

Module Specification

Module Title: Specialist Group Study (Composition) Foundation

Module code:	HBAMCMF04, HBAMFMF02, HBAMJAF04, HBAMSWF02	NQF level:	Level 3
Credit value:	30 credits	Semester of study:	1 and 2
Module type:	Compulsory	Pre-requisites:	None
Available to:	BA (Hons) Music with Foundation Year (Classical) (Film Music) (Jazz) (Songwriting)		

Module overview

The aim of this module is to introduce students to a range of software that is vital to composers, and to experience the functionality and operation of these. The students will explore aspects such as digital music notation, audio editing and manipulation, MIDI sequencing, editing, and mixing. Students will be given composition tasks based on creative and/or commercial pieces. Time will be spent analysing and evaluating the outcome of these tasks, and over the year these will make up the content of their digital composition portfolios. Students will produce work that is appropriate to their pathway in terms of musical form:

Classical Pathway

Students will explore established classical harmony and structure and undertake tasks using appropriate music technology and scoring software.

Film Music Pathway

Through set tasks, students will produce work to accompany moving image exploring a variety of established compositional approaches used for film using appropriate music technology software and scoring software.

Jazz Pathway

Through set tasks, students will work with harmony and structure associated with defining periods in the development of Jazz using appropriate music technology and scoring software.

Songwriting Pathway

Through set tasks, students will produce work using established popular music techniques, structures and harmonic sequences using appropriate music technology software.

Aims

This collaborative module introduces students to the techniques and skills of composition to prepare them for Level 4.

The module aims to:

1. Enable students to develop their compositional skills through the use of relevant industry standard software such as Sibelius, Logic Pro and ProTools;
2. Explore compositional techniques and ideas in order to create a digital musical portfolio consisting of various formats;
3. Enable students to demonstrate their understanding of compositional theory by putting this in to practice.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Work effectively within principal DAW environments and apply compositional techniques through the use of appropriate software.
2. Utilise MIDI editing techniques in the production of compositions and/or arrangements.
3. Utilise Audio editing techniques in the production of compositions and/or arrangements.
4. Where appropriate, apply relevant reading and notation skills and show an understanding of appropriate musical vocabulary.

Learning and teaching methods

Technical demonstration and explanation will be delivered in a **workshop** environment using digital audio workstations. Students will study a range of software and, as well as becoming skilled in its use, explore how it can apply to, and enable, their creative work. Students will be given practical and creative tasks.

Contact hours and directed study (over semesters 1 and 2)

Delivery type	Student hours
Indicative hours for learning and teaching activities	30 hours
Indicative hours of directed study	270 hours
Total hours (100hrs per 10 credits)	300 hours

Opportunities for formative feedback

Students will receive regular formative assessment, both through opportunities for realisation of their compositions and their individual lessons.

Assessment Method

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Technical assessment (in class)	1 hour	25%	1
Technical assessment (in class)	1 hour	25%	1, 2
Portfolio of coursework	5 minutes of music	50%	1, 2, 3, 4

Re-Assessment Method*

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Technical assessment	Set technical and compositional tasks	25%	1
Technical assessment	Set technical and compositional tasks	25%	1, 2
Portfolio of coursework	5 minutes of music	50%	1, 2, 3, 4

*Where practicable, assessments may be delivered through the conservatoire's VLE or by video to ensure that overseas students are not disadvantaged or incur unnecessary travel costs. Assessments delivered through the VLE will be timed and invigilated.

Indicative Reading List is available online

