



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MA Popular Music Performance

Course Code: MPOMP

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Award and Title: MA Popular Music Performance (MPOMP)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2025/26 Entrants

Confirmed at 05/2026

General Information

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|---|---|
| Award | MA Popular Music Performance |
| Contained awards | Postgraduate Diploma Popular Music Performance Postgraduate Certificate Popular Music Performance |
| 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

Accreditation/recognition summary

N/A

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 performance (broadly defined) and develop wider skills appropriate to the holder of a master's level award.
2. Engage students in planning and implementing research projects which demonstrate the ability to reflect on their creative performance-based work and to implement methodologies common in the fields of artistic practice research.
3. Produce individuals who have a critical and balanced appreciation of the practical and theoretical issues relevant to the study of music performance.
4. Provide an inclusive environment for the exchange and critical analysis of popular music performance thereby developing the experience and skills of the students themselves and contributing to the body of knowledge in relation to music performance practice.
5. Enable students to communicate a range of information and content in an appropriate format which reflects both scholarly and professional contexts.
6. Give students the agency 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:

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|---|--|
| 1 | Devise, plan and implement performance projects in a variety of different contexts, which make an original contribution to specific fields of artistic practice within popular music performance and research. |
| 2 | Critically evaluate and apply in to your practice a variety of popular music performance theories and methodologies to an advanced level. |
| 3 | Demonstrate advanced intellectual abilities by applying current research methodologies and skills effectively to inform your performance work and to provide insight into popular music performance. |
| 4 | Communicate information effectively through a range of formats (e.g. live, filmed, audio-visual, written and event-based) appropriate to professional performance and scholarly contexts. |
| 5 | Implement a range of reflective strategies for the development of self-directed learning, entrepreneurship and professional practice in the field of popular music performance. |

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Students will be taught in interactive seminars and lectures and students will be expected to make use of the rehearsal and studio facilities to develop their performance-based work with lecturers and also independently. There will be small group tutorials and 1-1 supervisions for project work and opportunities for formative feedback before summative assessments. Students will undertake research on popular music performance and arts-based research in their own areas of interest, apply findings to their own developing performance work and integrate written assignments with their practical portfolio work.

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

Full Time compulsory modules

| Module title | Credits | Semester/ teaching period |
|---|---------|------------------------------|
| Music Performance 1 | 30 | 1 |
| Research Practice in the Arts | 30 | 1 |
| Music Performance 2 | 30 | 2 |
| Songwriting and Arranging | 30 | 2 |
| Final Project | 60 | 2 and 3 |
| Number of credits of compulsory modules | 180 | |

Part Time compulsory modules

| Module title | Credits | Semester/ teaching period |
|---|---------|------------------------------|
| Music Performance 1 | 30 | Year 1 Semester 1 |
| Music Performance 2 | 30 | Year 1 Semester 2 |
| Songwriting and Arranging | 30 | Year 1 Semester 2 |
| Research Practice in the Arts | 30 | Year 2 Semester 1 |
| Final Project | 60 | Year 2 Semester 2 and 3 |
| Number of credits of option modules a student should choose | 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 predominantly by assessed coursework which will comprise performance-based work in a variety of formats and contexts accompanied by reflective commentaries, evaluations, presentations and written research related to arts-based methodologies including practice research, research-informed performance and reflective practice.

Workload

| Overall Workload | Level 7 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Teaching, learning and assessment | 203 hours |
| Independent study | 1597 hours |