

BMus Popular Music

Programme specification

1. Programme details

Item	Information
a) Programme name (incl. pathways):	BMus Popular Music
b) Programme code(s)	510140C
c) Programme credit value(s)	360 CATS 180 ECTS
d) Programme author(s)	
e) Entry requirements	<p>The standard offer is CCC at GCE A-level, DMM at BTEC or equivalent. We also accept GCE A-level General Studies. A music qualification is recommended (e.g. UAL Extended Diploma, BTEC, A-level), but we will also consider those with substantial experience in performing, composition or theory.</p> <p>You should be able to demonstrate skills and experience in both practical music-making and an aspect of music creation: this could be songwriting/composition (whether individual or collaborative), band/group work, production, improvisation, sets/cyphers, and so on. We are mindful that not all applicants will have had access to the same developmental opportunities, and we consider each application on its individual merits.</p>
f) Academic year effective from	2024/25

2. Programme Aims & Overview

Aims

The BMus (Hons) Popular Music embraces popular music in its many forms, offering you studies centred around contemporary musical knowledges and creativity. The course content and structure encourages you to rethink music study and practice through a challenging combination of theoretical and practical courses that have at their heart a consideration of popular music.

Overview

The degree offers a core of subject areas but also considerable flexibility, and you are encouraged to construct a path of study that develops and explores the interrelationship between music as a creative and practical endeavour, and music as an intellectual study. You will develop awareness of diversity in popular music and its values, and explore critical stances and analytical methods in historical, creative and cultural contexts. The programme encompasses a wide range of music, offering modules that reference various aspects of songwriting, production, jazz, film music, sound art and electronic music.

3. External reference

Item	Information
a) FHEQ Level of Award:	6
b) UCAS Code(s):	W302
c) HECoS Code(s):	(100070) Music
d) QAA Benchmark group:	n/a

4. Awards

Item	Information
g) Awarding institution:	University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' University)
h) Teaching institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
i) Home School:	Music, English & Theatre
j) School(s) also involved in teaching of the programme:	1. Creative Management 2. Mind, Body & Society 3. CALL If other, name here:
k) Entry awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input type="checkbox"/> PGDip
l) Interim exit awards:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input type="checkbox"/> PGDip
m) Final awards:	BMus Popular Music

5. Delivery

Item	Information
a) Language of study:	English
b) Valid intake points in year:	<input type="checkbox"/> January <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sept/Oct <input type="checkbox"/> Other If other, specify:
c) Mode of study:	On Campus Indicate the overall balance of teaching modes in the table below.

Item	Information		
	Total hours directed learning/year	200	
	In-person hours	200	100%
	Online hours	0	0%
d) Pace of study:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part time		
e) Duration of programme	Full time: 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months Part time: 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months		
f) External accreditation:	n/a		
g) Apprenticeship Standard:	n/a		

6. Programme Learning Outcomes

Also, see the [curriculum map](#) at the end of document.

For UG exit awards, Learning Outcomes must be achieved in the level indicated below:

- CertHE = Level 4
- DipHE = Level 5

Learning outcomes are grouped in categories of:

- **Declarative learning** - knowledge, thinking & facts (D1-3)
- **Functional learning** - application of knowledge, thinking & facts (F1-3)
- **Professional and transferable skills and behaviours** (P1-3)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

Learning Outcome		Level	Graduate Attribute
D1	Explain musical and sonic phenomena using selected historical, contextual, sociological, psychological and analytical approaches.	4	Diversity of perspective
D2	Evaluate, justify and explain your own creative strategies, demonstrating an understanding of the relationship between theory and practice in popular music and other traditions.	5	Political in the personal
D3	Critically evaluate selected professional contexts for music-making, including in creative industries and teaching.	6	Diversity of perspective
F1	Deploy appropriate techniques and strategies in popular music composition and performance in response to a brief.	4	Responsible agency

F2	Communicate creative intentionality in performance and composition, and in accompanying critical reflections.	5	Political in the personal
F3	Cultivate and express individual viewpoints, while critically assessing a diverse range of existing sources in musicology and related disciplines.	6	Diversity of perspective
P1	Organise and manage a personal schedule of learning in order to work effectively towards deadlines and performances.	4	Responsible agency
P2	Demonstrate professionalism in collaborative tasks through respectful communication, responsible contribution and effective cooperation.	5	Collaboration
P3	Independently plan and execute substantial research and creative projects, drawing on appropriately diverse and robust resources, and adhering to ethical standards.	6	Responsible agency

7. Programme Structure

For Undergraduate programmes (UG), each level must amount to at least **120 CATS** (60 ECTS).

Postgraduate (PGT) programmes must amount to at least 180 CATS (90 ECTS), with exception to interim exit awards.

Compulsory modules must be taken by all students.

Option modules – you must choose one or more of the options available to this programme at this level and point. The option modules available from this list may vary from year to year, depending on student numbers and staff availability. Selection takes place during your studies, not before.

Also, see [curriculum structure grid](#).

Academic year 1 (FT)

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Creative Popular Music 1	MU510xx	30	4	Compulsory	1	1	N/A
Creative Popular Music 2	MU510xx	30	4	Compulsory	2-3	1	N/A
Popular Music Cultures	MU51025	30	4	Compulsory	1-2	2	N/A
Contemporary Creative Industries	MU51024	15	4	Compulsory	1-2	2	N/A
Critical Writing	CC51001	15	4	Compulsory	1-2	2	N/A

Academic year 2 (FT)

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Goldsmiths Project	CC52001A	15	5	Compulsory	2	3	N/A
Goldsmiths Elective	multiple	15	5	Compulsory	1	4	N/A
Performance: New Contexts	MU52042E	15	5	Compulsory	2	4	N/A
Songwriting	MU52043D	15	5	Compulsory	1	3	N/A
Global Musics	MU52079A	30	5	Option - Shared	1-2		N/A
Music and the Moving Image	MU52077A	30	5	Option - Shared	1-2		N/A
Sonic Art: Contexts and Practices	MU52078A	30	5	Option - Shared	1-2		N/A
Electronic Music Studio Skills	MU52076A	15	5	Option - Shared	1		N/A
Music Production	MU52025E	15	5	Option - Shared	2		N/A
Ensemble Performance	MU52041C	15	5	Option - Shared	1		N/A

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Pitching Creative Businesses	IC52257A	15	5	Option - Shared	1	Choose an item.	N/A
Japan, Music and Cultural Identity	MU52073A	15	5	Elective	1	4	N/A

Academic year 3 (FT)

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Major Project	MU530XX	30	6	Compulsory	1-2-3	6	
Writing to Brief	MU530XX	15	6	Option - Shared	1		
Creative Performance	MU53028C	15	6	Option - Shared	2-3		
Music Teaching and Outreach	MU53058G	30	6	Option - Shared	1-2		
Global Musics	MU53077A	30	6	Option - Shared	1-2		

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Sonic Art: Contexts and Practices	MU53079A	30	6	Option - Shared	1-2		
Music and the Moving Image	MU53078A	30	6	Option - Shared	1-2		
Music in Focus	MU53064C	15	6	Option - Shared	1		
Psychological Approaches to Music	PS53036B	15	6	Option - Shared	2		
You as Your Future: Developing Creative Careers	IC53267B	15	6	Option - Shared	2		
Improvisation	MU53040A	15	6	Option - Shared	2		
Creative Strategies in Music Production	MU53080A	15	6	Option - Shared	1		
Experimental Musics	MU53061	15	6	Option - Shared	1		
Performing Southeast Asian Music	MU53042	15	6	Option - Shared	2		

8. Learning, Teaching & Assessment

Learning & Teaching methods

Teaching will be via a range of formats to be as relevant as possible to the topic and learning outcomes. This may be through workshops, practical labs, lectures and seminars. It may have a mix of in-person and online activities, designed to give you the best learning experience and to make the most out of your time on campus. You are expected to attend all your timetabled learning activities.

Specifically, this programme will be taught in the following ways:

You will be taught through lectures, workshops, seminars, tutorials and 1:1 lessons on your first instrument/voice. Weekly in-person sessions will be accompanied by preparatory self-study, including reading, listening, viewing, rehearsing and short practical tasks, set out on the module VLE page. After the first year, you will be able to carve out your own pathway of study through the options you select, culminating in the third-year Major Project in which you will bring together the skills and knowledge acquired during the programme into a substantial written and/or practical project of your own design.

Assessment modes and approaches

You will be assessed in a range ways throughout your course. These will be both Formative (for feedback and development), and Summative (required to pass and progress to the next level). Summative assessments are compulsory.

Feedback is a crucial part of your learning and development in this programme. You will receive feedback both on your Formative (work in progress) tasks/assessments, and your Summative (graded) assessments. This feedback will help the assessment to be a part of your learning, not just a test. It may be verbal, written or video based. Please engage with this feedback to improve your future work.

Specifically, this programme will be assessed in the following ways:

TBC

Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules)

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
Coursework	0	2	2	0	0	4
Exam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Live	0	3	1	0	0	4
Portfolio (multi-modal)	0	2	1	1	0	4
Practical / multimedia	0	0	0	0	0	0

Written	0	3	0	0	0	3
TOTAL:	0	10	4	2	0	15
Of which...	Individual:	10	Group:	6		

9. Other information

Item	Information
a) Assessment regulations	https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/
b) Placement opportunities	<p>The Music department maintains relationships with the local community within the programmes. This includes our long-standing partnership with the Albany Theatre in Deptford, the venue for a number of the shows in our PureGold Festival. We further maintain links with other local music organisations, such as Lewisham Music, who currently employ several of our graduates, and with whom we create placement opportunities for our students in the module Music Teaching and Outreach (an optional module at Level 6). The department continues to support community initiatives, including through the Alchemy Project: the Music Department provides space and equipment to support this music production and mentoring for young people aged 14-18 from the borough, and our students frequently work as volunteers within the programme. Our label, NX Records, releases music created by Goldsmiths' Music students, alumni, and community in Lewisham.</p> <p>The Music department currently has international partnerships with Kristiana University (Norway), Rhythmic Music Conservatory (Denmark) and Osaka University (Japan), which offer our students academic placement opportunities in those countries.</p>
c) Programme-specific requirements	None
d) Programme specific costs and resources	None
e) Employability and potential career opportunities	<p>The BMus Music degree is designed to provide the necessary skills, knowledge, and understanding for diverse careers in music, such as in teaching, performing, creative work in the media, arts administration, publishing and retailing, record companies and production, community musicianship, librarianship and technical work in radio or television. The programme provides many opportunities for students to develop and evidence a wide range of skills sought by employers. Employers may also contribute to BMus workshops.</p> <p>Students have the opportunity to develop and maintain a personal development plan, run by the Goldsmiths Gold Award scheme, during their period of study. This helps them record aspirations, plans and</p>

Item	Information
	<p>goals, record achievements, and enables progress to be monitored, in order to help achieve individual aims. Personal tutors are available to discuss the Gold Award scheme with students, and the Department advise about how best to approach this task.</p> <p>The degree is designed to provide the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills for a wide range of careers in fields related to music: teaching, performing, creative work in the media, arts administration, publishing and retailing, record companies and production, community musicianship, librarianship and technical work in radio or television.</p> <p>The programme provides many opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the wide range of transferable skills that employers are seeking.</p> <p>A member of the academic staff in Music is assigned to be a School Careers and Employability Lead (SCEL). In accordance with the School's Employability Action Plan, the SCEL appointee works with the Careers consultant to organise student career events and student training for interviews, CV preparation, placements, and employment; these sessions are embedded within modules. The SCEL, and other music staff as appropriate, creates and updates the Music Career Guidance on the VLE, passing onto student cohorts notices of employers' vacancies and placement opportunities.</p>

10. Academic support

There is a range of support available to you to give you the best possible chance of success in this programme.

Please see your tutors and student portal/VLE for details of what's available and how to access this support.

11. Curriculum map

Programme Learning Outcomes assessed by each module:

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Critical Writing	EN51XX X	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creative Popular Music 1	MU5101 6	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Popular Music Cultures	MU5101 7	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creative Popular Music 2	MU5101 8	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contemporary Creative Industries	MU5102 4	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goldsmiths Project	CC5200 1	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performance: New Contexts	MU5204 2	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensemble Performance	MU5204 1	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Songwriting	MU5204 3	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Global Musics	MU5207 9A/MU5 3077A	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sonic Art: Contexts and Practices	MU5207 8A/MU5 3079A	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Music and the Moving image	MU5207 7A/MU5 3078A	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Electronic Music Studio Skills	MU5207 6A	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Music Production	MU5202 5E	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Japan, Music and Cultural Identity	MU5207 3A	Elective	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pitching Creative Businesses	IC52225 7	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major Project	MU53xx x	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Writing to Brief	MU530x x	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improvisation	MU5304 0A	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Music in Focus	MU5306 4C	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creative Strategies in Music Production	MU5308 0A	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Music Teaching and Outreach	MU5305 8G	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
You as Your Future	IC53267 B	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Psychological Approaches to Music	PS53036 B	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creative Performance	MU5302 8	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Performing Southeast Asian Music	MU5302 4	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Experimental Musics	MU53061	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>