

# Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

<b>Basic Course Information</b>		
1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	FdA Music Performance Full time
4.	Normal Duration:	2 years
5.	UCAS code	W310

## 6. **Overview and general educational aims of the course**

The music industry offers a broad range of career prospects for graduates. While studying the FdA Music Performance you will study subject areas that will help prepare you for the diverse nature of your industry. Core areas of study include; stage craft, music theory, composition and arrangement techniques, audio & MIDI sequencing, studio sound recording, editing, composing, performing with technology, musicology and event planning. You will also study the wider context of your industry, investigating working practices, legal frameworks, business models and career opportunities.

The overarching aim of the FdA Music Performance is to equip you with a broad set of practical skills, whilst focussing on your individual personal development as a professional musician. A strong aspect of the course is this individualised approach to your studies, allowing you to develop technical mastery of your first instrument whilst also broadening your understanding of other subject areas and ways of thinking about music, performance and composition.

Students of music performance will increasingly be faced with freelance and self-employed models of work upon graduation. Consequently, the course aims to equip you with appropriate skills for this type of employment by understanding 'live' client-led briefs and working with local and national industry partners, which will help you to build a varied and distinctive portfolio of work throughout your studies. There is also a strong emphasis on close interaction with industry in the form of lectures, workshops and seminars delivered by industry professionals throughout the two years of study. In addition, the course also aims to develop your cognition, autonomy and research skills, enabling you to continue in further academic study of your subject discipline at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

## 7. **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 (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)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contextual Studies in Music (20 credits)</li> <li>Industry Practice (20 credits)</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Optional modules</b></p> <p>There are no optional modules on this course.</p>
9.	<p><b>Course outcomes</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Knowledge and understanding</b> By the end of the course you should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise and differentiate essential components of musical language such as intervals, rhythms, motifs, modes and metres. <b>(B)</b></li> <li>Analyse the impact of music on social and cultural trends, including the use of music in other art forms such as visual, literacy or dramatic works. <b>(B)</b></li> <li>Examine and reflect upon your own and others musical work, within the wider global context of the music industry. <b>(B)</b></li> <li>Investigate and analyse the legislative and economic framework of the international music industry, including; industry trends, career prospects, health &amp; safety legislation, budgeting and self-promotion.</li> <li>Analyse your use of technology to perform, compose, record and edit musical work.</li> </ul> <p><b>(B) denotes Subject Benchmark Statement</b></p>
	<p><b>Skills, qualities and attributes</b> By the end of the course you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate dexterity and control in the technical mastery of your chosen instrument/voice, whether in individual or group ensemble work. <b>(B)</b></li> <li>Select &amp; justify appropriate types of electronic and computer-based technologies for musical tasks including performing, composing, recording, editing and synthesising sound. <b>(B)</b></li> <li>Research and identify the key components involved in the design, construction and care of musical instruments/voice. <b>(B)</b></li> <li>Respond positively to self-criticism and to the criticism of others while maintaining confidence in one's own creative work. <b>(B)</b></li> <li>Manage your time effectively in the development of your academic work, conceiving and implementing schedules for self-study and instrument practice.</li> <li>Make a positive contribution when working with others in the development of musical works.</li> <li>Communicate musical ideas &amp; intentions effectively with a range of people involved in a musical performance or composition (e.g. technical staff, other performers), through both verbal and written means.</li> </ul> <p><b>(B) denotes Subject Benchmark Statement</b></p>

**10. Teaching and learning methods; including course delivery**

Teaching and learning will take place in a range of bespoke IT suites, classrooms, recording studios, and rehearsal and performance spaces. The overarching teaching and learning ethos is to develop your practical, technical and critical thinking skills.

Classes will comprise of a mixture of lectures, workshops, classes, seminars and tutorials where you will explore the core practical and theoretical principles of the module subject areas. 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.

In some modules you will work on 'live' projects, where you will be required to complete work for industry clients. This work will give you the opportunity to demonstrate your developing professionalism whilst also building a portfolio of work that will aid your future employability.

Significant amounts of independent self-directed work will be required in order to encourage you to 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 FdA will therefore require self-directed reading, self-directed industry research (into specific industry practice), independent practical development (on your instrument/voice) and your ability to demonstrate sustained project management skills.

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.

In year 1 you will have 12 hours of contact time and be expected to undertake a minimum of 16 hours of self-directed study.

In year 2 you will have 11 hours of contact time and be expected to undertake a minimum of 20 hours of self-directed study.

**11. Assessment methods**

Assessment is conducted according to the School of Art and Design 'Assessment and Feedback Principles and Guidelines' policy. This policy ensures the academic standards and their appropriateness, are made clear to you. Assessment is clearly defined in module specifications and module guides.

You will receive a lot 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).

**12. Course structure and curriculum**

This is a two year course 'FdA in Music Performance' worth 240 Credit Points.

You will study towards 120 credit points in each year of study. The first year of study focusses on introductory material to establish a base 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.

Both 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.

### **Higher Certificate**

#### **Interim Award**

The interim award for this foundation degree is a Higher Certificate in Music Performance. 120 credits at level 4 FHEQ (Framework for Higher Education Qualifications) are required to achieve this award.

#### **Progression routes**

The formal automatic progression route for students on the foundation degree, who have succeeded at level 5, is to progress to the BA (Hons) Music Performance.

In exceptional circumstances students on an FdA may switch route to the BSc route. This will only be allowable in consultation with tutors at the final stage of the course and would be subject to a formal interview and an appropriate portfolio.

## **13. Admission to the course**

Application is through UCAS. Minimum entry requirements follow the University's Code of Practice for Admissions.

The target groups for the course are:

- Applicants who have gained a BTEC Extended Diploma award
- Students with A-Level award qualifications
- Mature students looking for career development or a career change.

For admission to the course students will need to have achieved 160 UCAS points from one of the following:

- at least 2 A levels or equivalent + 5 GCSEs grade A – C including maths and English
- Applications from mature students will also be considered in terms of their skills, aptitude and experience
- An audition/submission of work will be required

Mature students with relevant experience and/or qualifications within a relevant subject area, are welcome to apply.

*It is yet to be determined whether under the new ownership arrangement CICT will accept International students; however, should they do the following admissions criteria will need to be met:*

*International applicants will require an equivalent Level 3 qualification and will also require an IELTS score of at least 6.0, in addition to the standard entry criteria.*

*Equivalent scores from other English language tests will be considered.*

Non-UK qualifications will be assessed in comparison to their UK equivalents.

Additional English support is available to non-native English speakers.

Though the entry requirements outlined are such as to encourage applications from a wide range of potential students the course has no part-time route.

APEL

In exceptional circumstances students with APL will be considered for admission to the course.

Widening Participation

The course will consider applicants with non-standard entry qualifications on demonstration of potential to undertake and benefit from the course.

**14. 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 Exceptional Circumstance. You can notify us of an Exceptional Circumstance at any time during the academic year through the University's online Notification of Exceptional 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.

**15. 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
- Music journalist
- Music teacher
- Music producer

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.

**16. 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.

**17. Assessment regulations**

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

There are no course specific assessment features.

**18. Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):	Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies and Nottingham Trent University
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Music Subject Benchmarks (2008)
Course recognised by:	N/A
Date implemented:	November 2015
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 320 seat theatre auditorium for performance.
- 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.