

BIMM Institute Level 3 Diploma in Music Production - Course Specification

Full title of the course & award	Level 3 Diploma in Music Production
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
Funding Partner	New College Swindon
Language of study	English
Final Award and Exit Awards	Year 1- Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners (90 Credits – 540 GLH) Year 2- Level 3 Extended Diploma for Music Practitioners (180 Credits – 1080 GLH)
Admissions criteria	Five GCSEs at a minimum grade of C/4, including English Language and Maths

Contents

BIMM Institute L3 Diploma in Music Production Course Specification.....	1
Course Structures	3
Timetables	8
Assessment	9
Practical Assessments and Performance	9
Multimedia coursework	9
Written coursework.....	9
Presentations.....	10
Teaching and learning	10
Teaching.....	10
Self-directed study	10
In-Class Activities and Tutorials.....	10
Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG)	11
Staff	11
Language.....	11
Additional Costs.....	12
Accommodation and Living Costs.....	11
Disabled Access.....	12

Course Structures

Proposed Classes (Year 1)			
NAME ¹	DESCRIPTION ²	LENGTH ³	LINKED ⁴ UNITS
Extended Studies	Extended Studies is a dynamic and conversational space for general course management and personal development. In this session you will discuss a range of topics including (but not limited to) up and coming performances, recording sessions, assessment, masterclasses, important course notices, as well as analysing music and your progress utilising reflective practice.	2 Hours	All Units
Compositional Styles	This class aims to develop and strengthen production knowledge and practical understanding through exploring a range of compositional methods and techniques associated with different musical genres or styles. This means that you will be able to assess and develop the tools needed to create music with the intention of assembling a coherent body of work.	2 Hours	Unit 304
Sequencing	A music producer holistically directs the creative music process from initial idea, through development, recording and processing through to mixing and mastering the final product. In this session you will study the art of what it is to be a Music Producer	2 Hours	Unit 366
Studio Techniques	Many bands consider their live performances to be the pinnacle of what they can achieve and are often	2.5 Hours	Unit 388

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.

⁴ This is the associated RSL formally assessed unit, 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.

	<p>disappointed that their recordings lack the energy and vibrancy that can be felt when they play together as a unit. A producer who can capture these aspects of performance in a high quality recording would be highly prized. This class will enable you to develop a wide range of skills and look at the various stages of recording from conception to completion.</p>		
Synthesis	<p>Analogue Synthesis is widely used in many different areas in the music industry and is an effective tool for modern music producers. The ability to create interesting sounds allows the artist to develop their own sonic signatures. Successful producers are often identifiable by the sounds they use.</p> <p>This class provides you with the knowledge and skillset towards a variety of synthesis techniques, coupled with the ability to select the appropriate one for a given sound design scenario.</p>	2 Hours	Unit 379
Live Sound	<p>This class will provide the learner with live sound Front of House PA scenarios including setting up, sound checking and mixing for live performances.</p> <p>This will allow development of the skills required in using FOH systems including looking at the planning, technical aspects, timeframe and communicational skills involved in musical events and performances.</p>	2 Hours	Unit 388
Ear Training	<p>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.</p>	2 Hours	Unit 318

Music Industry Career Development	In order to achieve both creative and professional goals, today's modern music makers need 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.	2 Hours	Unit 349
Total (in hours per week)		16.5	
Proposed Classes (Year 2)			
NAME	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH	LINKED UNITS
Extended Studies	Extended Studies is a dynamic and conversational space for general course management and personal development. In this session you will discuss a range of topics including (but not limited to) up and coming performances, recording sessions, assessment, masterclasses, important course notices, as well as analysing music and your progress utilising reflective practice.	1 Hour	All Units
Live Sound	The class provides the learner with live sound monitoring scenarios including setting up monitor mixes for live performances. This will allow knowledge and skill development in using monitor systems including focus on the planning, technical aspects, timeframe and communication skills of musical events and performances.	2 Hours	Unit 333
Digital Music Creation	Composition is an essential skill for a variety of careers within the music industry. Whether the intention is to become a composer, musician, sound engineer or producer, versatility is a vital component in today's constantly evolving music industry, so a broad skill set is increasingly advantageous. Compositions have longevity and the capacity for the work to generate income for the composer through the collection of royalties from the recorded, live and	3 Hours	Unit 306, Unit 392

	broadcast performance can have ongoing financial benefits.		
Studio Techniques	This class builds on the recording knowledge that you developed in Year 1 enhancing your mixing and production skills and taking a very practical, hands-on approach to music production. Mixing is an area of employment within production. An understanding of the subject is also necessary for individuals involved within the production of media (containing audio). In post-production sound, mixing is essential in conveying the message of music, film and gaming; a bad mix can constrict the potential of a good song, film or game.	3 Hours	Unit 392
Synthesis	Digital Synthesis is widely used in many different areas within the music industry and is an effective musical tool for modern music producers. The ability to create interesting sounds allows the artist to develop their own sonic signatures. Successful producers are often identifiable by the sounds they use. This class provides you with an informed knowledge base and developed skillset of a variety of digital synthesis techniques. Having this ability can open up job possibilities in composing for media, sound design and studio production.	2 Hours	Unit 378
Music and Media	The class provide learners with the opportunity to develop skills in media composition for film and documentary, and in doing so, helps develop a deep understanding of the musical requirements within specific media contexts. Through research and analysis of a range of representative films and documentaries and their associated incidental music and soundtracks, learners can assess and develop the knowledge and skills required to create music for media while also acquiring other skills relating to the use of technology, editing, sound design, script	2 Hours	Unit 307

	writing, storyboarding, arranging and orchestration etc.		
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. In addition, this class will enable learners to develop the skills and strategies for generating work and income within the UK music industry exploring self-employed as well as creative enterprise.</p> <p>The learner will develop materials to promote themselves and understand how to communicate effectively in business to business (B2B) context.</p>	1.5	Unit 347
Music in Context	<p>Music in Context is where you'll learn about the interaction between music, society and culture. In addition, it explores historical, political, technological and other aspects in relation with both societal and musical commentary and development. In Music in Context, you will not only track back through history and study some of the most influential artists (and the ongoing reflective actions between music, technology, politics and civil rights) but also explore and contextualise the development of music genres, society and technology of the 20th and 21st centuries.</p>	2 Hours	Unit 316
Total (in hours per week)		16.5	

Proposed Units (Year 1)			
CODE	UNIT	CREDITS	CORE Y/N
Unit 388	Live Sound Recording and Sound Reinforcement	30	External
Unit 349	Planning for a Career in Music	15	Internal
Unit 366	Music Sequencing and Production	15	
Unit 304	Composing Music (Styles)	15	
Unit 318	Listening to Music	10	
Unit 379	Analogue Synthesis	10	
	Total Credits	95	
Proposed Units (Year 2)			
CODE	UNIT	CREDITS	CORE Y/N
Unit 392	Studio Sound Recording and Mixing	30	External
Unit 347	Getting Work in Music	15	
Unit 307	Composing for Film and Documentary	15	
Unit 306	Composing Music (Solo)	15	
Unit 333	Live Sound Engineering (FoH)	15	
Unit 316	Understanding Musical Styles	5	
Unit 378	Digital Synthesis	10	
	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 London, BIMM Brighton only) Classes may also be at different 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.

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 Institutes 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 class-rooms 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/>)

All teaching buildings at BIMM Institute Manchester are wheelchair accessible