

3.2 Programme specification

Full Title of the Course	Foundation Degree (Arts) in Professional Musicianship
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Start date	October 2009
Awarding Institution	University of Sussex
Teaching Institution	Brighton Institute of Modern Music
Final Award	Certificate in Higher Education (level 4 exit award) Foundation Degree (Arts)
FHEQ Level	120 credits at level 4 120 credits at level 5
Accrediting Bodies	n/a
Reference Points	QAA Benchmark for Foundation Degrees FHEQ in full QAA Code of Practice QAA Guidance on Programme Specifications QAA Music Subject Benchmark UoS Partnership Procedures
Minimum Period of Registration	2 years
Maximum Period of Registration	7 years
Admissions Criteria	UCAS tariff of 80 points or above (2 A levels at Grade E, or equivalent national vocational qualification) Musical aptitude (Trinity Grade 6-8 or equivalent) Practical and performance experience

Course Aims

The BIMM Foundation Degree is designed to provide graduates with the knowledge and skills appropriate to a range of careers within the music industry. Students are encouraged to develop their creative, technical and musical skills while gaining practical skills useful within a range of professional contexts.

The Work Based Learning programme (WBL) is integral to the course and is intended to appeal to students from a wide variety of backgrounds. BIMM has unique links with the music industry and students engage in a range of high-quality WBL, including self-employment. Opportunities are communicated to all students via newsletters and tutorials to ensure parity of opportunity and there are regular industry guests.

Year one of the Foundation Degree (Cert HE exit point) enables students to develop:

- A range of physical, creative, technical and music performance skills relevant to employment in modern musicianship and related areas
- Transferrable knowledge and skills necessary for professional development in a wide range of music and other contexts, including planning and analysis, problem-solving, business skills, IT skills
- Skills which facilitate lifelong learning within musical and other contexts, including research, argument, evaluation and critical reflection together with visual, written and verbal communication skills
- Self-motivation and the ability to carry out personal responsibilities while adhering to time-based deadlines within the context of a musical and other professional contexts
- The ability to apply new concepts, principles and theories learned in one area of music-related study to another
- Knowledge and experience of individual and collaborative working methods which can be applied to a variety of musical and professional activities
- Knowledge of the current trends and developments in the music industry and the necessary skills and flexibility to compete in this rapidly changing environment

Year two of the course (FdA exit point) encourages students to build upon the skills and knowledge gained during year one, while also developing:

- Knowledge, understanding and experience of the creative process in the professional music field in which they specialise
- The ability to identify areas of strength and weakness within their own creative, technical and communication skills and target areas for improvement in the context of a career in music
- A clear vision of where their creative strengths lie and how these can be utilised in building a career within the music industry, including essential aspects of personal finances
- The ability to engage with new concepts, principles and skills and to apply these within a variety of music industry contexts
- Knowledge of professional protocols and an awareness of contemporary practices within a range of music industry contexts
- Knowledge and practical experience of contemporary business procedures via work-based learning and the ability to work within a variety of professional contexts within the music industry
- Practical business-related and other transferrable skills applicable to a career in music
- Project management skills, interpersonal skills and the ability to carry out individual responsibilities while working as a member of a team in a professional music context
- A broad knowledge of critical, social, cultural, historical and business concepts, issues and debates relevant to the area of modern music
- Ability to use initiative and take personal responsibility for their continuing professional and creative development
- Practical experience of creative individual and collaborative working methods within a variety of careers in music
- A broad knowledge and practical experience of business, and financial issues, together with entrepreneurial skills in the context of a career in the music industry

Learning Outcomes for Level 4 -Year 1 (Cert-HE Professional Musicianship)

A. Knowledge and understanding able to:

- A1. Demonstrate awareness of key issues in their area(s) of study
- A2. Identify practices and structures within professional contexts
- A3. Learn and apply new concepts within a variety of contexts
- A4. Identify and reproduce symbols representing music and apply aural skills

B. Intellectual (thinking) skills able to:

- B1. Communicate ideas clearly via visual, verbal and written modes of expression
- B2. Analyse information and summarise concepts
- B3. Explore a range of appropriate reading material and discuss the findings
- B4. Acknowledge quotations from other's work

C. Subject practical skills – able to:

- C1. Demonstrate appropriate technical skills in relation to instrumental or vocal performance
- C2. Identify the human mechanics involved in playing an instrument or singing
- C3. Implement appropriate forms of musical expression, demonstrating an awareness of spiritual or emotional dimensions
- C4. Reproduce key aspects of musical styles and genres
- C5. Apply skills necessary to performing and recording music
- C6. Demonstrate awareness of professional protocols and practices

D. Key/Transferable skills – able to:

D1. Employ Information and Communication Technology (word-processing, e-mail, online sources and other electronic information services) appropriately

D2. Undergo disciplined professional development: practice, learn new repertoires, obtain new skills, identify career options

D3. Employ initiative and time management skills to carry creative and other projects to completion

D4. Present work in public, as appropriate to a range of professional contexts

D5. Utilise interpersonal skills to communicate ideas clearly and unambiguously within collaborative contexts

D6. Identify career options and access routes to employment within a variety of appropriate cultural contexts

D7. Evaluate one's own work and respond positively to constructive criticism

Learning Outcomes for Level 5 -Year 2 (FdA Professional Musicianship)

A. Knowledge and understanding able to:

- A1. Demonstrate awareness of the key issues in their area(s) of study, and an appreciation of why these areas are important
- A2. Identify, decode, rework and reproduce symbols representing music and apply aural skills
- A3. Engage with pertinent academic literature and relate it to music practice
- A4. Apply concepts from one field of study to a related area of practice
- A5. Make connections between the historical, social, cultural, political, philosophical and economic context of music
- A6. Discuss professional practices and structures

B. Intellectual (thinking) skills able to:

- B1. Collect, combine and appraise information, using quotes from appropriate reading material or other relevant source materials
- B2. Analyse information from established as well as newer sources to create and evaluate relevant arguments and ideas
- B3. Acknowledge quotations from other's work and question their hypotheses and assumptions
- B4. Conceptualise and apply pertinent theories and concepts in relation to their own work
- B5. Plan and implement individual or collaborative projects and evaluate the process

C. Subject practical skills - able to:

C1. Demonstrate technical proficiency and sustained application of skills in relation to instrumental or vocal performance

C2. Demonstrate an understanding of the human mechanics involved in playing an instrument or singing

C3. Implement appropriate forms of expression to perform music convincingly

C4. Identify musical styles and genres aurally or by written score

C5. Utilise necessary musical and electronic equipment and employ appropriate performance techniques within live and studio performance environments

C6. Employ vision and imagination to conceive and realise coherent, original musical structures and arrangements

C7. Engage with new musical sounds, repertoires, practices and techniques

D. Key/Transferable skills – able to:

D1. Employ Information and Communication Technology (word-processing, e-mail, online sources and other electronic information services) appropriately

D2. Present work in public, as appropriate to a range of professional contexts

D3. Use appropriate professional procedures, including problem-solving strategies

D4. Undergo disciplined professional development: practice, learn new repertoires, explore freelance opportunities, obtain new skills, initiate career moves, keep financial records, demonstrate awareness of music business practices

D5. Apply time management skills to demonstrate reliability and consistency