



Joint Courses

In addition to our own courses, we also run several courses in collaboration with our partner faculties at the University and South Birmingham College.

Higher National Diploma (HND)

Popular Music Studies

in collaboration with South Birmingham College

Offered by South Birmingham College (SBC) in partnership with the Conservatoire, this largely practical course is designed to equip you with the technical and vocational skills required for employment in a wide variety of roles within the music industry. You'll be taught in SBC's purpose-built facility, which includes a 440-seat auditorium, five recording studios and four music technology suites. You'll also get the chance to work with current music industry professionals and possibly undertake a relevant commercial placement.

Much of your work will be geared towards the development of professional products, such as performances, tours, CD production or radio shows. The course will help you to develop your own professional profile and explore your individual artistic identity. You'll also collaborate with others and explore all aspects of the contemporary music industry.

There are three course pathways: Performance; Production and Composition. In Year 1 you will choose two of the three pathways. This will enable you to understand other areas of the discipline and to develop new skills, and also reflects the reality of the commercial music industry where practitioners may undertake a variety of roles. In Year 2 you will specialise in one area and develop more advanced skills. Much of the work in the final year is self-directed and always takes place in professional-standard environments.

Duration

FT: 2 years

Applications

UCAS:

Institution Code S29

Course Code: 043W

Fees

Please contact SBC for information

Entry Requirements

You must be at least 18 years old on entry and have one of the following relevant qualifications:

- ⊙ 80 tariff points
- ⊙ One A2 plus other appropriate qualification
- ⊙ GNVQ Advanced with Merit
- ⊙ BTEC National Diploma in a relevant subject
- ⊙ Scottish Certificate of Education at the Higher Grade with at least 3 passes at grade C
- ⊙ A professional qualification of an appropriate standard
- ⊙ A pass in a recognised Access course
- ⊙ A portfolio of creative work
- ⊙ Equivalent qualifications or experience

All applicants will be auditioned/interviewed.

Where successful applicants demonstrate a lack of music academic skills, musicianship support classes will be offered.

Skills equivalent to ABRSM Grade 5 will be required for progression to degree level study.

Mature students lacking formal academic qualifications will be offered essay-writing/research support classes.

Further Details

Maighread Hegarty

South Birmingham College

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BSc (Hons) Music Technology

jointly delivered with the Technology Innovation Centre

The BSc (Hons) Music Technology is the most technically-oriented of the courses available to students who wish to pursue music technology. For an explanation of the different music technology options, please see p67.

The BSc (Hons) Music Technology draws upon a wide range of academic disciplines including technology, sound recording, music studies and business. As a result, you will experience many different types of learning environments: laboratory experiments, practical workshops, computer sessions, studio work, seminar groups and project management. To prepare you to work in a dynamic creative industry sector, the course focuses on developing your creative abilities in tandem with your practical skills in music production, utilising professional hardware and software systems.

Music technology is a growing field and the potential areas for employment are expanding all the time. Popular areas include:

- ⊙ Recording (mixing, production, programming; mastering and duplication)
- ⊙ Broadcasting (mixing, postproduction, sound editing)
- ⊙ Film (location recording; dubbing; foley; post-production)
- ⊙ Live Sound (mixing, public address, audio-visual presentation)
- ⊙ Journalism (music/music technology journals)
- ⊙ Education (music technology teaching)
- ⊙ Manufacturing (product development, demonstrations, sales and marketing).

As part of your studies, you will have the opportunity to complete an industry placement. In addition to helping you to determine where your talents and interests lie, your placement will develop your experience, confidence and adaptability – qualities that will contribute to achieving your career aspirations.

The BSc (Hons) Music Technology is run jointly by the University's Technology Innovation Centre (tic) and the Conservatoire; you will study in both faculties. Located at Birmingham's Millennium Point, the Technology Innovation Centre offers state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities related to media and television technology. Within the Conservatoire, you will have access to extensive facilities including performance venues and well-equipped, purpose-built recording studios, computer-based workstations, and networks for audio transfer. Apart from this, one of the real benefits of the course is the fact that you will be studying alongside and working with some of the nation's most talented young performers (see p88).

Though weighted in favour of appraisal through coursework, the course is assessed in a variety of ways: formal examinations, essays and business reports, laboratory reports and log books, practical exercises involving the use of studio equipment, case studies, investigatory reports, folios of recordings or other creative audio work and presentations.

Duration

FT: 3 years

Sandwich: 4 years, including 1 year placement

Applications

UCAS:

Institution Code C25

Course Code W350

Fees

2008 fees TBC

2007 UK/EU: £3070; Overseas: £8500

Entry Requirements

You should have one of the following:

- ⊙ Two GCE A Levels (typically 220-240 points).
In addition, applicants should have five GCSEs including Mathematics Grade C or higher.
- ⊙ BTEC National Certificate/Diploma in Music Technology, providing a significant proportion of subjects have been passed at merit standard. Mathematics must be offered to GCSE Grade C or higher.
- ⊙ A merit in the GNVQ (Advanced) with 8 mandatory modules, 4 optional and core modules (IT, communication and Application of Number). Mathematics to GCSE Grade C or equivalent.

Applicants should demonstrate a strong technical aptitude together with a significant knowledge of music.

Equivalent qualifications to those listed above (e.g. overseas equivalents) are welcome. Please contact TIC for further details.

English Language Requirements

IELTS: 6.0 / TOEFL: 550

See p19 for further details

Further Details

TIC Course Enquiries

T: 0121 331 6400

E: course.enquiries@tic.ac.uk

W: www.tic.ac.uk



PgDip Musical Theatre (Pending Validation)

jointly delivered with Birmingham School of Acting

This intensive new course draws on the considerable and complementary strengths of both Birmingham School of Acting and Birmingham Conservatoire and is the Midlands' first bespoke postgraduate Musical Theatre programme. Aimed at professionals wishing to refocus their careers, as well as music and/or drama graduates, it offers one year of full-time specialised training.

This course combines the technical demands of music college with the equally rigorous demands of acting school in order to teach you how to act confidently through song. With only 14 places available, the course is one of the smallest of its kind, ensuring you will receive an appropriate amount of individual attention, as well as excellent performance opportunities throughout the duration of your study.

You will develop professional skills in five major areas, all of which are essential to musical theatre performance. Your vocal training will encompass **Voice**, as part of which you will cover the practical use of your voice on stage, accents, text and language; and Singing. In addition to critical analysis and performance practices, **Singing** includes individual technique lessons, ensemble singing, individual coaching and musicianship. You will also benefit from masterclasses with leading directors and actors, and regular visits from leading

ENT specialists and Osteopaths. **Acting** classes cover not only acting through song, but texts and improvisation as well; whereas **Movement** looks at dance (jazz and tap) and movement for actors. Your fifth area of study, **Professional Studies**, focuses on the skills necessary to succeed as a freelance artist, including the preparation of a CV and headshot. As well as attending professional development seminars and business planning workshops, you will have the chance to interact with West End casting directors and agents.

Fifty per cent of your total mark will be based on your performances throughout the year, building towards full-production-value public performances: Cabaret and 'Scenes into song' performances in BSA's flexible 'blackbox' the Patricia Yardley Studio; a full-length musical and a separate staged scenes performance at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre; professional Showcases in London and Birmingham; and a Big Band concert at Birmingham Conservatoire. Focusing on your individual development, you will also be assessed on all skills: singing, acting, voice and movement; forming just under 40 per cent of your total mark. The remaining 10 per cent is based on your ability to demonstrate independent thinking about musical theatre performance practices alongside your role as a performer today.

Duration
FT: 1 year

Applications
Direct to BSA
See p135

Fees
2008 fees TBC

Entry Requirements

- ⊙ You should be a strong singer and actor.
- ⊙ You will normally possess a first degree (preferably in acting or singing), performance diploma or equivalent qualification.
- ⊙ Students who do not meet the above requirements, but who possess an appropriate level of performance skills and professional experience will also be considered.
- ⊙ All candidates will be auditioned.

English Language Requirements
IELTS: 6.0 / TOEFL: 550
See p19 for further details

Audition Requirements

- ⊙ 3 contrasting songs
- ⊙ 2 contrasting speeches
- ⊙ movement and improvisation workshops
- ⊙ musicianship test
- ⊙ informal interview with core teaching staff

Further Details

Rachel Jennings
Birmingham School of Acting
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E: rachel.jennings@uce.ac.uk
W: www.bsa.uce.ac.uk



MA Digital Arts in Performance

jointly delivered with Birmingham Institute of Art and Design

This new programme aims to support students from art, music or performing arts backgrounds in enhancing their creative practice through digital technology and broadening their technical skills. Your study will be split between BIAD's Visualisation Research Unit and the Conservatoire's Centre for Composition and Performance using Technology (see p70), allowing you to access state-of-the-art facilities and expert tutors in a variety of new technologies such as motion capture, HD video, gesture control of sound and visuals, multi-touch interfaces and distributed computing. (For a complete listing of our facilities, see p25 or visit www.conservatoire.uce.ac.uk/about/facilities or www.biad.uce.ac.uk/vru)

This course is situated at the intersection of the arts, science and technology. You will be encouraged to explore the resulting opportunities and experiment with new practices. This programme will prepare you to work in emerging areas of the cultural industries, including content generation, installation art, composition and technology-based art projects. It is oriented towards people preparing for freelance careers in digital arts and the creative application of digital technology, including research, professional performance and technology development.

There are four main elements to your study:

- ⦿ Theory: how do digital technologies affect our concept and delivery of artistic works
 - ⦿ Programming: how things work behind the scenes
 - ⦿ Content management: how visual, audio and other elements can be included in your project
 - ⦿ Interface: how the audience accesses your work
- There is an emphasis on giving you the skills to create works that can achieve a degree of persistence within the context of an ever-changing technological landscape.

The programme is strongly focused on practical work with digital technology, with an emphasis on experiences created in real time. To cater for students whose practice straddles the border of visual and sonic arts, and to encourage the combining of these practices through collaboration as well as individual work, it is envisaged that creative outcomes may be aural, visual, performance-oriented (in real or virtual spaces) or a combination of these.

Emphasis is placed on producing live experiences through applying digital technologies and you will be involved in the development of interactive environments and time-based applications of technology for performance/ installation. The early part of the programme focuses on developing collaborative projects and enhancing and expanding your technological skills. During the middle section of the programme you will begin work on your major project and experiment with different applications of technology in the arts, ranging from improvisation to installation practices, from the concert hall to the art gallery or dance studio. During the final stage of your study, you will complete your major project combining your expressive ideas with your understanding of technology through performance. There are also optional modules drawn from Art and the Conservatoire to augment your studies on the programme.

You will be encouraged to take a research-based line throughout the programme and you may find that this takes you logically forward to MPhil/PhD study in our unique research environment (see p118).

Duration

FT: 1 year
PT: 2 years

Applications

Direct to BIAD
See p135

Fees

2008 fees TBC
2007 UK/EU: £4000 (FT), £2000 (PT);
Overseas: £8500 (FT)

Entry Requirements

- ⊙ Honours degree or postgraduate diploma in a relevant subject, or equivalent professional qualification / experience.
- ⊙ You should be able to demonstrate some knowledge of technological applications in your area of creative practice and some experience of creating work with digital technology.

English Language Requirements

IELTS: 6.5 / TOEFL: 575
See p19 for further details

Further Details

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Visualisation Research Unit
BIAD

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Kevin Lee

PgDip, bassoon

*Studies with: Meyrick Alexander, Nicholas Hunka,
Margaret Cookhorn (contrabassoon)*



Since I was a child it has been my dream to go to music college to study the bassoon, so I'm very happy to be fulfilling that dream at the Conservatoire. I've learned a lot from my teachers this year – they are very helpful, friendly and always encouraging and, because of that, my skill and technique are developing very well here. Through rehearsing and performing with the Symphony Orchestra and other ensembles, I have made a lot of friends, especially in the Woodwind Department, all of whom are very nice and friendly

(like a family). I never feel that there is too much competition between students, it just feels like we work as a team. The Woodwind Department always has different kinds of workshops and masterclasses, which are led by many high-level professional players from different countries, such as Carlo Colombo. I have had the chance to learn different styles and techniques from them. The student life within the Conservatoire is absolutely fantastic; I am very much enjoying it and pleased to be here.

