

BIMM Institute Level 3 Diploma in Songwriting - Course Specification

Full title of the course	Level 3 Extended Diploma for Music Practitioners
Mode of attendance	Full-time
Length of Course	2 Years (1-year exit options available)
Start date	14.9.20
Awarding Body	RSL
Teaching institution	BIMM Institute Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Manchester
Funding Partner	New College Swindon
Language of study	English
Final Award and Exit Awards	<p>Year 1- Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners (90 Credits – 540 GLH)</p> <p>Year 1 Fast Track - Level 3 Diploma for Music Practitioners (120 Credits – 720 GLH)</p> <p>Year 2- Level 3 Extended Diploma for Music Practitioners (180 Credits – 1080 GLH)</p>
Admissions criteria	Five GCSEs at a minimum grade of C/4, including English Language and Maths

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Course Structures

Proposed Classes (Year 1)			
NAME¹	DESCRIPTION²	LENGTH³	LINKED UNITS
Extended Studies	Extended Studies is a dynamic and conversational space for general course management. In this session you will discuss up and coming performances, recording sessions, assessment, masterclasses, important course notices, as well as analysing music and your progress utilising reflective practice.	2 Hour	N/A
Pre-Production	In Pre-Production, you will work within your chosen instrumental discipline in critically analysing, and then learning the week's chosen BIMM playlist song. You will prepare and perfect your parts in preparation for your Live Performance Workshop where you will perform the track on stage with a full band. Each song on the BIMM LPW playlist has been specifically chosen to explore a wide range of creative, stylistic and technical factors that will give you the grounding and skills to succeed as a professional musician.	2 Hours	Unit 304 Unit 387
Live Performance Workshop	LPW is where you get to put your hard work in Pre-Production into practice. You'll meet up with other musicians from the diploma courses and perform together in front of an audience of our expert tutors and your peers. The live experience and up to date industry knowledge and feedback you receive here will be invaluable to your development as a live performer.	2.5 Hours	Unit 387
Performance Prep	In Performance Preparation, you will study professional rehearsal and performance techniques in a practical	2.5 Hours	Unit 387 Unit 348

¹ This is the class name which will be created on the BIMM VLE and appear on the website

² This is the class description which will appear on the website

³ This is the suggested class length, however these may be subject to alteration based on the requirements of the entire FE Study Programme, which may vary between colleges of across the academic year.

	environment. You will look at a wide range of factors that make for a successful rehearsal journey and dynamic performance, such as band forming, rehearsal techniques, promotion, marketing, tour management, stage craft and many more.		
Arrangement Analysis & Composition	In this lesson you'll learn about the compositional and contextual elements of wide range of different musical styles. You will explore and critically analyse these ideas incorporating them into your own song writing practice.	2.5 Hours	Unit 304 Unit 310
Studio Skills	The modern songwriter utilises the studio as a compositional and creative device. In this session you will learn studio skills and techniques to help support and realise your creative ambitions.	2 Hours	Unit 369
Ear Training	Ear training is not just about honing your aural perception skills, but also about helping you to understand how you personally engage with sound. This technical and contextual understanding will support your instrumental and vocal development, as well as give you an understanding of your own musical creativity, and how to successfully navigate that as an artist.	1.5 Hours	Unit 318
Music Industry Career Development	In order to achieve both creative and professional goals, today's modern musician needs a holistic understanding of the world of music. In Music Industry Career Development, you will look at an overview of today's musical landscape, mapping revenue flow and plotting a bespoke path for you, relevant to your own goals and targets.	1.5 Hours	Unit 349
Total (in hours)		16.5	

1 Year Fast Track Additional Classes - 120 Credit, 740 GLH. In fill Yr2 delivery

Music Theory & Improvisation	Music Theory is an essential component of musicianship. In this lesson you'll learn the links between theoretical knowledge and improvisation.	2	Unit 386
Research & Investigation	This lesson offers students the chance to undertake an investigation critically analysing an area of interest within the music industry. Whilst doing so, you'll develop your academic study skills that will help you for higher academic studies.	2 Hours	Unit 320
Work Based Learning	Work based learning is an integral part of vocational study. Over the programme of study you will plan and reflect upon industry work placements relevant to your own learning aims and long-term Music industry aspirations.	20 Hours across the programme of study	NA
Total (in hours)		20.5 (+WBL)	
Proposed Classes (Year 2)			
NAME	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH	LINKED UNITS
Extended Studies	Extended Studies is a dynamic and conversational space for general course management. In this session you will discuss up and coming performances, recording sessions, assessment, masterclasses, important course notices, as well as analysing music and your progress utilising reflective practice.	1	NA
Pre-Production	In Pre-Production, you will work within your chosen instrumental discipline in critically analysing, and then learning the week's chosen BIMM playlist song. You will prepare and perfect your parts in preparation for your Live Performance Workshop where you will perform the track on stage with a full band. Each song on the BIMM LPW playlist has been specifically chosen to explore a wide range of creative, stylistic and technical factors that will give you the grounding and skills to succeed as a professional musician.	1.5	Unit 391

Live Performance Workshop	<p>LPW is where you get to put your hard work in Pre-Production into practice. You'll meet up with other musicians from the diploma courses and perform together in front of an audience of our expert tutors and your peers.</p> <p>The live experience and up to date industry knowledge and feedback you receive here will be invaluable to your development as a live performer.</p>	2.5	Unit 391
Recording Prep	<p>You'll build on the skills you gained in Performance Preparation last year and apply these to a studio recording session. Band, song choice, instruments and recording techniques will all come into play as you learn what it's like to record in a studio environment.</p>	2	Unit 391
Music Theory & Composition	<p>Music Theory is an essential component of musicianship and in this lesson you'll learn the links between theoretical knowledge and your own compositions.</p>	2	Unit 386 Unit 303
Production Techniques	<p>In Production Techniques you will develop the studio skills from year 1. This class will help you to develop your producers ear and engineering skills.</p>	2	Unit 374 Unit 303
Research & Investigation	<p>This lesson offers students the chance to undertake an investigation, critically analysing an area of interest within the music industry. Whilst doing so, you'll develop your academic skills that will help you for higher academic studies.</p>	2	Unit 320
Music Industry Career Development	<p>This year's class builds on your existing knowledge from year one, where you'll continue to explore the music industry and the different roles and functions within it. You'll also begin working on your own business plan that will help you to forge a path into the music industry.</p>	1.5	Unit 347

Music in Context	Music in Context is where you'll learn about the interaction between music and society. In it you'll track back through history and study some of the most influential artists and the impacts they've had on music, technology, politics and civil rights.	2	Unit 316
Total (in hours)		16.5	

Proposed Units (Year 1)			
CODE	UNIT	CREDITS	CORE Y/N
Unit 387	Rehearsal Skills & Live Music Performance	30	External
Unit 349	Planning for a Career in Music	15	Internal
Unit 304	Composing Music (Styles)	15	
Unit 310	Composing Lyrics	5	
Unit 318	Listening to Music	10	
Unit 369	Digital recording & Production	15	
Unit 348	Understanding the Creative Process in Music	15	
	Total Credits	105	
1 Year Fast Track Additional Units			
Unit 386	Practical Musicianship	15	
Unit 320	Music Dissertation	15	
	Total Credits	135	
Proposed Units (Year 2)			
CODE	UNIT	CREDITS	CORE Y/N
Unit 391	Composing Collaboration & recorded Music Performance	30	External
Unit 303	Arranging Music Applications	15	
Unit 374	Remix & Production	10	
Unit 347	Getting Work in Music	15	
Unit 316	Understanding Musical Styles	5	
Unit 320	Music Dissertation	15	
Unit 386	Practical Musicianship	15	
	Total Credits	105	

*Units are subject to change and may differ between BIMM Institute FE Centres.

Timetables

Timetables are made available at enrolment. While every effort is made to make the timetables as student friendly as possible classes could be timetabled any time between 9am-6pm, Monday – Friday (9am -8pm at BIMM Institute London, BIMM Institute Brighton only). Classes may also be at different BIMM Institute buildings depending on tutor and resource availability.

Years at BIMM Institute are divided into three terms. The academic year usually starts late September/early October and runs until the end of June. The resit period runs into July and sometimes August.

Assessment Calendar

An Assessment Calendar will be provided at enrolment. Any updates to the assessment programme will be presented at the start of each term subject to Awarding Organisation guidance.

Assessment Calendars are subject to change and may differ between BIMM Institute FE Centres.

Practical Assessments and Performance

Practical assessments ask you to demonstrate a practical skill under assessment conditions. These practical skills could include things such as your ability to play your instrument, your ability to perform in an ensemble setting or your ability to produce a recording or operate hardware/software. The skill being tested will depend on the course and unit being taken. Many practical assessments also contain a viva voce where the assessor will ask you questions regarding your assessment and the related subject area.

Multimedia coursework

Multimedia coursework contains a mixture of elements some written and some practical. An example of this type of assessment is creating a 3-page newspaper layout containing text and visual elements. On some courses, you may have to do portfolio assessments which you compile a mixture of audio/visual and written elements together this is usually done using online portfolio software.

Written coursework

Written course work is used in all BIMM Institute courses and can take several forms.

- Research projects – in these assessments you will be expected to conduct research into the chosen topic. This could include secondary research (reading) or primary research (conducting original research such as focus groups/questionnaires etc.). You will then be required to write an essay based on this research, putting forward clear and concise arguments.
- Reflective essays – in these assessments you are required to reflect on your professional practice or development activities and identify areas for improvement. These essays do require you to engage in adequate research which will depend on what the subject of the reflective essay is.
- Blog assessments – these assessments require you to submit regular written tasks normally to an online blog which are then combined to form the final assessment submission. These written tasks contain a mixture of reflective and research elements.
- Portfolio – these assessments are constructed from smaller written tasks given to the student throughout the year. The student then combines these smaller written tasks and submits them along with a final piece of writing that links the tasks together. These written tasks could be research or reflection based.

In some cases, an assessment may combine two or more of these types of written work.

Presentations

In these assessments, you will be asked to make a planned presentation to an assessor or panel of assessors. Some presentation assignments ask you to reflect on your practice on the course while others are more academically focused and require you to engage in rigorous research.

Teaching and learning

Teaching

BIMM Institute encourages its staff to employ a wide range of learning and teaching techniques. We provide training for new staff and many of our tutors are qualified teachers as well as industry professionals.

In general, lessons will be in classes of 10-25 students however this will depend on applications and resources and may differ between FE Centres.

There are some larger lectures for bigger modules which are shared across multiple courses. These classes are delivered in a more traditional university lecture style to large groups of students.

Where appropriate, some classes may feature online delivery or blended learning.

For more detail on the Teaching and Learning methods BIMM Institute employs please see our [Learning and Teaching Strategy](#).

Self-directed study

All courses at BIMM Institute have self-directed study hours associated with them. During this time, you are expected to be engaging in appropriate learning activities for your course. This could include practicing your instrument, conducting research, writing assignments and preparing for upcoming classes.

In-Class Activities and Tutorials

BIMM Institute has a number of mechanisms for formative assessment which allow you to gain feedback before coursework deadlines.

In-class activities are used as an opportunity to provide feedback to students. During lessons, there are opportunities to receive feedback from peers as well as the tutors. Some lessons are heavily focused toward providing students who perform or present their work with feedback to help them improve.

Students can also take advantage of BIMM Institute's tutorial system to gain additional feedback. The tutorial system allows you to book 1 to 1 sessions with tutors. You can use these sessions to gain specific feedback on any aspect of your work.

Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG)

BIMM Institute commit to follow the Gatsby Benchmarks in ensuring each student's needs are addressed and ensuring that they are ready for the world of work. By fully committing to a structured careers programme this will help inspire and prepare our students for a world of work they may have not experienced. Research indicates effective careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) leads to an increase in attendance and attainment, education, career and employment outcomes, personal effectiveness and career readiness

Staff

BIMM Institute is proud of its long history of employing music industry professionals to teach at all our colleges. We believe that through this practice we provide the best opportunities to our students to learn from tutors who understand their goals and have the knowledge and experience necessary to help make them a reality.

More information can be found regarding our tutors on our [staff page](#).

Sometimes tutors are granted leave to engage in industry activities such as going on tour, conducting research or other professional development activities. This is vital to ensure that our tutors can give students the most current information, and share recent experiences, regarding a music industry that is constantly evolving and expanding into new areas.

Whenever a tutor goes on leave, whether it is due to industry activities or unavoidable factors such as illness or maternity leave, BIMM Institute endeavours to ensure that lessons are covered by an industry professional with relevant experience in the subject. Through this practice, we aim to provide high quality learning opportunities throughout your course of study at BIMM Institute.

Language

All qualifications at BIMM Institute are taught and assessed in English

Additional Costs

Students who are thinking of applying to BIMM Institute should read the [Essential Equipment](#) document which outlines what is required to successfully study at BIMM Institute.

Most BIMM Institute FE Centres provide a limited number of rehearsal rooms, and free access to rehearsal facilities in local venues, unfortunately these can become fully booked at peak times and, at some colleges, are not available outside BIMM Institute opening hours. Depending on when you want to rehearse and the frequency with which you want to rehearse you may need to pay for private rehearsal space.

Accommodation and Living Costs

Information about accommodation and living cost at each BIMM Institute FE Centre can be found on the [Essential Documents](#) page.

Disabled Access

BIMM Institute Berlin

At BIMM Institute Berlin the main teaching building is wheelchair accessible, however, occasionally we may use external spaces for some lessons or events, which may not be accessible. If you require wheelchair access every effort will be made to arrange teaching spaces that are accessible.

BIMM Institute Birmingham

All teaching buildings at BIMM Institute Birmingham are wheelchair accessible.

BIMM Institute Brighton

At BIMM Institute Brighton the majority of teaching buildings are wheelchair accessible. However, our BIMM Institute East building is currently not wheelchair accessible, this mainly affects Music Production courses. If you require wheelchair access every effort will be made to arrange different rooms that are accessible.

BIMM Institute Bristol

All teaching buildings at BIMM Institute Bristol are Wheelchair accessible, however some classrooms are not accessible, students who wish to study either Professional Musicianship (Drums) or Music Production are advised to apply to a different BIMM Institute college if they require wheelchair access.

BIMM Institute London

The main teaching building at BIMM Institute London is wheelchair accessible. Our smaller second building offers full access to the student café – however, a small number of tutorial and lecture rooms are not wheelchair accessible. If you require wheelchair access every effort will be made to arrange different rooms that are accessible.

BIMM Institute Manchester

All teaching buildings at BIMM Institute Manchester are wheelchair accessible

For more information and details of how to apply for support please see our student disability guides (<http://www.bimm.co.uk/student-disability-guides/>)