

# Creative Music Production

## Programme titles and UCAS codes

BA (Hons) Community Arts and Creative Music Production WWX3

BA (Hons) Art Media Performance and Creative Music Production code tbc

BA Combined Honours: Creative Music Production – see website for list of combination possibilities and related UCAS codes

3 years Full Time  
4-6 years Part Time

**Institution code name:** MMU

**Institution code:** M40

## Location

MMU Cheshire, Crewe Campus

## UCAS Tariff Points

260 total (200 from A2) or equivalent

## Specific Subjects Preferred

Students come from a range of backgrounds but the following may be useful:

Music, Music Technology, Performing Arts, Sound Recording

## Non Tariff Qualifications

Access – PASS

Opolytirion – 17 points

International Baccalaureate – 28 points

Other qualifications would be considered

## Specific Requirements

Applicants are chosen on the basis of their application form and an interview/audition

## Enquiries

Department of Contemporary Arts  
on 0161 247 5259

Email: [b.j.buckley@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:b.j.buckley@mmu.ac.uk)

## How we see Creative Music Production

Creative Music Production is a half-degree that may be studied

**either** in combination with another half-degree from the Faculty-wide Combined Honours scheme (see *information on BA/BSc Combined Honours at MMU Cheshire for full details*).

**or** as your arts specialism in the BA (Hons) Community Arts and BA (Hons) Art Media Performance degrees (*more information regarding these degrees can be gained at [www.mmu.ac.uk/dca/subjects/](http://www.mmu.ac.uk/dca/subjects/)*)

Creative Music Production is also available at MMU Cheshire as a single honours degree programme – **BA (Hons) Creative Music Production**. (*see degree information at [www.mmu.ac.uk/dca/subjects/](http://www.mmu.ac.uk/dca/subjects/)*)

Studying Creative Music Production as a half-degree will give you the opportunity to develop professional music production skills. The programme will expand your knowledge, develop recording skills and apply this to a wide variety of creative applications. The course is designed to broaden your understanding of how production techniques (in all its forms) have developed in the recent past and to provide opportunities for creative exploration through practice. Whether your background is in rock, folk, jazz or world music we will provide you with a balanced pattern of study to enhance your existing capabilities and open up a wider range of musical experience and expertise.

We celebrate stylistic and cultural diversity by encouraging all musical performance and composition no matter what its point of origin. At the same time, however, we are promoting the exploration and sharing of new ideas and skills for all our students.



Teaching at all levels in Creative Music Production is by means of individual tutorials, staff-led discussion, seminars and group-based workshops rather than by the traditional large-scale lecture. Similarly, we have found that course-work assessment – including various written, verbal, and practical elements - rather than formal examination promotes stronger learning and progression. The emphasis on combining the substantial practical element with written and verbal contextualisation, together with a high degree of student choice in the mode of assessment used, gives our work an individual and special character.

## Student Experience

Your programme of study will focus on three distinct strands of enquiry: technical understanding of processes; contextual understanding of approaches to production; and creative practical project work. In your final year you will have

the opportunity to negotiate your own areas of study in tutorial-led supervision mode alongside taught units.

The Creative Music Production subject area organises and participates in many live events to bring new and interesting music to students within the Department, Faculty and the wider community in Cheshire and Staffordshire. We sponsor visiting artists and organise trips to interesting venues in addition to featuring prominently in the calendar of the Alsager Arts Centre (funded by the Arts Council of England), both singly and collaboratively with Dance, Drama and the other arts.

## Resources

Creative Music Production is housed in the new state-of-the-art Contemporary Arts building at Crewe. The Music Block contains a licensed professional performance space (with a Yamaha G7 concert grand piano and performance/ rig), a suite of rehearsal rooms for individual and group practice (with pianos, electronic keyboards, amplification and percussion), four professional equipped recording studios with post-production facilities and the Music Technology Suite incorporating a network of 25 iMac computers running the latest industry standard software packages from *Pro Tools*, *Pro Logic*, *Max/MSP*, and *Sibelius*. In addition, the Department has an extensive collection of world percussion instruments, and facilities for private listening and editing of sound material. Apart from our space resources with supporting acoustic and technical equipment, Creative Music Production has extensive

holdings in the Faculty and University libraries. Audio and audio-visual material is complemented by sheet music, scores, reference and lending books and periodical collections. The Many musical events throughout the year range from major concerts to recitals by instrumentalists and singers.



## Student Perspective

*Studying Sonic Arts (Creative Music Production from September 2008) at MMU has provided me with various opportunities to work in many areas of music. It is a fantastic degree, well worth the study. The course has opened more doors than anything I have ever done in my life.*

**Jackie Nelson**

## What are the career prospects?

Because you will have a very strong base of transferable skills, your career opportunities will extend well beyond those often associated with Music Production. In addition to careers in directly related fields – such as performers/session musicians, composers/studio technicians/producers, and academics, as teachers in

schools, colleges and higher education, as instrumental/technical tutors in peripatetic service or at home, as administrators and promoters – our graduates have achieved highly in management and administrative roles in fields as varied as banking, the drinks industry, surveying, the police force and the armed services.

Many students have found that the adaptability and ability to function in groups that are part of our programme have enabled them to undertake not just a single career, but to move between careers as circumstances change. Whatever your choice of career you should be a more well-rounded person, with initiative, imagination and confidence when you have finished your course of studies.

## Creative Music Production Units

The Creative Music Production units have been designed in a coherent fashion around certain core studies that form strands that lead from level to level. Your particular unit choices will depend on whether you opt for an equal, major or minor balance between your two subjects.

## Level 4 Units

### **Critical Studies in Creative Music Production (level 4)**

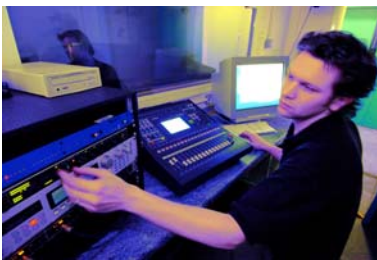
This unit will introduce students to a range of critical issues related to the study of Creative Music Production. Students will engage with a mix of contextual, critical / philosophical, and analytical ideas alongside the development of research skills in both written and oral forms.

### ***Electronic Composition and Sound Design (level 4)***

This unit offers a basic introduction to the development of computer DAW sequencing techniques in relation to the creation of sound design work for a variety of multimedia environments. The unit will offer technical instruction on equipment, consider a range of electronic music styles, and develop a portfolio of compositions for a variety of different media (for example film, computer games, and mobile phones).

### ***Recording and Production Techniques (level 4)***

The unit offers a theoretical and practical introduction to the role of the Sound Engineer in both studio and live recording environments. Students will develop basic skills in the following areas: Microphone Technique, Analogue and Digital signal routing, Acoustic Theory, aural evaluation and listening skills, Computer DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) sequencing skills, Analogue and Digital signal processing.



## **Level 5 Units**

### ***Critical Studies in Creative Music Production (level 5)***

This unit will further develop the ability to contextualise, critique, and analyse a variety of issues relating to the study of Creative Music Production. The

work will focus on the experimental tradition and students will continue to develop skills in research techniques

### ***Electronic Composition and Sound Design (level 5)***

This unit provides a developing framework for the practice of electronic composition and sound design through the development of computer DAW sequencing techniques and hardware systems. The unit will offer technical instruction on equipment, will consider a range of electronic music styles, and will allow the student to develop a portfolio of compositions for a variety of different media (for example fixed media, live interactive composition [Max/MSP]).

### ***Recording and Production Techniques (level 5)***

This unit will explore the role of the Mix Engineer in both studio and live environments. Students will develop technical skills in mixing procedures to include sound diffusion (5:1 and other multichannel formats, acoustics and psychoacoustic, Mixing Theory, Listening Skills, Signal Processing (DAW and outboard), and then will apply these to specific creative situations in the development of a portfolio of practical projects.

### ***Extension Unit A***

This unit is intended for Creative Music Production, Music and Popular Music students who wish to extend their studies in one unit.

## **Level 6 Units**

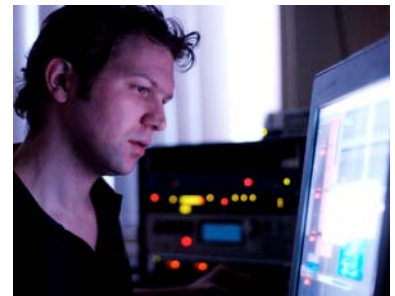
### ***Critical Studies in Creative Music Production (level 6)***

This unit offers tutorial support to students in the development of an Independent Research Study. Students will be given the opportunity to apply their

subject knowledge, through the development of research methodologies, to practical applications within industry.

### ***Electronic Composition and Sound Design (level 6)***

This unit provides an advanced framework for the practice of electronic composition and sound design through the development and creative application of computer DAW sequencing techniques and hardware systems. The unit will offer technical instruction on equipment, will consider a range of electronic music styles, and will allow the student to develop a portfolio of compositions for a variety of different media (for example fixed media, live interactive composition [Max/MSP]).



### ***Recording and Production Techniques (Level 6)***

This unit will explore the role of the Post-Production/Mastering Engineer. Students will develop technical skills in post-production/mastering procedures to include further DAW sequencing skills, stereo and multi-channel post-production techniques, further acoustics and psychoacoustic, Mixing Theory, Listening skills, Hardware and Software Signal Processing. Students will apply their learning to specific practical projects.

### ***Extension Unit A***

This unit is intended for Creative Music Production, Music and Popular Music

students who wish to extend their studies in one unit.

***Music Tutorial Module***

Students will negotiate a unit of study that will support their specific aptitudes and aspirations in a vocational, professional and/or higher educational context.

**Who should apply?**

Anyone with an enthusiastic interest in Creative Music Production in its widest sense. If you can demonstrate on paper that you have the qualifications and the aptitude for this subject, we will invite you to a practical workshop/interview where we can meet with you and see you work and then discover if this is the programme of study for you.