BMus/BSc Electronic Music Computing and Technology Integrated Foundation Year

Programme Specification

Awarding Institution:
University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)
Teaching Institution: Goldsmiths, University of London
Final Award: BMus/ BSc (Hons) Electronic Music, Computing and Technology
Programme Name: BMus/BSc (Hons) EMCT Integrated Degree Foundation Year
Total credit value for programme: 120 CATS
Name of Interim Exit Award(s): N/A
Duration of Programme: 1 year (Foundation) + 3 years full-time (undergraduate degree)
UCAS Code(s): W310
HECoS Code(s): (100070) Music 50%
(100366) Computer Science 50%
QAA Benchmark Group: Music, Computing
FHEQ Level of Award: Level 3 (Year 0)
Programme accredited by: Not applicable
Date Programme Specification last updated/approved: May 2024
Home Department: Music
Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:
Computing

Programme overview

The integrated foundation in EMCT programme provides students with a secure grounding in core interdisciplinary skills across music and computing that are essential for success in the EMCT programme at level 4 and beyond. These include essential mathematical and programming skills, creative musical skills, and academic skills in music, including essay-writing.

The programme also offers a high level of pastoral and academic support to students, both in curricular contexts and extra-curricular contexts (in the form of regular, individual tutorials). This is in recognition of the various challenges brought by the students who may lack academic and/or musical and technological backgrounds when they transition to higher education. Taken as a whole, the programme therefore provides students with core

disciplinary and academic skills, as well as acting as a supportive bridge to induct students into the culture and texture of university life.

Students on the programme are given guidance on how to use various musical and technological facilities, and institutional services such as Wellbeing and Careers centres. Moreover, they join an expanding cohort of Music and Computing foundation students, as well as taking part in activities of the two departments throughout the academic year.

Programme entry requirements

The standard offer is low tariff A-level or BTEC (or similar) results (e.g. Grade C at A-Level or PP in a BTEC diploma) or equivalent. We accept those who lack aforementioned official attainments if they demonstrate substantial musical experience, such as music production, and an aptitude for computing and technology.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Understand the interrelationship of practice and theory	MU50007B 'Introduction to Musicology', MU50009B 'Foundation for Composition' , IS50001D 'Foundations of Programming' and ‘Building Your Research World’.
A2	Understand the relationship between technical skills and creative practice	MU50007B 'Introduction to Musicology', MU50009B 'Foundation for Composition', IS50001D 'Foundations of Programming' and ‘Building Your Research World’
A3	Understand key musicological concepts, terms, strategies, and practices in various musics	MU50009B ‘Foundation for Composition’ and MU50007B ‘Introduction to Musicology’
A4	Understand traditions, and interpretative approaches in musics mainly but not exclusively in the West	MU50009B ‘Foundation for Composition’ and MU50007B ‘Introduction to Musicology’
A5	Understand the sociocultural contexts of musical practices and discourses	MU50007B ‘Introduction to Musicology’ and ‘Building Your Research World’
A6	Understand key university and disciplinary structures and protocols	‘Building Your Research World’

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A7	Understand the fundamental concepts of computer programming	IS50001D ‘Foundations of Programming’
A8	Understand the fundamental mathematical techniques and how they relate to computer systems	IS50002B ‘Foundations of Mathematics for Computing’

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Reason critically	All modules
B2	Identify and solve technical, interpretive and conceptual problems	MU50007B ‘Introduction to Musicology’, ‘Building Your Research World’, IS50001D 'Foundations of Programming' and IS50002B 'Foundation of Mathematics for Computing'
B3	Demonstrate competence in academic writing and research	MU50007B ‘Introduction to Musicology’, and ‘Building Your Research World’
B4	Exercise and demonstrate independence of thought	All modules
B5	Evaluate critically the arguments and rationales of historical and interpretive writing	MU50007B ‘Introduction to Musicology’ and ‘Building Your Research World’
B6	Create, analyse and operate simple computer programs	IS50001D ‘Foundations of Programming’
B7	Identify, and apply appropriate mathematical techniques to solve specific problems	IS50002B ‘Foundations of Mathematics for Computing’

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Compose music in response to creative direction and specification	MU50009B ‘Foundation for Composition'
C2	Apply the understanding of conventions, traditions and techniques in individual creative work	MU50009B ‘Foundation for Composition’
C3	Demonstrate control and precision in the use of music technology	MU50009B ‘Foundation for Composition’

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C4	Create, analyse and operate simple computer programs	IS50001D ‘Foundations of Programming’

Transferable skills (Elements)

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Demonstrate intellectual curiosity and the potential for continuing artistic and creative development	MU50007B 'Introduction to Musicology', MU50009B 'Foundation for Composition', IS50001D 'Foundations of Programming' and ‘Building Your Research World’
D2	Demonstrate the ability to structure and communicate ideas effectively and persuasively both orally and in writing	MU50007B 'Introduction to Musicology', MU50009B 'Foundation for Composition', IS50001D 'Foundations of Programming' and ‘Building Your Research World’
D3	Display the ability to use library resources, databases, and other research tools to identify, collect and reference primary and secondary material	All modules
D4	Display the ability to organise and manage a personal schedule of learning in order to work effectively towards deadlines and performances	All modules
D5	Demonstrate the ability to work independently, and to show self-motivation and critical self-awareness	All modules
D6	Display appropriate ICT skills and knowledge of their application as relevant to the sub-discipline(s) studied	All modules

Mode of study

The programme is delivered through a combination of small-group lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, workshops, and individual lessons. All modules make use of the College V.L.E. as a repository for essential module information, and all students receive training in music technology, including knowledge of music software. There are dedicated computer rooms for self- directed learning, and we have a large staff team with a very wide range of research interests (the details of which can be found at www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/music/staff). We also regularly bring in external specialists to support our modules, or as instrumental/vocal tutors.

Programme outcomes that emphasise knowledge and understanding are developed throughout the Foundation in lecture-seminar sessions, supported, where possible, by individual tutorials, and where relevant, lab/workshop sessions. Practical and subject-related skills are developed through class-based tasks, either individually or in groups, (including analytic, listening-based, or discursive exercises), or by setting up and reviewing follow-up tasks undertaken outside of class through workshops where students are given the opportunity to offer peer feedback. Cognitive and transferable skills are integral to the learning experiences across all elements of the programme, but are particularly emphasised in the module Academic, Professional and Study Skills, where you will be given a wide-ranging induction into departmental and college protocols and services.

Learning and teaching is also supported by a wide variety of practical activities that pertain to various aspects of the programme. These may include, for example, the Goldsmiths Sinfonia, the Chamber Choir, the Contemporary Music Ensemble, the Creative Jazz Ensemble, Creative Jazz Workshop, the Goldsmiths Improvisors' Collective, the Keyboard Collective, performances curated by the Electronic Music Studios, and the Department's concert series, masterclasses, and guest lectures. Students are also invited to engage with events within the Music Research Series, hosted by the Department's various research centres and units.

Programme structure

Full-time mode

Students take the following six compulsory modules over 1 year (full-time only).

Academic year of study 1

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Introduction to Musicology	MU50007B	15	3	Compulsory	2
Foundation for Composition	MU50009B	15	3	Compulsory	1
Foundations of Programming	IS50001D	30	3	Compulsory	1, 2
Foundation of Mathematics for Computing	IS50002B	30	3	Compulsory	1, 2
'Building Your Research World'	LS5XXXX	30	3	Compulsory	1, 2

Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in a number of ways by departments and College support services who work collaboratively to ensure students get the right help to reach their best potential both academically and personally.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor who has overall responsibility for their individual progress and welfare. Personal Tutors meet with their student at least twice a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically. The first meeting normally takes place within the first few weeks of the autumn term. Personal Tutors are also available to students throughout the year of study. These meetings aim to discuss progress on modules, discussion of the academic discipline and reports from previous years if available (for continuing students). This provides an opportunity for progress, attendance and assessment marks to be reviewed and an informed discussion to take place about how to strengthen individual learning and success.

All students are also allocated a Senior Tutor to enable them to speak to an experienced academic member of staff about any issues which are negatively impacting their academic study and which are beyond the normal scope of issues handled by Programme Convenors and Personal Tutors.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the Library and information available on Learn.gold (VLE) so that they have access to department/ programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading and/or practice for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops and labs.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the Goldsmiths website and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The Disability and Wellbeing Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The Careers Service provides central support for skills enhancement, running The Gold Award scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).

The Academic Skills Centre works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

Placement opportunities

There are no specific placement opportunities to the Foundation Year.

The Music department maintains relationships with the local community within the programmes. This includes our long-standing partnership with the Albany Theatre in Deptford, the venue for a large number of the shows in our PureGold Festival. We further maintain links with other local music organisations, such as Lewisham Music, who currently employ several of our graduates, and with whom we create placement opportunities for our students in the module MU53058E Music Teaching Skills (an optional module at Level 6). The department continues to support community initiatives, including through the Alchemy Project: the Music Department provides space and equipment to support this music production and mentoring for young people aged 14-18 from the borough, and our students frequently work as volunteers within the programme. Our label, NX Records, is run as a collaboration with Matthew Herbert's Accidental Records, releasing music created by Goldsmiths' Music students, alumni, and community in Lewisham.

The Music department currently has international partnerships with Kristiana University (Norway), Rhythmic Music Conservatory (Denmark) and Osaka University (Japan), which offer our students academic placement opportunities in those countries.

Employability and potential career opportunities

The Foundation degree is designed to provide the basis of knowledge, understanding and skills for a wide range of careers in fields related to music and computing: teaching, performing, creative work in the media, arts administration, publishing and retailing, record companies and production, community musicianship, librarianship and technical work in radio or television. In particular, in collaboration with our Careers service, offers advice to students along with consideration of students' personal development in relation to their future careers and aspirations. The foundational skills in programming and mathematics within the Computing modules could lead to career opportunities application programming, mobile app development, or web development.

The programme as a whole provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the wide range of transferable skills that employers are seeking, and students would have access to specialist support via our Careers service, and via specialist Careers events run by the Department in conjunction with Careers and as part of our Dept Employability Action Plan.

Programme-specific requirements

In order to be guaranteed entry to Level 4 of our BMus/BSc EMCT degree, students of the Foundation Year are be expected to achieve an average of 40% across all modules, and pass all 120 credits.

Tuition fee costs

In addition to your tuition fees, you will be responsible for meeting standard costs associated with your study. Find out more information at gold.ac.uk/programme-costs.

Specific programme costs

N/A