20	Core	N

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, in order to create the best learning experience.

Additional detail about the course module structure:

A core module for a course is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a course is a module selected from a range of modules available on the course.

The overall credit-rating of this course is 360 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Course Specific Regulations

N/A

Typical Duration

The expected duration of this course is 3 years full-time.

A student cannot normally continue study on a course after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a course in part time mode is 7 years from first enrolment.

Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

- icmp.ac.uk
- ICMP Dashboard: <http://home.icmp.ac.uk/>
- The course handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)
- School web pages

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

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

Alternative Locations of Delivery

This course is also taught by ICMP and awarded by the University of East London

This course does not have professional body accreditation although students are encouraged to make individual applications for accredited status.