

BMus(Hons) Popular Music Performance - course specification

Full Title of the Course & Award	BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance
Mode of Attendance	Full-Time
Length of course	This course is taught as a three-year course at levels 4, 5 and 6.
Start date	2017
Awarding Institution	University of Sussex
Teaching Institution	BIMM Institute London
UCAS Code	W315
Language of Study	English
Final Award	Certificate of Higher Education (exit award only at level 4) Diploma of Higher Education (exit award only at level 5) Bachelor's Degree with Honours
FHEQ Level	120 credits at Level 4 120 credits at Level 5 120 credits at Level 6
Reference Points	QAA Subject Benchmark in Music (2016) FHEQ (2008) QAA Quality Code (2014) QAA Guidance on Programme Specifications (2006) UoS Partnership Procedures (2010-11)
Minimum Period of Registration	3 years
Maximum Period of Registration	6 years
Admissions Criteria	BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance - Level 4 entry Minimum of 2 A-levels at grade C or above (64 UCAS Points), OR BTEC Level 3 equivalent, and five GCSEs at a minimum grade of C/4, including English Language. Overseas students where English is not their native language must meet a minimum English language requirement of IELTS 6.5. We require a minimum of 6.0 to be achieved in each band.
Date of Course Specification Revisions:	Specification: October 2017

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Course Structures

Year 1		
Module Name	Credits	Optionality
Techniques and Styles 1	20	Core
Performance Studies 1	20	Core
Ensemble Skills 1	20	Core
Musicianship	20	Core
Music Technology	20	Core
Music Business	20	Core
Year 2		
Module Name	Credits	Optionality
Techniques and Styles 2	20	Core
Performance Studies 2	30	Core
Ensemble Skills 2	30	Core
Cultural Perspectives	20	Core
Recording, Mixing and Production 1	20	Optional
Composing and Arranging	20	Optional
Performing with Creative Technology	20	Optional
Year 3		
Module Name	Credits	Optionality
Performance Project	40	Core
Performance Studies 3	20	Core
Techniques and Styles 3	20	Core
Professional Development	20	Core
Recording, Mixing and Production 2	20	Optional
Composition for media	20	Optional
Music Teaching Practice	20	Optional
Analytical Perspectives	20	Optional

Each student takes 120 credits each year and will be required to have passed 360 credits to receive the full degree. Students must pass 120 credits each year to progress. The overall degree classification is based on grades achieved in year 2 and year 3.

In years two and three students choose one of the optional modules available.

Timetables

Timetables are made available at enrolment. While every effort is made to make the timetables as student friendly as possible classes could be timetabled any time between 9am-6pm, Monday – Friday (9am -8pm at BIMM London only). Classes may also be at different BIMM buildings depending on tutor and resource availability.

On average, full time students will have around 9-11 class contact hours per week.

Year Structure

Years at BIMM Institute are divided into three 10 week terms. The academic year usually starts late September/early October and runs until the end of June. The resit period is usually in August.

Year 1

Total Graded Assessments	11
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Timing of Graded Assessments	
Term 1	1 Assessments
Term 2	4 Assessments
Term 3	6 Assessments

Module	Mode of assessment	Duration or word length	Submission Week	Weighting
Techniques and Styles 1	Technical Assignment, Stylistic Demonstration and Creative Assignment	20 minutes	27-30 minutes	100%
Performance Studies 1	Performance and reflective statement	5 minutes and 1000 words	Week 20	40%
	Performance	10-12 minutes	Week 30	60%
Ensemble Skills 1	Individual reading assessment	6 minutes	Week 20	30%
	Reading, ensemble arrangement and performance	12 minutes and 8-16 bar score	Week 29-30	70%
Musicianship	Theory & Aural Written Exam 1	60 minutes	Week 19	40%
	Theory & Aural Written Exam 2	80 minutes	Week 30	60%
Music Technology	Song Submission	3 minutes	Week 18	30%
	Song submission and supporting statement	3-5 minutes and 1000 words	Week 29	70%
Music Business	Citation task	500 words	Week 9	10%
	Current Developments Essay	2500 words	Week 25	90%

Total Teaching learning and Assessment	275.5 Hrs
Total Self-Directed Study	918.5 Hrs

Year 2

Total Graded Assessments	9
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Timing of Graded Assessments	
Term 1	0 Assessments
Term 2	4 Assessments
Term 3	5 Assessments

Module	Mode of assessment	Duration or word length	Submission Week	Weighting
Performance Studies 2	Student selected song arrangements	10 minutes	Week 20	40%
	Prescribed song performance	15 minutes	Week 30	60%
Ensemble Skills 2	Time-released & unseen ensemble reading	10 minutes	Week 20	40%
	Musical directed performance	15 minutes	Week 29-30	60%
Techniques and Styles 2	Technical Assignment, Stylistic Demonstration and Creative Assignment	20 minutes	Week 27-30	100%
Cultural Perspectives	Short Essay	1000 words	Week 19	25%
	Long Essay	3500 words	Week 26	75%
Optional Modules – Students choose one of the following				
Recording, Mixing and Production 1	Timed Project	5 minutes	Week 19	30%
	Creative Project	5-7 minutes	Week 29	70%
Composing and Arranging	Arranging Project	32 bars & 500 words	Week 19	30%
	Composing & Arranging Project	5 minutes & 1000 words	Week 29	70%
Performing with Creative Technology	Performance Proposal Audio-visual Presentation	10 minutes	Week 14	20%
	Performance/installation & Critical Commentary	10 minutes and 1500 words	Week 26-30	80%

Total Teaching learning and Assessment	243-254 Hrs
Total Self-Directed Study	940-951 Hrs

Year 3

Total Graded Assessments	7-8
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Timing of Graded Assessments	
Term 1	1 Assessments
Term 2	1-2 Assessments
Term 3	6-7 Assessments

Module	Mode of assessment	Duration or word length	Submission Week	Weighting
Performance Project	Essay, Portfolio & Performance	3000 words and 25-30 minutes	Weeks 27-30	100%
Performance Studies 3	Band Performance 1	10 minutes	Week 10	30%
	Band Performance 2	10 minutes	Week 20	30%
	Band Performance 3	10 minutes	Week 30	40%
Techniques and Styles 3	Technical Assignment, Stylistic Demonstration and Creative Assignment	20 minutes	Week 27-30	100%
Professional Development	Patchwork Text Assessment	3000 words	Week 25	100%
Optional Modules – Students choose one of the following				
Recording, Mixing and Production 2	Remix Submission	3-5 minutes	Week 19	30%
	Mixed and Mastered Audio Artefact	5-7 minutes	Week 29	70%
Composing for Media	Short Composition submission, with score	3 minutes	Week 19	30%
	Composition submission, with score and supporting statement	5-7 minutes & 1000 words	Week 29	70%
Music Teaching Practice	Practical Assessment	30 minutes	Week 22-27	50%
	Teaching Project Portfolio	2500 words	Week 28	50%
Analytical Perspectives	Essay	4000 words	Week 26	100%

Total Teaching learning and Assessment	171-178.5 Hrs
Total Self-Directed Study	1017.5 - 1025 Hrs

*All details above are provided for guidance only but are believed to be accurate at the time of writing. Some figures could be affected by national holidays and exam timetables. If any modules are added or removed from the course before you start you will be informed prior to enrolment. Modifications may be made in line with our [Course Development and Approval Policy](#). Optional modules may not run if the number of students who wish to take the module are too low, in this case you will be contacted and offered alternative modules.

Assessments

Practical Exams

Practical exams ask you to demonstrate a practical skill under exam conditions. These practical skills could include things such as your ability to play your instrument, your ability to perform in an ensemble setting or your ability to produce a recording or operate hardware/software. The skill being tested will depend on the module and course being taken. Many practical assessments also contain a viva voce where the examiner will ask you questions regarding your exam and the related subject area.

Written exams

Many students will be familiar with this type of assessment. Written exams at BIMM are often used for theory and listening modules and are sat under exam conditions. For more details on exam conditions please refer to appendix 2 of [Section 15: BIMM-University of Sussex Undergraduate Academic Regulations](#)

Practical coursework

Practical coursework often asks you to demonstrate a practical skill but, unlike practical exams, you work on the assessment piece in self-directed study time and hand in the final assessment for marking. Examples of this type of assessment include writing a song or mixing a recording.

Multimedia coursework

Multimedia coursework contains a mixture of elements some written and some practical. An example of this type of assessment is creating a 3-page newspaper layout containing text and visual elements. On some courses, you may have to do portfolio assessments which you compile a mixture of audio/visual and written elements together this is usually done using online portfolio software.

Written coursework

Written course work is used in all BIMM courses and can take several forms.

- Research essays – in these assessments you will be expected to conduct research into the chosen topic. This could include secondary research (reading) or primary research (conducting original research such as focus groups/questionnaires etc.). You will then be required to write an essay based on this research, putting forward clear and concise arguments.
- Reflective essays – in these assessments you are required to reflect on your professional practice or development activities and identify areas for improvement. These essays do require you to engage in adequate research which will depend on what the subject of the reflective essay is.

- Dissertation/ Final year project – most courses have a large final year project which is double weighted. This is usually a combination of detailed research and reflective elements. Most courses require you to undertake an active project as the subject of your dissertation and this project is normally agreed with your tutor.
- Blog assessments – these assessments require you to submit regular written tasks normally to an online blog which are then combined to form the final assessment submission. These written tasks contain a mixture of reflective and research elements.
- Patchwork Text Assessments – these assessments are constructed from smaller written tasks given to the student throughout the year. The student then combines these smaller written tasks and submits them along with a final piece of writing that links the tasks together. These written tasks could be research or reflection based.
- Case Study – these assessments require you to research and write about a specific entity or section of the industry related to your course. For example, a case study of a record Label would require you to look at how the company works, what has made them successful etc.

In some cases, an assessment may combine two or more of these types of written work.

Presentations

In these assessments, you will be asked to make a planned presentation to an assessor or panel of assessors. Some presentation assignments ask you to reflect on your practice on the course while others are more academically focused and require you to engage in rigorous research.

Teaching and learning

Teaching

BIMM encourages its staff to employ a wide range of learning and teaching techniques. We provide training for new staff and many of our tutors are qualified teachers as well as industry professionals.

Most lessons will be in classes of 10-25 students however this will depend on the number of students that apply for a course and the resources that are available at the BIMM College you are applying to.

There are some larger lectures for bigger modules which are shared across multiple courses. These classes are delivered in a more traditional university lecture style to large groups of students.

For more detail on the teaching and Learning methods BIMM employs please see our [Learning and Teaching Strategy](#).

Self-directed study

All courses at BIMM have self-directed study hours associated with them. During this time, you are expected to be engaging in appropriate learning activities for your course. This could include practicing your instrument, conducting research, writing assignments and preparing for upcoming classes.

Formative Assessment

BIMM has a number of mechanisms for formative assessment which allow you to gain feedback before the final exam or coursework deadline.

Many modules have formative assignments built into them. In some cases, these are ungraded and are there purely so you can improve your final submission. Some modules use graded formative assessment, in these cases the formative assessment is only worth a small percentage of your final mark.

In-class activities are also used as an opportunity to provide feedback to students. During lessons, there are often opportunities to receive feedback from peers as well as the tutors and some lessons are heavily focused toward providing students who perform or present their work with feedback to help them improve.

Students can also take advantage of BIMM's tutorial system to gain additional feedback. The tutorial system allows you to book 1 to 1 sessions with tutors. You can use these sessions to gain specific feedback on any aspect of your work.

Work based Learning

The BA (hons) Event Management, BA (hons) Music Journalism and BA (hons) Music Business contain modules that require you to undertake work based learning.

During the second year of these courses you are expected to undertake a work experience placement for a minimum of 40 hours.

BIMM offers support in finding placements but students are responsible for arranging this work experience themselves in an area relevant to the course they are studying. If you choose a placement that is not local, you may incur travel costs. Most internships in the music industry are unpaid but you may be able to negotiate the paying of travel expenses.

Staff

BIMM is proud of its long history of employing music industry professionals to teach at all our colleges. We believe that through this practice we provide the best opportunities to our students to learn from tutors who understand their goals and have the knowledge and experience necessary to help make them a reality.

More information can be found regarding our tutors on our [staff page](#).

Unfortunately, BMM cannot guarantee which tutor will be teaching on individual modules as this will depend on tutor availability and when classes are timetabled.

Sometimes tutors are granted leave to engage in industry activities such as going on tour, conducting research or other professional development activities. This is vital to ensure that our tutors can give students the most current information, and share recent experiences, regarding a music industry that is constantly evolving and expanding into new areas.

Whenever a tutor goes on leave, whether it is due to industry activities or unavoidable factors such as illness or maternity leave, BIMM endeavours to ensure that lessons are covered by an industry professional with relevant experience in the subject. Through this practice, we aim to provide high quality learning opportunities throughout your course of study at BIMM.

Language

All qualifications at BIMM are taught and assessed in English

Costs

Tuition fees

Accurate tuition fees information can be found on our [finance page](#).

Proof of Student Loan or other funding body's acceptance of funding for the tuition fees, together with extent of funding provided must be received by BIMM Institute on or before 15th August. If such funding doesn't cover the full cost of your course of study a payment for the outstanding amount must be received by 15th August.

If you do not intend to apply for or are not eligible for a student loan/grant fees must be paid in full by 15th August.

Payment can be paid via debit/credit card at www.bimm.co.uk/pay or via bank transfer.

Any queries related to finance can be directed towards Financeenquiries@bimm.co.uk.

Additional Costs

Students who are thinking of applying to BIMM should read the [Essential Equipment](#) document which outlines what is required to successfully study at BIMM.

Most BIMM Colleges provide a limited number of rehearsal rooms, and free access to rehearsal facilities in local venues, unfortunately these can become fully booked at peak times and, at some colleges, are not available outside BIMM opening hours. Depending on when you want to rehearse and the frequency with which you want to rehearse you may need to pay for private rehearsal space.

Accommodation and Living Costs

Information about accommodation and living cost at each BIMM college can be found on the [Essential Documents](#) page.

Disabled Access

BIMM Berlin

At BIMM Berlin the main teaching building is wheelchair accessible, however, occasionally we may use external spaces for some lessons or events, which may not be accessible. If you require wheelchair access every effort will be made to arrange teaching spaces that are accessible.

BIMM Birmingham

All teaching buildings at BIMM Birmingham are wheelchair accessible.

BIMM Brighton

At BIMM Brighton the majority of teaching buildings are wheelchair accessible. However, our BIMM East building is currently not wheelchair accessible, this mainly affects Music Production courses. If you require wheelchair access every effort will be made to arrange different rooms that are accessible.

BIMM Bristol

All teaching buildings at BIMM Bristol are Wheelchair accessible, however some class rooms are not accessible, students who wish to study either Professional Musicianship (Drums) or Music Production are advised to apply to a different BIMM college if they require wheelchair access.

BIMM London

The main teaching building at BIMM London is wheelchair accessible. Our smaller second building offers full access to the student café – however, a small number of tutorial and lecture rooms are not wheelchair accessible. If you require wheelchair access every effort will be made to arrange different rooms that are accessible.

BIMM Manchester

All teaching buildings at BIMM Manchester are wheelchair accessible

For more information and details of how to apply for support please see our student disability guides (<http://www.bimm.co.uk/student-disability-guides/>)

