

BA(Hons) Professional Musicianship – Course Specification

Full Title of the Course & Award	BA (Hons) Professional Musicianship
Mode of Attendance	Full-Time
Length of course	This course is taught as a three-year course at levels 4, 5 and 6.
Start date	Initial validation: 2003 First cohort intake: 2003/04 Last Revalidated: May 2020
Awarding Institution	University of Sussex
Teaching Institution	BIMM Institute Berlin; BIMM Institute Hamburg
UCAS Code	W313
Language of Study	English
Final Award	Certificate of Higher Education (exit award – min 120 credits) Diploma of Higher Education (exit award – min 240 credits) Bachelor’s Degree with Honours (360 credits)
FHEQ Level	120 credits at Level 4 120 credits at Level 5 120 credits at Level 6
Reference Points	QAA Subject Benchmark in Music (2016) FHEQ (2008) QAA Quality Code (2017) UoS Partnership Procedures (2017-18)
Minimum Period of Registration	3 years
Maximum Period of Registration	6 years
Admissions Criteria	Minimum of 2 A-levels at grade E or above (32 UCAS Points), OR BTEC Level 3 equivalent, and 5 GCSEs at a minimum grade of C/4, including English Language. Overseas students where English is not their native language must meet a minimum English language requirement of IELTS 6.0. A minimum of 5.5 is required in each band.

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Course Structure

Year 1		
Module Name	Credits	Optionality
SEMESTER 1		
Techniques1	10	Core
Live Performance Workshop 1	10	Core
Music Business1	10	Core
Artist Development	20	Core
Music Theory & Notation 1	10	Core
SEMESTER 2		
Music Business 2	10	Core
Techniques 2	10	Core
Live Performance Workshop 2	10	Core
Music Theory & Notation 2	10	Core
Essential Styles	20	Core
Year 2		
Module Name	Credits	Optionality
SEMESTER 1		
Cultural Perspectives	20	Core
Performance in Context	20	Core
Critical Listening	10	Core
Applied Techniques 1	10	Core
SEMESTER 2		
Research Methodologies	10	Core
Applied Music Theory	10	Core
Applied Techniques 2	10	Core
Writing for Digital Media	20	Option
Studio Musicianship	20	Option
Releasing & Publishing Music	10	Option
Creative Technology Performance	10	Option
Audio Capture & Production	10	Option
Option A – Choose ONE module worth 20 Credits and ONE module worth 10 Credits Or Option B – Choose THREE modules worth 10 credits		
Year 3		
Module Name	Credits	Optionality
SEMESTER 1		
Professional Project	40	Core
Solo Performance	20	Core
Analytical Perspectives	20	Core
SEMESTER 2		
Professional Project	(as above)	Core
Ensemble Performance	20	Option
Music Theory & Analysis	20	Option
Online Music	20	Option
Music Teaching Practice	20	Option
Optional Modules : Choose two of the four		

Each student takes 120 credits each year and will be required to have passed 360 credits to receive the full degree. Students must pass 120 credits each year to progress. The overall degree classification is based on grades achieved in year 2 and year 3.

Year 1/Level 4

All modules are Core and need to be passed in order to progress to Year 2, although the Year 1 mean is non-contributory to the final award. Students who decide not to progress to Year 2 but have passed all Year 1 modules will receive a Certificate in Higher Education (Cert-HE) exit award (120 credits).

Year 2/Level 5

There are seven Core modules: two worth 20 credits and five worth 10 credits. There are also five Optional modules: two worth 20 credits and three worth 10 credits. 30 credits of Optional modules can be chosen for semester 2. These must be chosen in combination as directed in the above Course Structure table. The Year 2 mean contributes to the final award with a 40% weighting. Students who decide not to progress to Year 3 but have achieved 120 credits at Year 2 (in addition to 120 credits from Year 1) will receive a Diploma of Higher Education (Dip-HE) award (240 credits).

Year 3/Level 6

There are three Core modules: two of which are 20 credits plus a double weighted major professional project worth 40 credits. There are also two optional modules with 20 credits from a choice of four. Year 3 grand mean to be weighted at 60% of the final award.

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. Classes may also be at different BIMM buildings depending on lecturer and resource availability.

On average, full time students will have around 9-11 class contact hours per week.

Year Structure

Years at BIMM Institute are divided into two 15-week semesters. The academic year usually starts late September/early October and runs until the end of June. The resit period is usually in August.

Covid-19 Adjustments

Due to the current situation some modules may be taught online. This may affect contact hours noted in this document and some assessments may be adapted for online delivery. More details can be found here: <https://www.bimm.ac.uk/study/applicants/>

Workload

Year 1

Total Graded Assessments	12
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Timing of Graded Assessments	
Semester 1	6 Assessments
Semester 2	6 Assessments

Module	Mode of assessment	Duration or word length	Submission Week	Weighting
SEMESTER 1 CORE MODULES				
Techniques 1	A1 Technical Exercises Exam & Practice Reflection	15 minutes	13-15	100%
Live Performance Workshop 1	A1 Ensemble Performance	10 minutes	14	100%
Music Theory & Notation	A1 Aural & Written Exam	70 minutes	14	100%
Music Business 1	A1 Citation Task	500 words	9	20%
	A2 Reading Journal	1500 words	13	80%
Artist Development	A1 Personal and Artist Development Portfolio	3000words	12	100%
SEMESTER 2 CORE MODULES				
Essential Styles	A1 Solo Performance	10 minutes	7	25%
	A2 Solo Performance	10 minutes	14	75%
Music Business 2	A1 Essay	2,000 words	13	100%
Live Performance Workshop 2	A1 Ensemble Performance	10 minutes	14	100%
Music Theory & Notation 2	A1 Transcription & Arranging Project	Minimum 3 parts	14	100%
Techniques 2	A1 Technical Exercises Exam & Practice Reflection	15 minutes	13-14	100%

Total Teaching learning and Assessment	270 Hrs
Total Self-Directed Study	913 Hrs

Year 2

Total Graded Assessments	7-8
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Timing of Graded Assessments	
Semester 1	5 Assessments
Semester 2	7-8 Assessments

Module	Mode of assessment	Duration or word length	Submission Week	Weighting
SEMESTER 1 CORE MODULES				
Cultural Perspectives	A1 Synthesis Matrix	1000 words	7	25%
	A2 Long Essay	3000 words	13	75%
Performance in Context	A1 Performance Exam 1	20 minutes	14	100%
Applied Techniques 1	A1 Performance Exam & Viva Voce	15 minutes	13-14	100%
Critical Listening	A1 Aural & Written Exam	70 minutes	14	100%
SEMESTER 2 CORE MODULES				
Research Methodologies	A1 Literature Review	1000 words	9	40%
	A2 Research Design Kit	1500 words	14	60%
Applied Techniques 2	A1 Research Journal	750 words	6	25%
	A2 Performance Exam & Evaluation	15 minutes	13-14	75%
Applied Music Theory	A1 Applied Theory Creative Project	3-5 minutes	14	100%
SEMESTER 2 OPTION MODULES				
Option A – Choose ONE module worth 20 Credits and ONE module worth 10 Credits Or Option B – Choose THREE modules worth 10 credits				
Studio Musicianship	A1 Practical Studio Session and Evaluation	40 minutes	13-14	100%
Audio Capture & Production	A1 Recording & Reflective Analysis	3-5 minutes & 10 mins	13	100%
Releasing & Publishing Music	A1 Release Strategy	2,500 words	13	100%

Writing for Digital Media	A1 Media Portfolio & Written Critical Analysis	7-10 minutes and 2000 words	13	100%
Creative Technology Performance	A1 Performance & Installation & Portfolio	3 – 5 minutes plus 500 words	14	100%

Total Teaching learning and Assessment	2228 - 240 Hrs
Total Self-Directed Study	724

Year 3

Total Graded Assessments	6-7
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Timing of Graded Assessments	
Semester 1	3 Assessments
Semester 2	3-4 Assessments

Module	Mode of assessment	Duration or word length	Submission Week	Weighting
SEMESTER 1 CORE MODULES				
Professional Project	A1 Project Proposal	1500 words	8	15%
Solo Performance	A1 Solo Performance Exam 1	20 minutes	13-14	100%
Analytical Perspectives	A1 Essay	3000 words	13	100%
SEMESTER 2 CORE MODULE				
Professional Project	A2 Project Report & Portfolio OR Dissertation	4,500 words or 8,000 words	15	85%
SEMESTER 2 OPTIONAL MODULES				
Ensemble Performance	A1 Ensemble Performance Exam	20 minutes	13	100%
Online Music	A1 Online Music Case Study	3500 words	26	100%
Music Teaching Practice	A1 Teaching Toolkit	Equivalent of 1000-1500 words	8	30%
	A2 Practical Assessment & Reflective Analysis	30 minutes & 10 minutes)	13-14	70%
Music Theory & Analysis	A1 Compositional Analysis	3500 words	28	50%

Total Teaching learning and Assessment	171 - 171
Total Self-Directed Study	992 - 1004

*All details above are provided for guidance only but are believed to be accurate at the time of writing. Some figures could be affected by national holidays and exam timetables. If any modules are



added or removed from the course before you start you will be informed prior to enrolment. Modifications may be made in line with our [Course Development and Approval Policy](#). Optional modules may not run if the number of students who wish to take the module are too low, in this case you will be contacted and offered alternative modules.

Assessments

Practical Exams

Practical exams ask you to demonstrate a practical skill under exam 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 module and course being taken. Some practical assessments also contain a viva voce style section where the examiner will ask you questions regarding your exam and the related subject area.

Written exams

Many students will be familiar with this type of assessment. Written exams at BIMM are often used for theory and listening modules and are sat under exam conditions. For more details on exam conditions please refer to appendix 2 of [Section 15: BIMM-University of Sussex Undergraduate Academic Regulations](#)

Practical coursework

Practical coursework often asks you to demonstrate a practical skill but, unlike practical exams, you work on the assessment piece in self-directed study time and hand in the final assessment for marking. Examples of this type of assessment include writing a song or mixing a recording.

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 courses and can take several forms.

- Research essays – 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.

- Dissertation/ Final year project – most courses have a large final year project which is double weighted. This is usually a combination of detailed research and reflective elements. Most courses require you to undertake an active project as the subject of your dissertation and this project is normally agreed with your lecturer.
- 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.
- Patchwork Text Assessments – 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.
- Case Study – these assessments require you to research and write about a specific entity or section of the industry related to your course. For example, a case study of a record Label would require you to look at how the company works, what has made them successful etc.

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

Most lessons will be in classes of 10-25 students however this will depend on the number of students that apply for a course and the resources that are available at the BIMM College you are applying to.

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.

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

Self-directed study

All courses at BIMM 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.

Formative Assessment

BIMM has a number of mechanisms for formative assessment which allow you to gain feedback before the final exam or coursework deadline.

Many modules have formative assignments built into them. In some cases, these are ungraded and are there purely so you can improve your final submission. Some modules use graded formative assessment, in these cases the formative assessment is only worth a small percentage of your final mark.

In-class activities are also used as an opportunity to provide feedback to students. During lessons, there are often opportunities to receive feedback from peers as well as the lecturers and 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's tutorial system to gain additional feedback. The tutorial system allows you to book 1 to 1 sessions with lecturers. You can use these sessions to gain specific feedback on any aspect of your work.

Staff

BIMM 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 lecturers who understand their goals and have the knowledge and experience necessary to help make them a reality.

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

Unfortunately, BIMM cannot guarantee which lecturer will be teaching on individual modules as this will depend on lecturer availability and when classes are timetabled.

Sometimes lecturers 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 lecturers 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 lecturer goes on leave, whether it is due to industry activities or unavoidable factors such as illness or maternity leave, BIMM 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.

Language

All qualifications at BIMM are taught and assessed in English

Costs

Tuition fees

Accurate tuition fees information can be found on our [finance page](#).

Proof of Student Loan or other funding body's acceptance of funding for the tuition fees, together with extent of funding provided must be received by BIMM Institute on or before 15th August. If such funding doesn't cover the full cost of your course of study a payment for the outstanding amount must be received by 15th August.

If you do not intend to apply for or are not eligible for a student loan/grant fees must be paid in full by 15th August.

Payment can be paid via debit/credit card at www.bimm.co.uk/pay or via bank transfer.

Any queries related to finance can be directed towards Financeenquiries@bimm.co.uk.

Additional Costs

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

Most BIMM Colleges 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 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 college can be found on the [Essential Documents](#) page.

Disabled Access

BIMM Institute Berlin

At BIMM 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 Hamburg

At BIMM Institute Hamburg all teaching spaces are wheelchair accessible. 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 Birmingham

All teaching buildings at BIMM Birmingham are wheelchair accessible.

BIMM Brighton

At BIMM Brighton the majority of teaching buildings are wheelchair accessible. However, our BIMM 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 Bristol

All teaching buildings at BIMM 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 college if they require wheelchair access.

BIMM London

The main teaching building at BIMM 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 Manchester

All teaching buildings at BIMM 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/>)