Postgraduate Programme Specification

Session	2026/27	**Last Modified**	8 Feb 2024
Named Award Title	MA Music, (Songwriting) (Sound Production) (Industries)		
Award Title for Each Award	MA Music, (Songwriting) (Sound Production) (Industries) PG Dip Music, (Songwriting) (Sound Production) (Industries) PG Cert Music, (Songwriting) (Sound Production) (Industries)		
Date of Approval	January 2022		
Details of Cohort Applies to			
Awarding Institution	University of the West of Scotland	**Teaching Institution(s)**	University of the West of Scotland Roma Contemporary Music College (Italy)
Language of Instruction & Examination		English	
Award Accredited by		JAMES	
Maximum Period of Registration			
Duration of Study			
Full-time	1 year	**Part-time**	3 years
Placement (compulsory)	No		
Mode of Study	☒ Full-time ☒ Part-time		
Campus	☒ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Divisional Programme Board	**Arts Media**		
Programme Leader	Dr Clare Duffin		

Admissions Criteria

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements:

Appropriate Undergraduate Qualifications:
Applicants will typically possess a degree or equivalent. In the absence of a degree, where entry requirements do not conform to the general entry requirements, other evidence can be considered on an individual basis in line with Regulations 2.13 – 2.36 (Recognition of Prior Learning – RPL / Recognition of Credit).

Other Required Qualifications/Experience

Further desirable skills pre-application
Work experience in the creative and cultural industries / experience releasing new music / experience producing, mixing or mastering music to industry standard.

General Overview
The programme presents a range of high-level specialised skills related to professional expectations around the bracketed titles; these will be delivered across a range of relevant delivery modes including intensive workshops, classroom and studio delivery, online delivery and a range of self-directed professional briefs. Students will develop understanding around relevant methodologies, both in terms of traditional research modes and creative practice-led research. The programme is flexible, allowing for full-time and part-time study. Overarching educational aims include:

Build self-direction and originality in developing creative work and in the promotion, management and dissemination of materials.

Embed professional-level autonomy across a range of music practices.

Deal with complex issues creatively and systematically, making judgments in the context of music creation and management that have artistic and ethical integrity and value for an audience / market.

Embed approaches to self-critique, academic enquiry and practice-based research at the forefront of music, production and music business practices and the related academic discourse.

Reflect on learning using tutor and peer feedback.

Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management, progressing through the degree programme to become an independent learner at the forefront of professional practice. Collaborate across a range of creative music disciplines to deliver briefs within professional timescales in a range of group projects.

Use a range of technologies relevant to subject specialisms and more broadly in terms of communication, information retrieval and the dissemination of creative projects.

Develop a wide range of advanced skills on a professional level.

Use the structures of the course to support professional development planning and career building.

Build extensive, detailed knowledge and understanding of a number of specialisms at the forefront of music practice.

Students will work towards the development of a major self-directed project relevant to their own particular pathway to be delivered via the Masters Creative Project 60-credit module. The project will evidence understanding and integration of specific and relevant research methodologies (creative practice-led and traditional research modes), significant subject knowledge and clear alignment with the expectations of industry. In completing the project students will also define a professional dissemination plan. Students of the MA Music (Industries)/MA Music pathway may alternatively undertake a Dissertation (Marketing, Tourism & Events) in the final trimester dependent on the focus of their research and desired output.

The MA Music graduate, across all pathway titles, will be an accomplished, critically reflective practitioner with a set of strongly focused skills and the ability to exist and thrive autonomously in a range of professional contexts.

Statement from our Head of Division:

"Your learning and teaching in Arts & Media aligns to principles set out in the UWS Curriculum Framework 2022. Module and programme design is therefore guided by a flexible, hybrid and student-centred approach. We design module assessments to be authentic both in terms of their academic rigour and relevance to the creative industries. The journey through your chosen programme of study is designed to be simple and coherent, developing a full range of academic, creative and conceptual skills required to develop exciting and sustainable careers in the creative industries. Your voice is important in helping us shape learning and teaching that is inclusive and contemporary, so we encourage you to engage with opportunities to feedback on your experiences."

Typical Delivery Method

Modules on MA Music are shaped by the nature of the specialisms and learning outcomes. These can take the form of lectures, seminars, workshops, work-based learning, simulations, studio/lab work. Several modules are intensively delivered, meaning they are scheduled over 2-3 specified weeks during term time, with longer hours attached. These modules include: Songwriting Workship (Term 1), Soundscapes (Term 2) and Professional Music Release (Term 2).

Any additional costs

There are no mandatory additional costs attached to the programme. There are optional costs that relate, but are not limited to, text books, field trips, travel to placements, hardware (laptop), professional membership and printing.

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning

The programme is fully aligned with institutional priorities around the development of graduate attributes and with the institutional policy on personal development planning. The mapping of programme and module learning outcomes and employability-integrated assessment ensures the visibility of graduate attributes, employability and citizenship competencies. Personal development is embedded and explicitly signposted in the

curriculum, with students provided with regular opportunities to capture and evaluate progression and development, stimulating reflection, self-regulation and a more constructive engagement with employability. It is recognised that personal development planning is an essential component of lifelong learning and continuing and professional development. To support this activity, all students are provided with access to personal development planning tools and enabled to develop a personal e-portfolio across the programme.
Specifically, the modules, programme levels and programme learning outcomes across the framework are carefully designed to ensure professional practice is closely aligned with academic development. Students are required to consider creative work within modules as publishable outputs – this is clear in modules such as Creative Industries: Professional Practice, Professional Music Brief and Professional Music Release and in the final Masters Creative Project / Dissertation which is likely to be either a published creative work or a contextualisation of a live business idea.

Work Based Learning/Placement Details
Placements are optional within the Trimester 2 core module, 'Creative Industries: Professional Practice (CIPP) and should be negotiated with the Module Co-ordinator.

Attendance and Engagement
In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this programme, academic engagement equates to the following:

Equality and Diversity
The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.

Programme structures and requirements, SCQF level, term, module name and code, credits and awards (Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework)

Learning Outcomes

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate understanding of collaborative music practice within a wide range of industry contexts.
A2	Develop extensive knowledge and understanding of the ways in which music practice can be evaluated and understood including a range of research methodologies from musicology and other relevant disciplines (business, cultural, literary, aesthetic philosophy).
A3	Demonstrate ability to critically evaluate current and historical academic practices in analysis, including advanced scholarship in the discipline.
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Use a wide range of the principal skills, techniques and practices associated with music practices and apply these in the light of a broad analytical and historical understanding.
B2	Demonstrate professional practice in a wide variety of contexts including working to briefs, collaborating with a range of clients and negotiating in creative partnership.
B3	Plan and execute a significant project of practice-led research.
B4	Demonstrate ability to apply a number of specialised research methodologies, including standard methods of musical, technical and business analysis alongside creative critical responses.
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Demonstrate an ability to express complex ideas in written and oral form.
C2	Use a wide range of software to support the development of creative and entrepreneurial work.
C3	
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Develop responses to creative and professional challenge, making critically informed and autonomous judgements.
D2	Prepare original and creative responses to research questions.
D3	Demonstrate the ability to critically review, consolidate and practically expand upon complex practices and highly abstract thinking in academic practice.

D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Demonstrate professional leadership in projects, working with others in complex collaborative scenarios.
E2	Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in preparation for seminars and in researching written submissions.
E3	
E4	
E5	

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	MUSC11022	Analysing Creativity	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	MUSC11020	Songwriting Workshop	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	MUSC11019	Professional Music Brief	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	MUSC11023	Soundscapes	20	☒	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

Footnotes for Core Modules

Core for MA Music (Songwriting): Analysing Creativity, Songwriting Workshop

Core for MA Music (Sound Production): Analysing Creativity, Soundscapes

Core for MA Music (Industries): Analysing Creativity, Professional Music Brief

Core for MA Music: Professional Music Brief, Analysing Creativity

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	MUSC11023	Soundscapes	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	MUSC11019	Professional Music Brief	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	MUSC11020	Songwriting Workshop	20	☒	☐	☐	
10	MUSC10013	Music Film & Sound Aesthetics	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	CMPG11006	Creative Media Practice	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	MUSC11009	Professional Music Release	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	TOUR11007	Practical Issues in Events	20	☒	☐	☐	Runs in Paisley Campus

11	TOUR11006	Politics and Policy in Events and Tourism	20	☐	☒	☐	Runs in Paisley Campus
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 11- Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)
Criteria for Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

Options for MA Music (Songwriting): Soundscapes, Professional Music Brief, Music: Film & Sound Aesthetics, Professional Music Release, Creative Media Practice, Practical Issues in Events, Politics and Policy in Events and Tourism.

Options for MA Music (Sound Production): Songwriting Workshop, Professional Music Brief, Music Film & Sound Aesthetics, Professional Music Release, Creative Media Practice, Practical Issues in Events, Politics and Policy in Events and Tourism.

Options for MA Music and MA Music (Industries): Songwriting Workshop, Soundscapes, Music Film & Sound Aesthetics, Professional Music Release, Creative Media Practice, Practical Issues in Events, Politics and Policy in Events and Tourism.

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate an extensive, detailed and critical knowledge and understanding in research methodologies much of which is at or informed by developments at the forefront of research in and applied to creative practice.
A2	Demonstrate critical understanding of the principal theories, concepts and practicalities of conceptualising and realizing a coherent music performance, production or event.
A3	Detailed critical understanding of the complexity of collaborative and interdisciplinary working.
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Use a significant range of the principal skills, techniques and practices associated with specific music, production and music business practices.
B2	Use a selection from a range of research methods techniques and practices at the forefront or informed by key developments within academic discourse.
B3	Plan and execute a significant collaborative project in collaboration with a range of music and creative practitioners with professional consideration of practical and ethical challenges.
B4	Demonstrate originality or creativity in the application of knowledge and understanding of research and research methods as applied to a range of music practices.
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Use a range of advanced skills in communicating creative ideas (including written, demonstrated and verbal forms) in professional contexts, working at a high professional level of competency.
C2	Communicate, using appropriate methods, to a range of audiences with different levels of knowledge/expertise.
C3	Communicate with peers, more senior colleagues and specialists.
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Deal with complex and divergent issues, making critically informed judgements towards the creation of an artefact or event.
D2	Develop original and creative responses to problems and issues in relation to collaborative practice.
D3	Demonstrate professional level insights, interpretations and solutions to problems and issues.
D4	

D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in professional music and equivalent music-related activities.
E2	Take responsibility for development and completion of own work and the work of others in a range of professional music contexts.
E3	Demonstrate strong critical reflection on own practice and evaluation of the work of others.
E4	
E5	

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	CMPG11002	Creative Industries: Professional Practice		☐	☒	☐	
11	MARK11019	Creative Research		☐	☒	☐	Delivered at Paisley Campus
11	CMPG11005	Research: Critical Development		☐	☒	☐	
11	MUSC11022	Analysing Creativity		☒	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

Footnotes for Core Modules

Core for MA Music (Songwriting):
Creative Industries: Professional Practice
Research: Critical Development
Analysing Creativity
Songwriting Workshop

Core for MA Music (Sound Production):
Creative Industries: Professional Practice
Research: Critical Development
Analysing Creativity
Soundscapes

Core for MA Music (Industries):
Analysing Creativity
Professional Music Brief

Creative Industries: Professional Practice

Research: Critical Development OR Creative Research

Core for MA Music:

Analysing Creativity

Creative Industries: Professional Practice

Research: Critical Development OR Creative Research

Any available pathway module

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
10	MUSC10013	Music Film & Sound Aesthetics	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	CMPG11006	Creative Media Practice	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	MUSC11009	Professional Music Release	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	MUSC11019	Professional Music Brief	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	MUSC11020	Songwriting Workshop	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	MUSC11023	Soundscapes	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	TOUR11007	Practical Issues in Events	20	☒	☐	☐	Delivered at Paisley Campus
11	TOUR11006	Politics and Policy in Events and Tourism	20	☐	☒	☐	

Footnotes for Option Modules

Level 11- Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip)
Criteria for Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

There is no progression within stages at SCQF Level 11.

In line with the Regulatory Framework, for the award of Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) in Music or Pg Dip Music (Songwriting) or Pg Dip (Sound Production) or Pg Dip Music (Industries). At least 120 credit points must be achieved (including all core modules) of which a minimum of 90 are at SCQF Level 11 and none less than SCQF Level 10.

Distinction will be awarded in line with University Regulations and no imported credit can be used. (Regulations 3.35 & 3.26).

SCQF LEVEL 11 – Masters Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate knowledge that covers and integrates most if not all of the principal areas, features, boundaries, terminology and conventions of music practices.
A2	Demonstrate critical understanding of the principal theories, concepts and principles underpinning popular music practice.
A3	Demonstrate a critical understanding of a range of specialised theories, principles and concepts applying to popular music practice.
A4	Display extensive, detailed and critical knowledge and understanding in one or more specialism related to music practice, much of which is at or informed by developments at the forefront of the discipline.
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply a range of specialised skills, techniques, practices and/or materials which are at the forefront or informed by forefront developments in music practice.
B2	Apply a range of standard and specialised research or equivalent instruments and techniques of enquiry.
B3	Plan and execute a significant project of research, investigation or development.
B4	Demonstrate originality or creativity in the application of knowledge, understanding and/or practices related to music practice.
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Communicate, using appropriate methods to a range of audiences with different levels of knowledge/expertise.
C2	Communicate with peers, more senior colleagues and specialists.
C3	Use a wide range of software to support, enhance and disseminate work at this level.
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Apply critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis to issues which are at the forefront or informed by developments at the forefront of creative media practice.
D2	Identify, conceptualise and define new and abstract problems and issues.
D3	Develop original and creative responses to problems and issues drawing on information from a variety of sources, including academic research publications and the wider music commentariat.
D4	Critically review, consolidate and extend knowledge, skills, practices and thinking in music related practice.
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in professional music contexts taking responsibility for a wide range of resources.

E2	Systematically identify and address own learning needs both in current and in new areas making an identifiable contribution to change and development.
E3	Develop as an independent researcher by planning, designing, executing, disseminating and contextualising a music-related project.
E4	
E5	

Masters Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	CMPG11007	Masters Creative Project	60	☒	☒	☒	September start students (full-time) will ordinarily take the T3 version of this module.
11	MARK11024	Marketing, Events and Tourism Dissertation		☒	☐	☒	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Masters Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 11- Masters
Criteria for Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

Core for MA Music (Songwriting) and MA Music (Sound Production): Masters Creative Project

Option for MA Music (Industries) and MA Music:

Masters Creative Project

OR

Dissertation

NB: fFor MA Music (Industries): If taking Dissertation in Trimester 3 then Creative Research should have been taken in Trimester 2.

If taking Masters Creative Project in Trimester 3 then Research Critical Development should have been taken in Trimester 2.

The programme leader and supervisory team will work with students to design and implement the most advantageous route.

Regulations of Assessment

Candidates will be bound by the general assessment regulations of the University as specified in the University Regulatory Framework.

An overview of the assessment details is provided in the Student Handbook and the assessment criteria for each module is provided in the module descriptor which forms part of the module pack issued to students. For further details on assessment please refer to Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework.

To qualify for an award of the University, students must complete all the programme requirements and must meet the credit minima detailed in Chapter 1 of the Regulatory Framework.

Combined Studies

There may be instances where a student has been unsuccessful in meeting the award criteria for the named award and for other more generic named awards existing within the School.

Provided that they have met the credit requirements in line with the SCQF credit minima (please see Regulation 1.21), they will be eligible for a Combined Studies award (please see Regulation 1.61).

For students studying at Level 11, they will normally be eligible for an exit award of PgCert / PgDip / Masters in Combined Studies.

Version no: 1

Change/Version Control

What	When	Who
Inclusion of two new optional modules delivered in Paisley.	4/6/25	C. Duffin
Indication of Paisley as additional campus of delivery (optional modules only)	4/6/25	C. Duffin
Removal of Creative Portfolio as optional module	4/6/25	C. Duffin
Removal of Immersive Audio as available pathway for 25/26	4/6/25	C. Duffin
Addition of desirable applicant experience	4/6/25	C. Duffin