

BIMM Institute Level 3 Diploma in Songwriting - Course Specification

Full title of the course & award	Level 3 Diploma for Music Practitioners - Composition Pathway
Mode of attendance	Full-time
Length of Course	1 Year
Start date	21.09.20
Awarding Body	RSL
Teaching institution	BIMM Institute London
Funding Partner	N/A
Language of study	English
Final Award and Exit Awards	RSL Level 3 Diploma for Music Practitioners Year 1- (120 Credits)
Admissions criteria	Five GCSEs at a minimum grade of C/4, including English Language and Maths
Date of Assessment Syllabus: Revisions:	September 2020

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Course Structures

Proposed Classes (Year 1)			
NAME¹	DESCRIPTION²	LENGTH³	LINKED UNITS
Extended Studies	Extended Studies provides both academic and pastoral support, in a group tutorial environment. There is opportunity to recap and expand on the information covered in the course. It's also a great chance for us to bring guest speakers in to help further your education and ensure you're prepared for a future in the music industry.	1	
Solo Writing	The aim of this unit is to develop the learner's own compositional style and identity through the creation of a cohesive body of work. The purpose of this unit is to facilitate the development of a coherent set of original material for performance or recording, reflective of a profound, analytical understanding of the learner's own musical context. The purpose of the unit is therefore to facilitate efficiency in the learner's ability to internalise and communicate musical elements and ideas.	2	Units 306, 310, 369
Live Performance Workshop	This is where you get to put your hard work in Pre-Production to the test. You'll meet up with other musicians from the diploma course and perform together in front of an audience. Doing this on a regular basis will help you become a confident, well prepared, professional performer.	1.5	Units 359
Styles/ Co- Writing	This unit aims to develop the learner's knowledge and practical understanding of a range of compositional methods and techniques associated with different musical genres or styles. The purpose of this unit is to facilitate the development of compositions that are reflective of existing work in the chosen genre, style or sub-style. Through the research and analysis of compositional techniques involved in varied styles and genres, learners can assess and develop the	2	Unit 358, 359

¹ This is the class name which will be created on the BIMM Institute 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.

	tools needed to create music with the intention of assembling a coherent body of work		
Arrangement, Analysis and Composition	In this lesson you will learn about the composition of different musical styles and explore the historical movements where they were brought to life. These skills will then be put into practice as you develop your own arrangement and compositional ability.	1.5	Unit 302
Music Production	Music Production will give you the opportunity to work on Studio techniques and Recording techniques as a creative Songwriting. This module/unit takes students through the process of concepts such as Microphone types and placement, Signal routing, EQ and dynamic processing, Using a digital audio workstation, Adding effects, audio editing	2	Unit 369
Lyrics	Listening Skills is all about sharpening the ear for in-depth song analysis. In it you'll be taught various listening and theory skills. These skills will not only teach you new ways of appreciating and understanding music, it will also help you on your way to becoming a better, more employable, musician.	1.5	Unit 310
Musicianship	Music Theory is an essential component of musicianship and this is where you'll develop your knowledge of how music works and the language and notation used to communicate it.	2	Unit 311
Music Industry	It's important to remember that there's much more to being successful in music than your discipline alone. In this lesson you'll learn about the structure of the music industry and start to prepare yourself for a future within it.	1.5	Unit 339
Sound & Culture	This lesson not only gives students the skills to critically listen to music, but also understand the personal, social and cultural conditioning that can inform our musical tastes. The lesson will give you chance to analyse the factors behind changes in personal responses to music over time identifying the key events that are likely to have influenced these changes.	1.5	Unit 318
Total (in hours)		16	

Proposed Units (Year 1)			
CODE	UNIT	CREDITS	CORE Y/N
Unit 306	Composing Music (Styles)	15	Y
Unit 347	Getting Work in the Music Industry	15	N
Unit 318	Listening to Music	10	N
Unit 359	Live Music Performance	15	N
Unit 369	Digital Recording & Production	15	N
Unit 311	Practical Harmony Application (Chords & Progressions)	15	N
Unit 306	Composing Music (Solo)	15	N
Unit 310	Composing Lyrics	5	N
Unit 30	Music Arrangement (Orchestration)	15	N
Total Credits		120	

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.

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, where required, runs into July and sometimes August.

Assessment

Year 1			
Unit	Assignment	Duration or word length	Submission Week
MUSPRA 304: Composing Music (Styles)	Two Compositions (and visual representation report)	2 x 4 min audio + 1000 words	Week 15
	Evaluation	1500 Words	Week 16
MUSPRA 359 Live Music Performance	Performance Plan	1500 Words	Week 9

	Performance	25 min practical	Week 20
	Evaluation	1000 Words	Week 30
MUSPRA 318: Listening to Music	Contrasting personal responses essay	750 word	Week 7
	Key musical elements essay	750 words	Week 18
MUSPRA 347 Getting Work in The Music Industry:	Job Roles in the Industry	1000 Words	Week 10
	Personal Strategies	1250 Words	Week 19
MUSPRA 302 Music Arrangement	Solo Instrument	3 min Audio	Week 6
	Full Band Arrangement & Reflective Critique	3 min Audio 1000 word write up	Week 17
	String Quartet	3 min audio	Week 30
MUSPRA 369: Digital Recording & Production	Recording Plan	625 Words	Week 5
	Recording	7 min audio + 625 words	Week 14
	Editing	7 min audio + 625 words	Week 30
	Evaluation	625 Words	Week

MUSPRA 386: Practical Musicianship	Theory Portfolio 1	4 min audio + Notation + 1000 words	Week 11
	Theory Portfolio 2	8 min audio + Notation + 1000 words	Week 30

*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.

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.

Written Assessment

Written assessments at BIMM Institute are often used for theory and listening units.

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 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 – 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 tutor.
- 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 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.

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 Institute 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 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.

Formative Assessment

BIMM Institute 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 tutors 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 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](#).

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

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 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 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 college 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/>)

