



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## MA Popular Music & Culture

Course Code: MAPMC

2024/25

[leedsbeckett.ac.uk](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## ***Award and Title: MA Popular Music & Culture (MAPMC)***

### **Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2024/25 Postgraduate Entrants**

Confirmed at FEB/2024

#### **General Information**

<b>Award</b>	Master of Arts Popular Music & Culture
<b>Contained Awards</b>	Postgraduate Diploma Popular Music & Culture Postgraduate Certificate Popular Music & Culture
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification and Credits</b>	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
<b>Course Lengths and Standard Timescales</b>	<p>Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 year (full time, campus based)</li><li>• 2 years (part-time, campus based)</li></ul>
<b>Part Time Study</b>	PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that the work placement option is not generally available to PT students.
<b>Location(s) of Delivery</b>	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.

## Entry Requirements

Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here:

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/>

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:

[AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

## Course Fees

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to

[Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

## Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

## Policies, Standards and Regulations ([www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations))

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

## Key Contacts

**Your Course Director**

Dr Richard Stevens

**Your Academic Advisor**

Dr Sue Miller

**Your Course Administrator**

Bethwyn Osborne [MusicCourseAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:MusicCourseAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

### Professional Body

The School will seek accreditation to the Joint Audio Media Education Support (JAMES) at the next opportunity

## **Course Overview**

### **Aims**

The aims of the programme are to:

1. Provide opportunities for graduates with honours degrees (or equivalent qualifications) to pursue advanced study in the field of popular music & culture and develop wider skills appropriate to the holder of a master's level award.
2. Produce individuals who have a critical and balanced appreciation of the conceptual and theoretical issues relevant to the study of popular music & culture.
3. Provide a forum for the exchange and critical analysis of popular music & culture, thereby developing the experience and skills of the students themselves and contributing to the body of knowledge in relation to the cognate area.
4. Engage students in planning and implementing research tasks which demonstrate advanced problem solving and autonomous decision making in complex situations.
5. Enable students to communicate a range of information and content in an appropriate format which reflects scholarly and professional contexts.
6. Empower students to make effective use of reflective strategies for the development and evaluation of self-managed learning and professional practice.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 1 Develop a systematic understanding of the field of popular music and culture through interdisciplinary study at advanced level.
2. Critically evaluate a variety of concepts, theories and methods used for the study of popular music and culture to an advanced level.
3. Demonstrate advanced intellectual abilities by applying current research methodologies and skills effectively to provide insight into popular music and culture.
4. Engage in independent learning by planning and implementing research tasks which make an original contribution to specific sub-fields of popular music and culture.
- 5 Communicate information effectively through a range of formats appropriate to scholarly and professional contexts.
- 6 Demonstrate a range of reflective strategies for the development of self-directed learning and professional practice.

## Teaching and Learning Activities

### Summary

Teaching throughout the course either in class, through workshops or by supervision is informed by staff who are active as researchers or practitioner-researchers in their respective fields. Research-informed teaching not only brings benefits through the currency of the curriculum, but it also creates a strong research ethos for the course.

Several of the assignment briefs are open for students to follow their own areas of interest (Research Practice, 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 area of study in consultation with their tutor. The *Research Practice* module runs alongside the other modules in both semester 01 and 02 and is designed to support students' development of academic writing and research methodologies, supporting the work in other modules, and preparing the ground for work done in the Final Individual Project.

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 academia, the future workplace and wider society. These include presentation skills, communication with clients, working to deadlines and development of work to a brief. The course places peer review and formative assessment at the heart of the delivery through regular seminars and workshops. These assessments are key to driving student learning and are closely aligned to the intended learning outcomes. Opportunities for formative feedback are scheduled explicitly into modules such as Popular Music Culture, History and Heritage and Popular Music Analysis. The aim is to engage all students in critical debate about their own and their peers work in order to develop a supportive community where the learning that takes place between them is as important as the learning delivered by staff. For example, Popular Music Analysis encourages students to critically engage with the multiple modes of Popular Music such as audio, video and still images and dedicated seminars allow in-depth discussion of the ways in which Popular Music is produced, mediated, celebrated and sold to audiences through the use of cultural codes, symbols and signs. Popular Music Culture, History & Heritage and Research Practice both encourage students to engage with practical study in the field using ethnographic methods such as participant observation and interviews as a way of gaining an understanding of Popular Music cultures.

This course is delivered in person and all lectures and seminars are live. Some one-to-one or small group tutorials may be conducted online at the discretion of the tutor.

## Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 7			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Popular Music Culture, History and Heritage (40 Credits)	Y	Popular Music Analysis (20 credits)	Y
		Negotiated Skills Development (20 credits)	Y
Music Industries in Context (20 credits)	Y	Music Industries in Practice (20 credits)	Y
Research Practice (20 credits)	Y	Research Practice - continued (20 credits)	Y
Semester 3	Core (Y/N)		
Final Individual Project (40 credits)	Y		

The option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules.

Part-time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study.

## Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director, but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities, and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

### Assessment

On this course students will be assessed by predominantly by coursework.

### Workload

Overall Workload	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	160 hours
Independent Study	1,640 hours
Placement	N/A

### Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work 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.

### Student Services

If you have any questions about life at University, call into our Student Services Centre at either campus or contact Student Advice directly. This team, consisting of trained officers and advisers 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. They also work on a wide range of projects throughout the year all designed to enhance your student experience and ensure you make the most of your time with us. Student Advice are located in the Student Services Centre in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus and on the ground floor of the Priestley Building at Headingley Campus. The team can also be contacted via email at [studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk), telephone on 0113 812 3000, or by accessing our online chat link, available on the student homepage.

## **Support and opportunities**

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.