



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MA Popular Music & Culture

Course Code: MAPMC

2026/27

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

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at 12/2025

General Information

Award	Master of Arts Popular Music & Culture
Contained awards	Postgraduate Diploma Popular Music & Culture Postgraduate Certificate Popular Music & Culture
Awarding body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of qualification and credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
Course lengths and standard timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 months (full time, campus based)• 24 months (part time, campus based)
Part time study	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 from that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that a work placement option is not generally available to PT students.
Location(s) of delivery	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 .
Course fees	Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course. Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk .

Policies, Standards and Regulations

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>

Standard regulations apply to this course.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

N/A

Industry Links

'The Music and Sound subject area has links with industry bodies including UK Music. Full details can be found on the course pages on the Leeds Beckett website.'

Timetable

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.

Key Contacts

Your course director Alex Stevenson

Your course administrator Bethwyn Osborne MusicCourseAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

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

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Popular Music Culture, History and Heritage	40	1

Music Industries in Context	20	1
Research Practice	20	1 and 2
Popular Music Analysis	20	2
Negotiated Skills Development	20	2
Music Industries in Practice	20	2
Final Individual Project	40	3
Number of credits of compulsory modules	180	

Assessment 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

Level 7

On this course students will be assessed by coursework.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	160 hours
Independent study	1640 hours
Placement	-