

New Programme Academic Case (Programme Spec)

Notes

- The Academic Case will be developed by programme team, with advice from QSS and TEA.
- Programme teams will submit the documentation to the Head of School and Associate Dean Education via the Quality Support Service, who will provide feedback/guidance and ensure the programme is ready for the Academic Approvals Panel.
- The completed Academic Case will be scrutinised by an Academic Approvals Panel, who will make a recommendation to Education Committee.
- Programme design must be informed by the Programmes Checklist on the New Programmes Approval Form and associated guidance from TEA/QSS.

1. Programme Overview

1.1 Programme information

Partner Institution	Leeds Conservatoire
Location of Delivery	Leeds Conservatoire, 3 Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7PD
Programme titles and awards	BA (Hons) Jazz BA (Hons) Jazz with Foundation Year
Faculty & code	Faculty of Arts, Cultures and Education (UoH)
Academic unit (& code)	School of Arts (UoH)
Owning subject group (& code)	School of Music and Education (Leeds Conservatoire)
Type of programme	Validated
Mode and duration of study	BA (Hons) Jazz - 3 Years BA (Hons) Jazz with Foundation Year – 4 Years
Method of delivery	Blended
Semesters	Semester 1 – S1, A Semester 2 – S2, A
End of level and exit awards	Level 3 – Foundation Certificate Level 4 – Certificate of Higher Education Level 5 – Diploma of Higher Education, Level 6 - BA(Ordinary), BA Hons.

Entry requirements	4 years FT for courses with Foundation Year UCAS TARIFF 64 POINTS 3 Years FT for courses without Foundation Year. UCAS TARIFF 96 POINTS Applicants should also have achieved a minimum of three GCSEs at Grade C/4 or above. UCAS tariff points from music graded exams are also accepted (highest achieved per instrument (grade 6 and above), awarded by ABRSM, London College of Music, Trinity College, Rock School). All applicants will be required to either attend an interview. Please see https://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/audition for up to date details of our audition process. For UK applicants this is GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature at grade C/4. Equivalent qualifications, such as Functional Skills English Level 2 or National 5 English grade C, will also be accepted. For applicants that require a Student Visa to study in the UK, the standard requirement is IELTS 6.0 with no sub-test less than 5.5. We offer pre-sessional English courses to improve your academic English language level and help you prepare for study in the UK. You will be able to use a pre-sessional to meet the English language requirement for your course. * The entry requirements for a programme will be detailed in your offer. If you meet these conditions, you are guaranteed a place on the programme.
Fee	£9535 annual tuition fee
Additional course costs	In programmes where students are developing the learning on a specific instrument we would expect the student to have access to this instrument consistently for teaching and practice. Provision is available at the conservatoire for instrumental support, but students may wish to purchase an instrument for their personal use.

UCAS/HECOS codes	UCAS: F03F BA (Hons) Jazz W37F BA (Hons) Jazz with Foundation Year Applications are made through UCAS Conservatoires and UCAS HECOS: 100843
ATAS requirements	N/A
Accrediting body/bodies and date of application/approval	

1.2 Programme outline

The BA (Hons) Jazz Studies programme provides a comprehensive education in jazz performance, composition, history, and theory, equipping you with the skills needed for a vibrant career in today's music scene. You'll balance rigorous instrumental and ensemble training with academic study, improvisation, and hands-on technological applications in jazz, while exploring a range of styles—from traditional roots to contemporary innovations—and global musical traditions.

Industry exposure is encouraged through extra-curricular opportunities and student-led initiatives. The programme stands out with cross-arts projects, developing recording techniques and global music traditions, which merge improvisation with interdisciplinary creative collaboration. These projects add freshness to common performance practices.

Additionally, modules that include entrepreneurship, music business, prepare you for diverse roles as a performer, educator, composer, or industry professional. The programme also promotes inclusivity and celebrates diverse jazz traditions by engaging with themes of social justice, identity, and cultural heritage, ensuring that jazz remains vibrant and relevant.

1.3 Approvals Timeline

A timeline for approvals is outlined in section 7.1 of the Business Case. Relevant dates are as shown below:

Date of Business Case Approval: n/a

Expected Date of Academic Approvals Panel: (via CPC meeting on 8 May 2025)

Expected Date for Full Approval: (via Education Committee) 20 May 2025

Expected Start Date: September 2026

Expiry of Development Consent: n/a

2. Programme Competencies/Learning Outcomes

Appendix 1 Shows the Programme Learning Outcomes mapped against the QAA Music Benchmark Statements (2025) that are relevant to the BA (Hons) Jazz with Foundation Year and BA (Hons) Jazz programmes.

3. Programme Design

3.1 Relevant external resources used in the design of the programme

Overview of Jazz Programme Design

The design of the jazz programme is informed by the QAA Subject Benchmark Statements and consultations with students, employers, stakeholders, and service users. The programme aims to develop comprehensive musicianship, technical proficiency, and professional competencies while fostering creativity and an understanding of the historical, cultural, and social dimensions of jazz.

Consultation Outcomes and Rationale for Programme Design

Consultations with students indicated a strong demand for a curriculum that balances practical performance skills with theoretical knowledge, ensuring graduates are versatile musicians capable of adapting to different musical settings. Employers emphasised the need for strong improvisational skills, ensemble collaboration, and technological proficiency, aligning with B1, B4, and B5. Stakeholders, including industry professionals and educators, highlighted the importance of historical and cultural awareness in jazz education, which supports A2 and A3.

Feedback from service users, such as audiences and community organisations, stressed the role of jazz as a dynamic and evolving art form that should engage with contemporary issues. This aligns with the need for graduates to demonstrate critical self-awareness (C2), professional adaptability (C5), and effective communication of musical ideas (C9).

Alignment with Benchmark Statements

1. Knowledge and Understanding (A1–A6)

The programme ensures students develop a strong grasp of jazz-specific musical materials, texts, and discourses (A1). Courses in jazz history and culture provide insights into its socio-cultural and historical contexts (A2). The interdisciplinary nature of jazz is explored through modules connecting music with philosophy, literature, and social sciences (A3). Analytical skills are honed through transcription and performance analysis (A4). The integration of theory and practice is emphasised, particularly in composition, arrangement, and improvisation (A5). The role of technology in jazz is covered through digital recording, live sound, and electronic music applications (A6).

2. **Technical Skills (B1–B5)**

Practical performance modules focus on developing individual expression and technical mastery (B1). Courses on jazz harmony, rhythm, and improvisation equip students with a deep understanding of musical language (B2). Ensemble work enhances students' ability to recognise and respond to musical structures dynamically (B3). Group projects and ensemble performances foster collaboration (B4). Technological training in music production, recording, and live sound ensures students are proficient with modern industry tools (B5).

3. **Professional Skills (C1–C9)**

Independent research skills are cultivated through coursework and final-year projects (C1). The programme encourages self-directed learning and reflective practice (C2). Group-based assignments and collaborative performances develop teamwork skills (C3). Project management and scheduling are integral to the curriculum (C4). Students gain exposure to diverse professional contexts through industry placements and networking events (C5). Presentation and communication skills are refined through public performances and written assignments (C6). Legal and ethical aspects of the music industry are embedded in professional development modules (C8).

Conclusion

By integrating the feedback from various stakeholders with the benchmark statements, the jazz programme provides a well-rounded education that prepares graduates for diverse careers in performance, composition, education, and production. The emphasis on historical context, improvisation, collaboration, and technology ensures that students graduate as adaptable and innovative musicians, ready to contribute to the evolving jazz landscape.

3.2 Exemptions from the Academic Framework or Quality and Standards Framework

Exemptions from the Academic framework or Quality and Standards Framework currently held by Leeds Conservatoire are held on the collaborative provision University of Hull Microsoft Team's site.

There is an exemption to the rule that states that there is 20 days for 1st and 2nd markers to mark the assessments for a module. This does not apply to Leeds Conservatoire undergraduate courses due to the part time nature of the majority of the staff involved in the assessment process and the number of student assessments they are involved in.

There is also an exemption relating to anonymous marking. Leeds Conservatoire courses are not anonymously marked due to the performance aspect of the majority of the assessments which require markers to be present.

3.3. Module Structure and Rationale

*Give a **visual** overview of the structure of the programme and provide a description (500 words) of the programme indicating e.g. links between modules, how modules build on one another, and any pathways through the programme.*

Please see Appendix 2 for a visual overview of the Mapping of Modules to the Programme Outcomes

Please see Appendix 4 for the Module Overview.

The BA (Hons) Jazz Studies programme is a vibrant, performance-led course designed to turn passionate jazz students into accomplished practitioners. At its core, the programme is built around the jazz performance modules, ensuring that students develop outstanding instrumental or vocal skills as the foundation of their musical journey. From day one, students are immersed in an environment that nurtures live performance, technical mastery, and creative expression.

The heart of the course is the performance stream. In the early stages (Levels 4 and 5), students work intensively on their instrument or voice, mastering not only technique but also the art of improvisation and ensemble playing. Through regular recitals, live projects, and ensemble workshops, they learn to express their unique artistic voice. These performance modules set the standard for excellence, with every other element of the curriculum designed to support and enhance this central focus.

Complementing the performance modules is the Jazz Language strand, which runs throughout the programme. This strand provides the academic and practical tools needed to understand and apply jazz vocabulary. In Semester 1, students engage in transcription exercises, analytical workshops, and composition tasks that build a solid grounding in the language of jazz. By Semester 2, they're translating this knowledge into more advanced projects such as contrafact composition and instrument-specific transcription performances, further deepening their understanding of jazz structure and stylistic nuance.

The Global Jazz Traditions modules add another exciting layer to the programme. These mini-projects take students on a musical journey around the world. In Semester 1, for instance, the focus is on African traditions, where students explore West African rhythms, polyrhythmic structures, and call-and-response patterns that have significantly influenced jazz. Later projects delve into Latin American, South Asian, and Arabic/Eastern European traditions. This global perspective not only enriches their musical palette but also encourages a creative synthesis between diverse cultural influences and their personal performance style.

At Level 6, the course moves into the professional realm. Here, innovative projects such as the Jazz Recording Project and Jazz Innovations push students to apply their skills in real-world contexts. Whether it's producing a high-quality audio recording, creating a dynamic video project, or developing interdisciplinary collaborations, these modules are designed to prepare students for the complexities of a modern music career. They learn not only to perform but to package their performance into a compelling professional portfolio.

In addition to performance and technical modules, the programme offers classes that include entrepreneurship, music business, and digital media. These modules address regional skills

needs and provide invaluable insights into the commercial aspects of the music industry. They help students understand branding, project management, and the economics of a career in jazz, ensuring that graduates are as savvy in the boardroom as they are on stage.

Overall, the BA (Hons) Jazz Studies programme is a well-rounded, performance-centric journey that equips students with both the artistic excellence and the professional skills needed to succeed. By integrating intensive performance training with supportive academic and practical modules, the programme ensures that every graduate leaves with a robust, dynamic portfolio—ready to make a mark on the world of contemporary jazz.

Jazz Performance 1 (20 credits) (4 hours 45mins)	Jazz Performance 2 (20 credits) (4 hours 45mins)	Jazz Performance 3 (20 credits) (3 hours 45mins)	Jazz Performance 4 (20 credits) (3 hours 45mins)	Jazz Performance 5 (40 credits) (4 hours)	
Instrument Specific Session	Instrument Specific Session	Instrument Specific Session	Instrument Specific Session	Instrument Specific Session Performance in Context Music Business	
Ensemble Skills 1 (practical group session)	Ensemble Skills 2 (practical group session)	Ensemble Skills 3 (practical group session)	Ensemble Skills 4 (practical group session)		
Performance in Context (Practical Seminar)	Performance in Context (Practical Seminar)	Performance in Context (Practical Seminar)	Performance in Context (Practical Seminar)		
Reflective Practice 1 (lecture)	Reflective Practice 2 (lecture)				
Jazz Language 1 (20 credits) (3 hours)	Jazz Language 2 (20 credits) (3 hours)	Jazz Language 3 (20 credits) (3 hours)	Jazz Language 4 (20 credits) (3 hours)	Jazz Production & Recording: Audio (20 credits) (3 hours)	Jazz Production & Recording: Visual (20 credits) (3 hours)
Jazz Vocabulary 1 (medium groups)	Jazz Vocabulary 2 (medium groups) Nadim	Jazz Vocabulary 3 (medium groups)	Jazz Vocabulary 4 (medium groups)	Recording Performance 1 (medium group)	Recording Performance 2 (medium group)

Composition 1 (lecture)	Composition 2 (lecture) Steve	Composition 3 (lecture) – nonet assessment	Composition 4 (lecture) – Big Band assessment	Production Skills 1 (medium group)	Production Skills 2 (medium group)
Practical Musicianship 1 (1hr medium group)	Practical Musicianship 2 (1hr medium group)	Practical Musicianship 3 (1hr medium group)	Practical Musicianship 4 (1hr medium group)		
HOJ & African Music (20 credits) (2 hours)	HOJ & Central/South American Music (20 credits) (2 hours)	HOJ & South Asian Music (20 credits) (2 hours)	HOJ & Arabic/Eastern European Music (20 credits) (2 hours)	Jazz Innovations 1 (20 credits) (3 hours)	Jazz Innovations 2 (20 credits) (3 hours)
Jazz History 1 (lecture)	Jazz History 2 (lecture)	Jazz History 3 (lecture)	Jazz History 4 (lecture)	Extended Improvisation 1 (medium group)	Extended Improvisation 2 (medium group)
Intercultural Music 1 (medium group)	Intercultural Music 2 (medium group)	Intercultural Music 3 (medium group)	Intercultural Music 4 (medium group)	Jazz across the arts 1 (medium group)	Jazz across the arts 2 (medium group)

3.4. Assessment Journey

Please see Appendix 5: Assessment Structure, for a visual representation of the between module and stage of the programme design.

Assessment types and tasks all have real-world relevance and are undertaken in both individual and group contexts. Their design is intended to support the development of professionalism, collaboration and enquiry. For example, practical music performance assessments assess the application of technique, artistry, expression and audience engagement. Our practical assessment panels, especially at higher levels, include distinguished external professional musicians, who bring to the assessment process experience of the professional world outside the Conservatoire, and provide students with platforms to present their work to a wider audience.

Assessment will promote dialogue between teachers and learners that facilitates reflective learning. There will be a good understanding and clear communication of the criteria at all stages of assessment, and timely and effective feedback, both formal and informal, that is supportive, that enables development, and that is useful in the next stage of learning.

The programme consists of 360 credits, with 120 credits allocated to each stage (Levels 3, 4, 5, and 6). Most modules have a value of 20 credits and are completed within a single semester,

allowing students to accumulate credits progressively. This structure reflects the practice-driven nature of the programme, ensuring engagement with contextual studies while developing practical skills and industry knowledge.

Jazz Performance modules will be assessed by performance and practical and professional skills are assessed through performance, composition, group work, technical exercise and presentation.

3.5 Employment and Further Study Opportunities

Jazz students will have the opportunity to progress to our postgraduate provision, the MA Jazz and MA Composition provide coherent progression route from the BA programme. Our postgraduate provision is marketed to undergraduate students and discounted tuition fee rates are available for progressing undergraduates.

Many of our students go on to portfolio careers; the employability skills embedded in the curriculum provide students with skills in business, marketing, teaching and community engagement. Alumni careers include songwriting, live and session performance; music production; composition for film, tv, games and advertising; teaching and community music.

4. Appendices

4.1 Appendix 1: Programme Learning Outcomes Map

Programme outcomes mapped to Music Benchmark Statements for BA (Hons) Jazz with Foundation Year and BA (Hons) Jazz																					
	Programme and Programme outcomes	Benchmark statements																			
Programme Outcome Reference	BA (Hons) Jazz with Foundation Year and BA (Hons) Jazz	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9
PO1	Demonstrate a broad knowledge of jazz music, including a detailed understanding of appropriate repertoires, texts, and technologies. Show familiarity with relevant concepts and issues within the genre, including its interdisciplinary nature.	x				x	x		x			x	x					x			x
PO2	Demonstrate an understanding of the components and structures of jazz music and the jazz, with an awareness of its multidisciplinary and collaborative nature.	x	x	x				x			x	x			x			x		x	
PO3	Relate jazz music to wider contexts and critically evaluate historic and current debates, including historical, philosophical, cultural, technological, and social practices and issues.	x	x		x	x			x	x		x	x				x			x	

PO4	Demonstrate the ability to recognise and analyse essential components of jazz language by ear or from a written score, and notate them where appropriate.	x			x	x			x			x		x							
PO5	Demonstrate and apply technical control and physical requirements of key disciplines	x						x	x	x				x					x		
PO6	Demonstrate the ability to practically realise notated music and, where appropriate, memorise musical materials.	x				x		x	x	x				x					x		
PO7	Demonstrate the artistic, expressive, technical, and interpretive skills necessary to capture and communicate jazz music convincingly to an audience, employing personal expression, imagination, and creativity in practical music-making.				x	x	x	x		x	x				x	x	x	x			x
PO8	Demonstrate the ability to collaboratively realise jazz music in practice, effectively presenting key musical materials to an audience and/or capturing them through audio or video recording.	x	x			x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x
PO9	Demonstrate the ability to collaborate effectively with other musicians/art forms, working in an improvised setting or integrating jazz music with visual			x		x	x		x	x	x				x	x		x			x

	arts, dance, theatre, and other creative disciplines to develop and present cohesive, interdisciplinary projects.																			
--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4.2 Appendix 2: Curriculum Map

Modules mapped to Programme Outcomes for BA (Hons) Jazz with Foundation Year and BA (Hons) Jazz												
				Programme Outcome								
Level	Credits	Module Name	Assessment Method (e.g. exam, essay, presentation)	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6	PO7	PO8	PO9
		Level 3 Foundation stage										
		Semester 1										
3	20	Musicology and Composition	Small Ensemble Composition and Recording	x				x		x	x	
3	20	JAT (Jazz Aural and Theory) Essential Principles	Exam	x			x		x			
3	20	Introduction to Jazz Performance 1	Essay/Performance Video		x					X	X	X
		Semester 2										
3	20	History and Repertoire	Essay	x		x						
3	20	JAT (Jazz Aural and Theory) Structural Analysis	Essay with transcription			x	x		x			
3	20	Introduction to Jazz Performance 2	Performance Video		x			x		x	x	x
		Level 4 Certificate stage										
		Semester 1										
4	20	Jazz Performance 1	(Mid semester assessment) Essay / (End of semester assessment) Performance Portfolio	x				x			x	x
4	20	Jazz Language 1	Portfolio		x	x			x		x	x

4	20	HOJ and African Music	Essay/Portfolio	x	x	x				x		
		Semster 2										
4	20	Jazz Performance 2	Performance Portfolio/VLOG	x	x		x			x		
4	20	Jazz Language 2	Composition/Transcription Performance Portfolio			x	x	x	x			
4	20	HOJ & Central/South American Music	(Mid semester assessment) VLOG / (End of semester assessment) Portfolio	x	x	x						
		Level 5 Diploma Stage										
		Semester 1										
5	20	Jazz Performance 3	Performance Portfolio			x		x		x		
5	20	Jazz Language 3	Portfolio		x		x		x		x	
5	20	HOJ & South Asian Music	(Mid semester assessment) Essay / (End of semester assessment) Portfolio	x	x		x					x
		Semster 2										
5	20	Jazz Performance 4	Performance Portfolio			x		x	x	x		
5	20	Jazz Language 4	Portfolio		x				x			x
5	20	HOJ & Arabic/Eastern European Music	Essay/Portfolio	x		x				x	x	x
		Level 6 Honours Stage										
		Semester 1										
6	40	Jazz Performance 5 (Sem 1&2)	Live Performance				x	x			x	
6	20	Jazz Production & Recording: Audio	Recording/Reflective Commentary	x					x	x		
6	20	Jazz Innovations 1	Live Performance/Presentation		x	x			x	x		x
		Semster 2										
6	20	Jazz Production & Recording: Visual	Video/Reflective Commentary	x	x	x		x				
6	20	Jazz Innovations 2	Live Performance				x				x	x

4.4 Appendix 4: Module Structure

Module Structure for BA (Hons) Jazz with Foundation Year and BA (Hons) Jazz						
	Semester 1			Semester 2		
Level 3	Musicology and Composition (20 Credits)	JAT (Jazz Aural and Theory) Essential Principles (20 Credits)	Introduction to Jazz Performance 1 (20 Credits)	History and Repertoire (20 Credits)	JAT (Jazz Aural and Theory) Structural Analysis (20 Credits)	Introduction to Jazz Performance 2 (20 Credits)
Level 4	Jazz Performance 1 (20 Credits)	Jazz Language 1 (20 Credits)	HOJ and African Music (20 Credits)	Jazz Performance 2 (20 Credits)	Jazz Language 2 (20 Credits)	HOJ & Central/South American Music (20 Credits)
Level 5	Jazz Performance 3 (20 Credits)	Jazz Language 3 (20 Credits)	HOJ & South Asian Music (20 Credits)	Jazz Performance 4 (20 Credits)	Jazz Language 4 (20 Credits)	HOJ & Arabic/Eastern European Music (20 Credits)
Level 6	Jazz Innovations 1 (20 Credits)	Jazz Production & Recording: Audio (20 Credits)	Jazz Performance 5 (40 Credits)		Jazz Production & Recording: Visual	Jazz Innovations 2 (20 Credits)

4.5 Appendix 5: Assessment Structure

Assessment Structure for BA (Hons) Jazz with Foundation Year and BA (Hons) Jazz						
	Semester 1			Semester 2		
Level 3	Musicology and Composition (20 Credits) Small Ensemble Composition and Recording	JAT (Jazz Aural and Theory) Essential Principles (20 Credits) Theory and Aural test	Introduction to Jazz Performance 1 (20 Credits) Reflection /Performance Video	History and Repertoire (20 Credits) Essay	JAT (Jazz Aural and Theory) Structural Analysis (20 Credits) Essay with Transcription	Introduction to Jazz Performance 2 (20 Credits) Performance Video
Level 4	Jazz Performance 1 (20 Credits) (essay/performance/recording)	Jazz Language 1 (20 Credits) Portfolio (Composition/Performance)	HOJ and African Music (20 Credits) Essay/Performance	Jazz Performance 2 (20 Credits) Portfolio (performance/vlog)	Jazz Language 2 (20 Credits) Portfolio (Composition/Performance)	HOJ & Central/South American Music (20 Credits) Presentation and Performance

Level 5	Jazz Performance 3 (20 Credits) Portfolio (Performance/recording)	Jazz Language 3 (20 Credits) Portfolio (composition/performance)	HOJ & South Asian Music (20 Credits) Essay/Performance	Jazz Performance 4 (20 Credits)	Jazz Language 4 (20 Credits) Portfolio (composition/performance)	HOJ & Arabic/Eastern European Music (20 Credits) Essay/Performance
Level 6	Jazz Innovations 1 (20 Credits) Performance/Presentation	Jazz Production & Recording: Audio (20 Credits) Portfolio (recording/reflection)	Jazz Performance 5 (40 Credits)		Jazz Production & Recording: (20 credits) Portfolio (recording/reflection)	Jazz Innovations 2 (20 Credits) Performance

	Composition based
	Performance based recording with written submission
	Performance
	Examination
	Essay or presentation