

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information

1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	BA (Hons) Music Performance Full time
4.	Normal Duration:	3 years
5.	UCAS Code:	P322

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

This course is for active and passionate musicians and is designed to cultivate your continuing pursuit of excellence in your musical expression. It is a programme designed as a means of developing all areas of your craft and relating them directly to the industry in which you will find yourself.

The focus is on study of skills, professional practice and techniques in writing, performing and recording the best of your output. Whilst developing these skills you will be provided with an active and current engagement with the industry via Confetti's internal and external working network.

Sessions will take place within our exciting and stimulating rehearsal and recording spaces in the state of the art Contemporary Music Hub where you will engage with other musicians, live technicians and audio engineers and producers with similar or complementary expertise on this and other courses. This degree will provide opportunities to create and compose in a variety of ways for a host of purposes related to your personal and professional aspirations.

Our recording and mastering facilities will be a vital part of your craft in which you will be tutored in recording and mixing techniques as well as developing your critical ear. The output of your creativity will be recorded and showcased to an audience on one of a plethora of stages within Confetti Media Group. Confetti has links with venues around the country and there will be opportunities to perform on stages in Nottingham and around the Midlands including festivals and tours.

Access to industry is imperative and through industry modules you will work on live briefs with clients allowing networking and the creation of a real and active portfolio of work. The work you do on this course is considered the beginning of your professional output and will set you up for your continuing creative professional journey

Core modules

The course comprises of a range of modules achieved over two years of study. The following modules make up the programme of study.

Year 1 (Level Four) 120 Credits

Composition & Arrangement

Performance Techniques

Recording Studio Practice

The Music Industry

Year 2 (Level Five) 120 Credits

Music, Technology & Performance

Composing Music for Visual Media

Contextual Studies in Music

Industry Practice

Year 3 (Level Six) 120 Credits

Sustainable Music Products and Performance

Creative Investigation

Marketing and Branding for Music Industry Professionals

7. Course outcomes

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

Knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course you should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

CLO1 Work independently to critically analyse and evaluate a range of musical works and effectively communicate the findings in a coherent form to a specialist audience.

CLO2 Systematically analyse and assess the issues which arise from the creative practitioners relationships with audiences, clients, global markets, environments, users, consumers and/or participants

CLO3 Investigate and analyse the legislative and economic framework of the international music industry, including industry trends, career prospects, legislation, budgeting and self-promotion.

CLO4 Research, identify, critically evaluate and justify essential musical components in musical works and apply your findings.

CLO5 Interpret aspects of musical organisation, whether aurally or by studying a written score and apply findings to your own practice.

CLO6 Critically assess different professional, ethical and cultural contexts and apply to your own performance.

CLO7 Systematically analyse relationship with audiences, clients, global markets, environments, users, consumers, and/or participants.

Skills, qualities and attributes

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- CLO8 Implement and apply understanding of musical contexts including the relationship of music to historical, philosophical, cultural and social practices and phenomena including the interconnectivity of other disciplines.
- CLO9 Effectively communicate personal expression, imagination and theory in musical works.
- CLO10 Initiate and apply a range of skills to collaborate in music-making, whether through ensemble performance, co-creation, improvisatory work, or analogous activities.
- CLO11 Independently manage your time effectively, conceiving and implementing schedules for self-study and instrumental practice.
- CLO12 Devise and adapt strategies to work in combination with others on joint projects within effective timescales.
- CLO13 Realise and present varying musical works in appropriate and accessible forms, intelligible to both expert and non-expert audiences.
- CLO14 Apply clear and appropriate strategies for effective communication, presentation and exhibition of your musical works to a professional standard musician to audiences, clients, markets, environments, users, consumers, and/or participants.

8. Teaching and learning methods; including course delivery

As part of a personal and artistic development programme teaching and learning centres around key environments. You will attend sessions in specialist facilities designed and built for purpose. Practical sessions will take place in rehearsal and recording studios designed by White Mark Ltd. These spaces are equipped with state of the art hardware and software giving you access to professional grade resources.

Lectures, workshops, seminars and tutorials will give you the opportunity to explore the core practical and theoretical principles of the module subject areas.

Weekly sessions providing input, consultation and discussion with tutors and your colleagues based around the core module components. Modules have been designed to bring a holistic approach to each year of study based on study, research and activity to allow development of artistry alongside academic practice. You will be encouraged to develop a critical and inquisitive approach to your studies through research into areas of study that are of particular interest to you. The processes of composition, rehearsal and recording are a fundamental in preparation for performance. Rehearsal and recording studio sessions account for a significant portion of delivery. Reflective and engagement with feedback from audience and professionals is designed to give opportunity for growth through the responses you develop.

In order to build and maintain an active and professional network you will work on live briefs. This process also offers the opportunity to build resilience and professional standards within your work and artistic practice.

Significant amounts of independent self-directed work will be required in order for you get the most out of the course. Your success in the industry will be defined by your ability to show initiative and autonomy not only within self-directed projects but also in collaboration with others. Successful achievement on your BA will therefore require self-directed reading, industry research (into specific industry practice), independent practical development (on your instrument/voice) and your ability to demonstrate sustained project management skills.

On completion of the final year you will have built a foundation and infrastructure for your career as a music professional with input on branding, product and performance as well as an opportunity to focus your research and experimentation on an area of the industry or world of music specified by you. You will potentially leave having written, recorded and released a body of work that you will brand, promote and perform in a culmination of your studies and artistic development.

You are encouraged to take responsibility for your own learning. All related module information can be accessed on NTU's Online Workspace (NOW) to support your learning.

9. Assessment methods

Outcomes will be assessed in a variety of ways in order to showcase your achievements and allow peer and professional comment. Practically you will undertake performances, presentations and deliver portfolios of work collected during rehearsals and events. Academic reports and essays will be submitted to assess your research and reflective practices.

You will receive a significant amount of informal Formative Feedback during the course. This feedback is provided to help you evaluate your progress as you work through problems. This type of feedback is typically provided within tutorials verbally, as part of seminars, lectures or workshops.

You will receive summative feedback at the end of each module and this provides you with an overarching review of your achievements set against the learning outcomes. Formative feedback is completed within 21 days and will be returned to you via NOW (NTU's online workspace).

10. **Course structure and curriculum**

The course comprises a range of modules achieved over three years of study. The following modules make up the programme of study.

Year 1 (Level Four) 120 Credits

- Composition & Arrangement (40 credits)
- Performance Techniques (40 credits)
- Recording Studio Practice (20 credits)
- The Music Industry (20 credits)

Year 2 (Level Five) 120 Credits

- Music, Technology & Performance (60 credits)
- Composing Music for Visual Media (20 credits)
- Contextual Studies in Music (20 credits)
- Industry Practice (20 credits) *Shared Module*

Year 3 (Level Six) 120 Credits

- Sustainable Music Products and Performance (60 credits)
- Creative Investigation (40 credits)
- Marketing and Branding for Music Industry Professionals (20 Credits)

This is a three-year course 'BA [Hons] Music Performance' worth 360 Credit Points.

You will be studying at CICT for the whole course. You will study towards 120 credit points in each year of study. The first year of study focusses on introductory material to establish a foundational level understanding of principles and practices. Your second year of study will expand your understanding of the core subject disciplines, whilst also introducing you to new contexts, working practices and ways of thinking about music. The final year focuses on developing your artistry in line with a brand and marketing schedule culminating in a release of a musical product supported by performances in a range of situations.

All years of study include an 'Industry' based module, which will form the majority of your work-related learning activities. These modules are designed to introduce you to working practices in the music industry, through 'live' client projects and industry guest lectures. They are also an opportunity for you to put into practice the skills acquired in your other modules within an industry setting.

The assignments completed across all modules of the course are designed so that you will have developed a core set of skills by the end of your studies that will prepare you for working in the industry. Additionally, the work you complete as part of your studies will form an ongoing collection of project work that demonstrates your developing professionalism in the subject area, thus helping support your entry into industry or further study after graduation.

11. **Admission to the course**

Entry requirements.

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the NTU course information web page.

12. **Support for learning**

You will be assigned a named personal tutor at the start of your year who can act as a guide in more personal matters and your module leaders will be available to offer guidance and support where necessary.

It is recognised that there may be times when your performance in an assessment is adversely affected by circumstances beyond your control, this is called an Extenuating Circumstance. You can notify us of an Extenuating Circumstance at any time during the academic year through the University's online Notification of Extenuating Circumstance's procedure (NEC) which can be found within the Academic Appeals section of the University's Student Handbook. Please speak to your Course Leader for advice on what to do next.

CICT is committed to assisting you to achieve the best results possible during your studies and will provide you with a wide range of academic help and advice. A comprehensive learner support system is in place and additional advice and support is also available from the university and student union and this can be tailored to meet your needs.

Resources such as open access computers and the course provides specialised computer facilities, mixing suites, recording studios and a commercial live event venue are available for your use as directed by your tutors.

13. **Graduate destinations / employability**

As part of the course you will have personal tutorials that are designed to help you focus on your individual career plan. These sessions, designed by your tutors are supported by the Careers Service. The workshop series in the Portfolio and Professional Practice module will also help align your own exit trajectory with the assignment work you will be completing during the course.

Employment in the music industry is very diverse and graduates can expect to work in positions that encompass the need for a broad skill set. Typical job roles in industry might include:

- Performing musician
- Touring / session musician
- Music composer/Songwriter
- Music journalist
- Music teacher
- Music producer
- Music Director in Theatre
- A&R
- Promoter/Booking Agent
- Music and Sound supervisor for media products
- Artist management

Many roles in industry operate on a freelance or self-employed basis and the course aims to equip you for these working models through professional industry based projects and specific business skills workshops and seminars. Graduates seeking to enter the industry in a freelance capacity are well placed to successfully do so.

14. **Course standards and quality**

There are well-established systems for managing the quality of the curriculum and ensuring that their courses remain current. External examiners are appointed to each course and report on the appropriateness of the curriculum, the quality of student work and the assessment process.

CICT reviews, defines and updates its courses and modules with dialogue between staff and students an important part of this ongoing, reflective process. Whilst there are good informal relationships between staff and students, there are also formal channels for gathering and responding to student feedback which comprise:

- Student/Staff Liaison Committee
- Formal module evaluation, undertaken by questionnaire
- Course Student Representatives, elected by the student group, represent students who attend the Course Committee meeting.

At the end of each year the course team writes an evaluative Course Standards and Quality Report (CSQR) which is discussed by the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee (SASQC). Your contribution to this process is important and you will receive feedback on issues raised.

15. Assessment regulations

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (Section 16 of the NTU Quality Handbook). Any course specific assessment features are described below.

There are no course specific assessment features.

16. Additional Information

Collaborative partner(s):	Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies and Nottingham Trent University
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Music Subject Benchmarks (2016)
Course recognised by:	N/A
Date implemented:	
Any additional information:	Key features of the course

Key features of the course:

- Strong links with industry with an emphasis on 'live project' briefs as an essential part of the curriculum.
- Study in professional recording studios, bespoke rehearsal spaces and have access to a purpose-built auditorium for performance.
- Access to Confetti's Annual Industry Week event.
- A broad-based curriculum that allows you to explore and experience the full range of disciplines within the subject area.
- A focus on critical thinking and professionalism ensures the employability of graduates.
- Personalised learning experience focussed specifically on working with your chosen instrument in readiness for performance and composition.
- Access to a broad curriculum including Live and technical Events, Audio and Music Technology. Media, Film and Games students to enhance professional networks