

Programme Specification for BA Creative Music Production

This programme is only offered at: **ICMP, London** as a full-time or part-time degree.

Final award	BA (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	Cert HE, Dip HE
UCAS code	W374
Details of professional body accreditation	Joint Audio Media Education Services (JAMES)
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Music (2008)
UEL Academic School	Arts and Digital Industries
Date specification last up-dated	N/A

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance (ICMP)	The whole programme is taught at ICMP only.	No	Yes	Full-time and Part-time

Profile

The summary - UCAS programme profile

BANNER BOX:

The BA (Hons) Creative Music Production degree is as an industry-focused, practice-based programme, developing students' music production skills in the context of composition, songwriting and entrepreneurship.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 200 UCAS tariff points or equivalent; or
- The ICMP Higher Diploma in Popular Music Performance (at suitable pass levels)
- IB 26 points
- IELTSs 5.5 with 5.5 in each element, or equivalent

All applicants should normally be aged 18 years or over at the start of their proposed course, any applicant under the age of 18 must provide signed consent from their legal guardian to allow them to undertake the programme. Applicants whose first language is not English and for whom the majority of their education has not been in English will also need to demonstrate proficiency in English language by formal academic qualification, meeting the minimum standards of B1 Level of the CEFR for courses below QCF Level 6, or B2 Level for courses at QCF Level 6 or above.

All applicants should have achieved at the point of entry a GCSE grade C in Mathematics and in English Language, or equivalents acceptable to the ICMP and in line with UKVI indicators.

Applicants must demonstrate an appropriate level of music making and production skills to be eligible for entry onto the programme. Some knowledge of music harmony and theory would be beneficial to applicants. Students with predicted grades equal to 300 or more UCAS points maybe eligible for an unconditional offer of admission to the course.

At the ICMP we are committed to working together to build a learning community founded on equality of opportunity - a learning community which celebrates the rich diversity of our student and staff populations. Discriminatory behaviour has no place in our community and will not be tolerated. Within a spirit of respecting difference, our equality and diversity policies promise fair treatment and equality of opportunity for all. In pursuing this aim, we want people applying for a place at the ICMP to feel valued and know that the process and experience will be transparent and fair and no one will be refused access on the grounds of any protected characteristic stated in the Equality Act 2010.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What is Creative Music Production?

The BA (Hons) Creative Music Production is validated by UEL and taught by The ICMP and offers a creative and dynamic approach to the study of Music Production, placing the students' own composition, songwriting and music making at the heart of the curriculum and learning experience. Technically, creatively and intellectually demanding, the BA (Hons) Creative Music Production programme seeks to equip graduates with the holistic skill set required for a music production career in the modern music industry.

The ICMP was one of the first of its kind in the UK, and has a 20-year history of providing Higher Education courses in contemporary music. Being situated in London, the heart of the UK music industry, enables you to learn from, and interact with, a staff of leading educators, academics and professional musicians. As well as begin to build a professional network of UK music industry contacts.

Programme structure

This three year full-time programme is delivered through a balance of technology, composition, performance and critical and contextual study based modules, designed to develop you as highly skilled producers and music makers performers whilst providing you with the focus, knowledge and skills required to organise, promote and market yourself and your events in the digital age.

You will follow a core programme that includes practical studio-based tuition, original songwriting and composition projects, and modules which focus on establishing a common music skills base in technology, harmony and theory, composition, events management, marketing and promotion.

Learning environment

The ICMP operates out of a purpose built facility in North West London, the layout of which was designed to be physically accessible, fully conducive to the learning experience, and comprises of the following:

- Live performance studios;
- Specialist teaching rooms;
- Apple technology suites;
- A Recording studio - linked via Roland's Digital Snake to a live performance room;
- Lecture rooms;
- The Learning Resource Centre;
- Keyboard suites;
- Drum practice booths;
- A furnished student area with wifi and vending machines.

All of these facilities are available to you outside of timetabled hours.

As an added benefit to you, ICMP has a long-standing practice of inviting industry professionals to talk to the student body via master classes. These master classes provide a unique opportunity for you to learn from external specialists that do not traditionally engage in higher education.

You will be taught through a variety of teaching and learning methods including lectures, small group tutorials, performance workshops, music technology workshops tutorials and one to one instrumental tuition.

The ICMP understands the commitment that you are making to your future, and we are equally committed to creating the best environment and conditions for you to undertake your studies. We work in close partnership with some of the greatest names in the music industry to provide you

with access to a wide range of professional equipment.

Assessment

Assessment is a fundamental part of the student learning experience, and is the general description for a set of processes which measure the success of a student's education and learning. The BA (Hons) Creative Music Production complies with UEL's Assessment Policy, which seeks to:

- Actively promote student success and academic achievement
- Provide clear, accurate, accessible information and guidelines to all staff and students on assessment
- Maximise the potential for consistency and fairness in assessment
- Locate assessment as an integral part of teaching and learning process

All modules are individually assessed through a variety of means, including: performances, recording portfolios, practical exams, paper exams, presentations, essays, reflective commentaries, workbooks and projects.

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Programme Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the programme and that any reasonable adjustment can be agreed in advance.

Work experience/placement opportunities

Being located in London enables you to learn from a staff of leading educators and top professional musicians, who have contributed to the development of a performance-led curriculum in line with the demands of the modern Music Industry. Our London location also offers you the opportunity to interact and network with professional musicians throughout the programme. There are a wide variety of musical activities in which to engage, and opportunities to work in professional settings. There are also numerous informal opportunities for you to work with professional musicians throughout the programme and via the Hub.

The Hub is a team dedicated to providing industry and careers services, which has been designed to support and enhance your learning, and highlight professional opportunities through a wide range of ongoing activities. The Hub provides careers and artist development opportunities from the moment a student enrolls. All of the Hub's career support, information, advice and guidance is underpinned by the ICMP curriculum and specifically tailored to students' needs. This partnership with the Music Industry supports our students' transition from the classroom into their chosen profession.

Project work

The BA (Hons) Creative Music Production has a focus on project work around creating, producing and performing music.

Added value

By studying at the ICMP you will be in a highly creative environment, with many hundreds of other like-minded students. You will find this a highly stimulating, exciting and vibrant environment!

Moreover, as the ICMP is located in London, the heart of the UK music industry, this provides students with unrivalled opportunities to experience and interact with all aspects of the music industry.

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

This is the programme for you if you are interested in...

If you are interested in...

- Making and producing music using computers and technology
- Working in a practical music production setting
- Developing your entrepreneurial skills and managing your own career

If you enjoy...

- Using musical technology
- Being creative
- Collaborating with others

If you want to...

- Develop your technical music production skill
- Develop your music creativity and songwriting
- Develop your music literacy
- Develop the skills needed to organise, perform and promote your own music

Your future career

As well as developing your skills as a creative music producer to a high standard, the programme will also provide you with the opportunity to develop a wide-ranging skill set that will enable you to work in numerous professional areas such as composition, composition for media, events management, and live music promotion. You will also have a sound knowledge of the current business practices that are in operation within the music industry.

Successful graduates would be expected to sustain career progression within the industry and adjunctive disciplines. Typically, these would include employment as a:

- Music producer
- Performing artist
- Commercial arranger / composer (song, film, TV, computer games, library music)
- Music Engineer (live or recorded)
- Postgraduate student
- Music business management
- Music event organiser

How we support you

You are fully supported throughout your programme by professional and experienced personnel from both the ICMP and the University of East London. Member of ICMP staff provide day-to-day advice on a wide range of practical matters, including accommodation, learning resources, library access, career development and general wellbeing. In addition you have access to the extensive support services provided by the University, including advice regarding accommodation, student finance, career development, study skills development, library and learning resources, general counselling and immigration advice, sports and fitness, disability, dyslexia and chaplaincy.

As an ICMP student you are allocated a personal tutor throughout your time of study on the programme.

A wide variety of professional musicians are involved in the delivery of the programme. You learn from an experienced and committed faculty of leading educators and top professional musicians. This ensures that you are able to interact and network with professional musicians and experienced industry practitioners throughout the programme. Importantly, there are a wide variety of musical activities in which to engage, including showcase events and public performance opportunities, and opportunities to work in professional settings.

Bonus factors

There are a wide variety of musical activities in which to engage, and opportunities to work in professional settings. There are also numerous informal opportunities for you to work with professional musicians throughout the programme and via the Hub.

One of the most exciting parts of the student experience at the ICMP is the regularly scheduled programme of masterclasses. The ICMP has a long-standing policy of inviting industry professionals to talk to the student body through these events, providing a unique opportunity for you to learn from external specialists.

Outcomes

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge required to build a sustainable career in the music industry:

The principle aims of the programme are:

1. To develop a student's artistic and creative skillset in the areas of music production, music technology, composition and song creation
2. To provide students with the applied practical skills necessary to work in professional music production settings
3. To develop creativity in a context of analytical, critical and contextual understanding of music and music production
4. To provide students with appropriate business, entrepreneurial and life skills necessary for building and maintaining dynamic and viable career opportunities

What will you learn?

Subject Knowledge & Understanding (Intellectual Skills)

On completion of this programme, you will be able to:

1. Identify and critically evaluate production values in live and recorded music
2. Apply appropriate music, and music technology theory
3. Create a business plan for the promotion and delivery of your music

Thinking Skills

4. Reflect on and evaluate own creative processes
5. Demonstrate the ability to develop ideas and construct arguments in both verbal and written form, and to evaluate such ideas and arguments critically

Subject Specific Skills

On completion of this programme, you will be able to:

6. Create and produce music to a professional standard
7. Compose and arrange a piece of electronic music using MIDI programming techniques

8. Edit, process and manage audio as well as understand essential workflows using industry standard DAW's
9. Manipulate sounds using synthesis techniques
10. Set up and mix a live and studio performance

Skills for Life (general skills)

On completion of this programme, you will be able to:

11. Demonstrate the ability to work independently, and to show self-motivation and critical self-awareness
12. Demonstrate the ability to work in combination with others, and to show skills in teamwork, negotiation, organisation and decision-making

Structure

The programme structure

Introduction

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:

Level 3: Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme

Level 4: Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

Level 5: Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

Level 6: Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

Level 7: Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is 3 years full-time or 5 years part-time.

It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period. A student cannot normally continue study on a programme after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a programme in part time mode is 8 years from first enrolment.

How the teaching year is divided

The teaching year begins in September and ends in June

A typical student, in full-time attendance mode of study, will register for 120 credits in an academic year. A student in a part-time mode of study may register for up to 90 credits in any academic year.

What you will study when

A student registered in a full-time attendance mode will take 120 credits per year. Typically this will be comprised of four 30-credit modules. The exact number may differ if the programme is comprised of 15, 45 or 60 credits modules. An honours degree student will complete modules totalling 120 credits at level four, modules totalling 120 credits at level five and modules totalling 120 credits at level six.

LEVEL	TITLE	CREDITS	STATUS SINGLE
4	Digital Music Production	30	Core
4	Studio Recording & Engineering	30	Core
4	Music Culture, Context & Criticism	30	Core
4	Creative Songwriting	30	Core
5	Advanced Music Production	30	Core
5	Applied Songwriting	30	Core
5	Music Culture, Context & Criticism II	15	Core
5	Marketing and Monetising Your Music	15	Core

5	Creative Live Sound Production	30	Core
6	Music for Multimedia	30	Core
6	The Business of Music Production	30	Core
6	Dissertation	30	Core
6	Professional Project	30	Core

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher and 120 credits at level two or higher

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level one or higher.

Degree Classification

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree by passing a valid combination of modules to comprise an award and has gained the minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 5 or level 6 on the current enrolment for the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 6, the award classification is determined by calculating:

and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimal points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification:

70% - 100%	First Class Honours
60% - 69%	Second Class Honours, First Division
50% - 59%	Second Class Honours, Second Division
40% - 49%	Third Class Honours
0% - 39%	Not passed

The arithmetic mean of the best 90 credits at level 6	x	0.8	+	The arithmetic mean of the next best 90 credits at levels 5 and/or 6	x	0.2
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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and

learning

Knowledge is developed through:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Demonstrations

Thinking skills are developed through:

- Project work
- Seminars
- Workshops

Practical skills are developed through:

- Workshops
- Tutorials

- Demonstrations

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

- Project work
- Lectures
- Seminars

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by:

- Reports
- Workbooks
- Presentations
- Examinations (including viva voce)
- Recordings

Thinking skills are assessed by:

- Essays
- Demonstrations
- Reflective logs

Practical skills are assessed by:

- Recordings
- Performance
- Composition
- Practical examinations

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

- Project Pitches
- Coursework

- Presentation

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before this programme started, the following was checked:

- There would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- Adequate resources would be in place;
- The overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- The content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- The programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- The proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval, which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- External examiner reports (considering quality and standards)
- Statistical information (considering issues such as retention and pass rates)
- Student feedback

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process, which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the Quality Standing Committee.

Once every five years an in-depth periodic review of the entire portfolio of UEL-validated programmes is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.

The external examiner reports for this programme are located on the UEL virtual learning environment (Moodle) on the school notice board under the section entitled 'External Examiner Reports & Responses'. External examiner reports can also be accessed under the Quality Assurance and Enhancement section of ICMP's internal virtual learning environment. You can also view a list of the external examiners for the UEL School by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminersystem/currentexaminers/>

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations (e-survey)
- Course evaluations (e-survey)
- Student representation on programme committees (meeting each semester)
- Academic Programme committee (meeting annually)

- Suggestions box

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- Publishing the minutes of the Student Rep meeting on the student website
- Providing details on the programme notice board

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Annual student satisfaction questionnaire
- Questionnaires to former students

Where to find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site (<http://www.uel.ac.uk>)
- The student handbook (www.icmpstudent.co.uk)
- Module study guides (www.icmpstudent.co.uk)
- UEL Manual of General Regulations <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- UEL Quality Manual <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- Regulations for the Academic Framework <http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/>
- School web pages (www.icmp.co.uk)