

BIMM Institute Level 3 Extended Diploma in Songwriting – Applicant Course Overview

Full title of the course	Level 3 Extended Diploma in Songwriting
Mode of attendance	Full-time
Length of Course	2 Years (1-year exit options available)
Start date	20.9.21
Awarding Body	RSL
Teaching institution	BIMM Institute Birmingham BIMM Institute Brighton, BIMM Institute Bristol, BIMM Institute Manchester
Funding Partner	New College Swindon
Language of study	English
Final Award and Exit Awards	Year 1- RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in the Creative Music Industry (Composition Pathway) Year 2- RSL Level 3 Extended Diploma in the Creative Music Industry (Composition Pathway)
Admissions criteria	Five GCSEs at a minimum grade of C/4, including English Language and Maths

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Course Structures

NAME ¹	DESCRIPTION ²	LENGTH ³
Rehearsal and Performance Planning	In Rehearsal and Performance Planning you'll explore and engage with the preparations required towards a great performance. This class takes a detailed look at the factors that make up successful performances, such as band forming, rehearsal techniques, communication, building repertoire, creating a live set, promotion, marketing, tour management, stage management, budgeting and more.	2.5 Hour
Songcraft	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 Hours
Pre-Production	Pre-Production encourages the preparation of both classic and original songs to professional standards. You'll deconstruct songs and pay close attention to the lyrics, melody, arrangement and harmonies all in preparation for your Performance lesson.	2 Hours
CPW (Composition Performance Workshop)	This is where you get to put your hard work in Pre-Production to the test. You'll perform, review and refine your performances along the way. Doing this on a regular basis will help you become a confident, well prepared, professional performer and songwriter.	2.5 Hours
Music Industry and Employability	It's important to remember that there's much more to being successful in music than your	1.5 Hours

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.

	discipline alone. In this lesson you'll learn about the structure of the modern music industry, the various job roles available and how you can start to prepare yourself for a future within it.	
Ear Training and Music Theory	Ear training and music theory is not just about honing your aural perception skills and music knowledge, 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
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, personal wellbeing, masterclasses, important course notices, as well as analysing music and your progress utilising reflective practice.	1 Hour
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

Applied Listening Skills	Applied listening skills focuses on the concept of perceptive listening and how you can develop and applying listening skills towards the development of your own musical output. This class helps your awareness of your own place in the development of music and its wider social context.	1.5 hours
Total (in hours)		16.5
NAME	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH
Collaborative Music Project	Collaboration is often central to music industry success. This class focuses on the knowledge and understanding of taking a team project from concept to completion and in doing so, enhances and develops research ability, independence, teamwork, time management awareness and project management skills.	2.5 Hours
Music in Context	This class helps your awareness of your own place in the development of music and its wider social context. You will focus on the concept of perceptive listening and how you can develop and applying listening skills towards the development of your own musical output. In this session 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.	1.5 Hours
CPW (Composition Performance Workshop)	This is where you get to put your hard work in Pre-Production to the test. You'll perform, review and refine your performances along the way. Doing this on a regular basis will help you become a confident, well prepared, professional performer and songwriter.	2.5 Hours
Pre-Production	Pre-Production encourages the preparation of both classic and	1.5 Hours

	original songs to professional standards. You'll deconstruct songs and pay close attention to the lyrics, melody, arrangement and harmonies all in preparation for your Live Performance Workshop lesson.	
Music Industry and Employability	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 take an in-depth look into royalties, copyright and collection societies. You'll also begin working on your own business plan that will help you to forge a path into the music industry.	1.5 Hours
Songcraft	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 Hour
Studio Composition	In Studio composition, you will develop the studio skills from year 1. This class will help you to develop your producers' ear and engineering skills.	2
Research Methods	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.	2 Hours
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,	1 Hour

	assessment, personal wellbeing, masterclasses, important course notices, as well as analysing music and your progress utilising reflective practice.	
	Total (in hours)	16.5

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 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.

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

The course provides high quality tuition and support for all students in line with BIMM's teaching and learning ethos and adheres to the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework by setting high expectations, embedding reflective practice and promoting equality and diversity within the curriculum.

All modules are delivered through small and large group teaching, alongside tutorials

and career mentoring, helping to create a varied and positive learning environment. Classes utilise peer interaction, encouraging all students to form strong working relationships to build their own network and community of practice.

The assessment programme has been created based on a formative approach to developing deep learning, utilising a variety of methods including written, portfolio, performance and presentation giving the student a rounded experience and empowering them to take ownership of their progress, guided by BIMM's expert tuition. This approach also enables the teaching to be differentiated for each student, personalising their learning journey and enabling them to utilise their own creative output to achieve their qualification.

Course notes and assignments briefs are provided in digital format and a state-of-the-art Virtual Learning Environment is utilised by tutors and students to enable further study, creating a balance between classroom and online for a blended learning approach.

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)

Whether you need support to plan your music career, help with University, Apprenticeship or job applications, CV writing, job hunting or you have general questions about your next steps, our experienced and impartial team of careers experts and advisors are available to help you kick start your music career.

Special Educational Needs, Disabilities & Learning Support

BIMM Institute is committed to a policy of equal opportunities for all students and is particularly committed to ensuring that students with specific learning needs and disabilities are provided with appropriate support and equal access to their chosen course of study.

BIMM has an experienced Further Education Learning Support Team that are ready to help with all learning needs and additional support requirements. If you have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP), or you would like to discuss special educational learning need or disability, you will have the opportunity to disclose and indicate this in both your initial assessment, and your application and/or pre-enrolment form. A member of our Support team will then contact you before the start of your course to arrange a consultation, and help create your personal support plan.

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 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 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 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/>)