Course Specification

MA Music for the Moving Image

2018-19 (MAMMI)

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Record of Enhancement

No.	Detail of modification (Provide a brief description of the modification and where the Course Specification has been updated)	Date Effective (Indicate the academic year of entry and course level(s) to which the modification will apply)
	Example Assessment changed from examination to presentation in Module X, see section entitled Module Assessment Methods.	Level 5 from September 2018-19 entry
	Creative Sound Design – To be replaced by a new module Audio-Visual Practice	Sept 18

Version Control

Version Control	
Version number and date effective	Sept 18
For completion by Quality Assurance Services only:	
Next Re-validation date	

School of Film, Music and Performing Arts

Target award, course title and programme code: MA Music for the Moving Image (MAMMI)

Level of qualification: Level 7

Course Rationale and Philosophy

The main aim of the MA in Music for the Moving Image is to provide an opportunity for higher level study in the ways that music can be used in the production of media products for moving image. The proposal builds on existing provision at undergraduate and postgraduate level in the area of music for film as well as complementing existing provision in audio and sound design. Our Level 3 elective module in 'Music for Film and Television' has been oversubscribed each year; this award provides a more specialised progression route for our level 3 UG as well as an opportunity for external students to undertake advanced study in this area.

Contemporary film and TV score production involves significant use of music technology skills in addition to those traditionally associated with the composition process. Given our strengths in technology (the course is being introduced at a time when our studio resource base has been acknowledged as of an exceptionally high standard by the Joint Audio Media Education Services (JAMES)), and the relevant industry experience of our award winning visiting professor Ray Russell, we are in a position to meet both these needs.

The developing philosophy of the music programme at the University provides the opportunity to develop skills in an open, creative and innovative way by focusing on technology as a tool for musical creativity. Students will therefore engage with and build an appreciation of the possibilities of music for the moving image through engagement with appropriate technology as a tool for developing a wide range of outcomes.

Overview and Aims

The course builds on, and integrates with, our existing Postgraduate music courses, and with the wider school brings together students from music, film, drama and performance in a mutually beneficial multidisciplinary environment. Shared components and teaching within a production house environment reflect an industry practice within an efficient and sustainable delivery pattern.

Our Target Sector
- Students with a background in composition who wish to develop their skills in writing for visual media.
- Experienced popular music composers who wish to apply their existing composition skills to writing for the moving image.
- Our own undergraduate students who wish to progress to postgraduate study in this area.

General Aims of Course
- To provide opportunities for graduates with honours degrees (or equivalent qualifications) to pursue advanced study in the field of Music for the moving image and develop general skills appropriate to the holder of a Masters level award.
- To produce individuals who have a critical and balanced appreciation of the practical and theoretical issues associated with the design and development of Music for the Moving image.
- To develop individuals who are equipped with the skills and knowledge to devise and develop Music for the moving image artefacts.
- To provide a forum for the exchange and critical analysis of information relating to the field of music for the moving image, thereby developing the experience and skills of the students themselves in order to contribute to the body of knowledge within this area.

Course Learning Outcomes

1	Deal with complex problems and demonstrate a critical awareness of theoretical issues associated with analysis and design of music for the moving image.
2	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge and skills associated with the production of music for the moving image.
3	Demonstrate an understanding and critical awareness of current issues and new technologies within the field of music for the moving image.
4	Demonstrate originality and synthesis in the application of theory and techniques, drawn from earlier studies, through the production of the project, a significant piece of high level independent work.

Course Structure

Level 7
Semester 1 consists of two award specific modules, giving students an immediate opportunity to develop their skills and theoretical framework in the areas of film music. The collaborative practice module gives an opportunity to work with students from other music courses, as well as with students from across the school. It allows students to demonstrate and apply existing knowledge, form relationships with peers and experience a collaborative working environment that mirrors industry practice. Semester 2 allows students to develop the skills learnt in semester 1, as well as widening their experience to encompass Audio-Visual Practice and the possibility to specialise in electroacoustic composition or orchestration, arrangement and programming, through the option modules. In the final semester of the course students complete their research practice module, looking at key texts and methodologies in the field, culminating in the final project, in which students create a significant piece of high level work accompanied by some written commentary to reflect and analyse the process and outcome of the project.

Semester 1	Core	Semester 2	Core	Semester 3 (Summer)	Core
Analysis of Music for the Moving Image (20)	Y	Negotiated Skills Development (20)	Y	Final Individual Project (40)	Y
Composing for the Moving Image (20)	Y	Audio-Visual Practice (20)	Y		
Collaborative Practice (20)	Y	Options: Electroacoustic Music Orchestration, Arrangement & Programming (20)	N		
Research Practice (20)			Y		

Contained awards available:

Award	Title	Level
PGDip	Music for the Moving Image	7
PGCrt	Music for the Moving Image	7

Length and status of programme and mode of study

Programme	Length (years) Status (FT/PT/SW)	Mode (campus-based / DL or other)
MA Music for the Moving Image	1 Year FT	Campus-based
MA Music for the Moving Image	2 Years PT	Campus-based

Learning and Teaching

Details relating to contact hours and other key information sets (KIS) are available on the course page of our Online Prospectus on our website.

Learning and Teaching Approaches

Our Learning and Teaching Strategy is based on the Vision, Values and Strategic Themes set out in the Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015. Our vision is: "to be acknowledged for our commitment to student success, our innovation and enterprise, our global reach and strong local impact". Our Learning and Teaching Strategy has strong connections with other strategies including; Widening Participation, Research and Enterprise, Schools' Partnership, Employability and Human Resources.

We are committed to the following values:
  • Inspiring
We share our values and ideas with passion, energy and commitment, supporting all to achieve their potential.
  • Creative

We stimulate innovation, imagination and discovery, generating challenging and original ideas.

- Enterprising

We identify and maximise opportunities using our resources widely and building on our strengths.

- Purposeful

We are clear as to our shared plan and committed to delivering this efficiently and effectively.

- Respectful

We are inclusive, supportive and ethical in our behaviours and actions, actively valuing diversity.

- Professional

We expect and uphold high standards, leading by example with integrity and responsibility

The programme fits in to a structure with other Masters programmes (MA Music Production, MSc Sound Design, MSc Music Technology, MSc Sound & Music for Interactive Games) in the music area allowing students to develop social and professional contacts with other students in the area. The cross-programme Collaborative Practice module enables students to develop supportive networks both within and beyond their course, and promotes group working on projects with real world parallels. The option modules (eg Electroacoustic Music) also allow students access to staff knowledge in areas of interest outside of their core modules, and staff are encouraged to present workshops in their own areas of interest (eg wildlife sound recording, generative art, etc.) through the Negotiated Skills Development module.

A postgraduate event to celebrate the good work that is being undertaken by students on the programmes and across the school has been held in previous years (eg Landing Party, 2012) and we will continue to promote this good work in future. Collaboration at this event between the schools of Music, Film and Performance opens up opportunities for collaboration beyond the subject area and beyond the course.

Learning and Teaching Activities

The course covers a diverse range of learning, including theory, practice, group work, and self-study, and delivers this through a range of integrated approaches to teaching and learning and assessment.

The course delivery is based around the core of practical and seminar tuition supported by lectures. Guest lecturers from industry and academia help to emphasise professional and intellectual development and to ensure that practical studies are underpinned by a contextual and theoretical understanding.

An appropriate range of industry standard recording studios, laboratories and computer facilities provides a challenging and professional learning environment which usefully mirrors the context of professional practice. Access to high quality, capital intensive resources is highly valued by students.

Practical projects carried out with MA students at the Northern Film School provide opportunities to develop technical and practical skills in the area of composition and post production. The contextual elements are delivered through analytical themes explored in parallel with practical work. These themes develop the historical context of composition for the moving image together with exploration of current industry practices and the potential for developing career paths.

This course encourages and prepares students to take increasing responsibility for the content and direction of their creative work and requires students to undertake significant and sustained periods of independent study, culminating in a major project carried out in the final semester of the course.

Group work engages students in extending their creative abilities into the area of collaboration and negotiation both with students in the music area as well as with students in the wider school including film, dance and performance.

The dedicated research practice module gives students an opportunity to critically approach a range of research methodologies, which they are able to apply throughout the other modules on the course. Modules are informed by staff research and practice, exposing students to a wide range of research approaches, including ethnographic, practice-based, theoretical, artistic and technical. This range of underpinning approaches, combined with the practical experience of tutors and guest lecturers, allows students to synergise theory and practice in the development of their own work, and is a key strength of the course.

While the majority of the course is practical-based, writing is used extensively to underpin this practical work. Students are often required to maintain journals/blogs of their own working practice (Composing for the Moving Image, Sound, Music and Image) and critically reflect on these, discuss the context of their work drawing from academic, artistic and technical sources (Audio-Visual Practice, Negotiated Skills Development), and produce full research papers (Research Practice, Sound, Music & Image). Students are assisted in developing these writing styles during the course, and are then able to demonstrate this in their final project, which requires them to engage with all these written forms.

Graduate Attributes (UG only)

N/A

Use of the Virtual Learning Environment

The VLE is used as a repository for lecture and tutorial material, assessment documents and background material relevant to each module. The vast majority of coursework submissions take place through the VLE, making submissions easy to track and allowing staff to provide online feedback directly on the submission.

Turnitin is used for major written submissions to allow developmental plagiarism checks and targeted feedback on student work.

'Gradebook' is used to keep students informed of their progress on individual modules with relation to assessed work.

Module handbooks, course handbooks and assignment briefs are all provided electronically through the VLE.

Module discussion forums, blogs and wiki's are used to help develop discussion around each of the core modules. Tutors and students are encouraged to post interesting articles, papers or information to share, often in a way that gives students a chance to input into the direction and detail of taught sessions. Audio-visual material is heavily used in the teaching of this course, and this is normally hosted on the VLE to add value to the online presence.

Use of Blended-Learning

N/A

Student Support Network

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators works closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

If you have any questions about life at our University in general, call into or contact the Student Hub on either campus to speak to our Student Experience Team. This team, consisting of recent graduates and permanent staff, are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. There is a Student Hub on the ground floor of the Rose Bowl at City Campus and one in Campus Central at Headingley. You can also find the team in the Gateway in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus. The telephone number is 0113 812 3000, and the e-mail address is StudentHub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The **Support** tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The **Opportunities** tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can

find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment on the course is through a mix of practical tasks, technical reports and academic writing as appropriate to the particular module. Assessment points are staggered through the year to help to manage the student workload and formative tasks are used to lead up to summative assessments, giving students valuable feedback and structure to their work. Several modules allow students to combine assessment into a single task (Audio-Visual Practice, Sound Music & Image), and students are encouraged to build on previous work to give clear progression through the course (eg Negotiated Skills Development, Final Project) – the culmination of the course is the final major project, in which students are expected to develop high level work that draws on earlier assessments and feedback.

As well as assessing students on the learning outcomes of their course and modules, assessments also aim to develop professional skills that will enable them to success in the future workplace and wider society. These include presentation skills, communication with clients, working to deadlines, development of creative work to a brief, etc. There is strong use of industry style tasks for assessment throughout the course. Several assessments on the course make use of films in progress by students at the Film School, simulating a real-world situation and helping to develop key industry skills and techniques. This practical work is often accompanied by written documentation that gives an academic context to the work, and allows students the opportunity to demonstrate where research, literature and academic study has fed into their practice.

Several of the assignment briefs are open for students to follow their own areas of interest (Negotiated Skills Development, Final Project), and in many cases students will be expected to develop their own specific project ideas within the guidelines of the assignment. This is particularly the case for the final project, in which students are free to develop their own outcomes in consultation with their tutor.

Feedback on Assessed Coursework

The VLE is heavily utilised as a vehicle for summative feedback. Many assessments are submitted to the VLE and written feedback is returned on this submission through standard proformas and rubrics. Given the limited numbers of students on this course, verbal feedback is also very effective and widely used. There has been use of audio-feedback on some modules on the course (Sound, Music & Image), and students have responded well to this.

Developmental feedback and critique can be given verbally by tutors and peers on a regular basis, including group critiques and individual tutorial sessions, in which detailed verbal feedback on student work is given.

Feedback on final project work is provided on a one-to-one basis through regular meetings with the project supervisor as well as with subject specialists, and paperwork has been introduced to document this process and ensure continuity of supervision over the summer break.

Module Assessment Methods (Core modules only, please tick all which apply)

Module Titles	Core (Y)	Written Assignment/Analysis/ Critique	Essay	Portfolio	Presentation	Proposal	Project	Composition
Analysis of Music for the Moving Image – Level 7	Y	✓	✓					
Composing for the Moving Image – Level 7	Y			✓				
Collaborative Practice - Level 7	Y				✓			
Negotiated Skills Development – Level 7	Y					✓	✓	
Audio-Visual Practice – Level 7	Y			✓				
Orchestration, Arrangement & Programming – Level 7				✓				
Electroacoustic Music – level 7		✓						✓
Research Practice - Level 7	Y	✓				✓		
Final Project – Level 7	Y	✓				✓	✓	

Employability and Professional Context

The course has strong industry focus throughout. Students will work on a wide variety of industry style projects throughout the course. Employability is embedded in the course and strong professional practice is encouraged throughout all coursework.

The MA Music Production course, which shares several modules with MA Music for the Moving Image, is accredited by JAMES (Joint Audio Media Education Support) who themselves are backed by the Music Producers Guild, Association of Professional Recording

Services and UK Screen Association. JAMES accreditation of MA Music Production feeds into the curriculum of this course, and helps to ensure that it is up to date and relevant for the industry and equips graduates with a strong and appropriate range of skills. Leeds Beckett is the North East regional centre for JAMES.

Career paths, as both employees and freelance practitioners, include:
- composer for film and television
- composer for other media such and radio, computer games and new media
- music editor
- music producer or arranger

36% of music industry employees are self-employed (CCSkills, 2011) and many graduates go onto freelance careers. The course provides the guidance and confidence to do this.

The course also has the potential to lead onto further academic study in the area of composition, production and arrangement for film, TV and computer games, and on completion of the course we hope graduates will consider PhD level study at Leeds Beckett or elsewhere.

The course allows students to mix with musicians, producers, games designers, filmmakers and performing artists in order to develop a wide network of contacts which may lead to further collaborations and partnerships upon graduation. Students have the opportunity to work with the Northern Film school on collaborative projects throughout the course which will lead to strong professional links.

Regular guest lectures and master-classes from industry practitioners allow students a window into the industry they will be moving into. The course taps into a strong network of staff contacts, the vibrant local music scene and the JAMES network in order to provide input to the course from industry practitioners.

Leeds has a vibrant and exciting live music scene and the students on our postgraduate courses are involved in this as musicians, DJ's, promoters and sound engineers. Students on the course also have the opportunity to work with the Students Union on music events at both campuses.

Work-Related Activities: N/A

Placement or Work-Related Activity Level: N/A

Placement or Work-Related Activity Length in Weeks: N/A

Type of Placement or Work-Related Activity: N/A

Reference Points used in course design and delivery

All our courses leading to Leeds Beckett University awards have been designed and approved in accordance with UK and European quality standards. Our courses utilise the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) and relevant subject benchmarks (where these are available) and professional, statutory and regulatory body requirements (for professionally accredited courses).

We review our courses annually and periodically, responding to student feedback and a range of information to enhance our courses. Our University is also subject to external review by the Quality Assurance Agency. Our latest report can be found on the QAA website.

We appoint External Examiners to verify that our University sets and maintains standards for awards which adhere to relevant national subject benchmark statements and the FHEQ (UK), ensure standards and student achievements are comparable with other Higher Education Institutions in the UK, with which they are familiar, and ensure that assessments measure achievement of course and module learning outcomes and reach the required standard. External Examiners may also provide feedback on areas of good practice or potential enhancement.

Staff Teaching on the Course

You can find details of our highly qualified permanent teaching staff on our website, who are involved in teaching, research and administration associated with the course.

Regulatory Exemption details (if applicable)

N/A