



# DEGREE PROSPECTUS

FdA Music Production  
FdA Music Performance



[accesscreative.ac.uk](http://accesscreative.ac.uk)



**access**  
creative college





## WELCOME

**Welcome to our degree prospectus, a new set of foundation degrees for the next generation of creatives.**

We believe working in the creative industries can be the most mind-opening, rewarding and fulfilling career there is. It can also be extremely hard work at times.

Our degree courses aim to equip all of our students with everything they need to follow their passion and succeed in the creative industries. During your time with us, you will be getting hands-on with state of the art, industry standard audio equipment and honing your creative skills alongside experienced mentors while building industry contacts.

This year you can choose to study a Foundation Degree in Music Production or Music Performance at our specialist campus in Norwich.

**We'd love to welcome you into our class of '23, so have a look through and see if we're the right fit for you.**

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## WE BELIEVE IN YOUR CREATIVITY

We believe the creative mind navigates situations differently, requiring a unique learning experience.

That's where we come in.

With over 26 years of experience in creative education, we specialise in developing talent through both our further and higher education courses, having taught over 30,000 students in our time.

We strive to empower creatives to become visionaries; the artists, entrepreneurs and inventors who will shape the future. We offer the guidance, structure and time needed to hone your skills and forge your own path in the creative industries.

The passing of knowledge and experience from one creative to another builds a solid foundation for new ideas and success. That is why all of our tutors are creative experts and professionals, who are still actively working in the industry, we can't even prise them away!



Music plays an extremely important role in all our lives and is a vital part of our culture. It's a constantly developing industry offering exciting and rewarding career opportunities.

**£4.5bn**

Annual input to UK economy

**142,208**

Total UK employment directly sustained by music

**3%**

Growth in music jobs

Figures from  
'UK Music - Measuring Music Report 2017'





## OUR VALUES (C.R.E.A.T.E.)

Supporting our beliefs are our values. They reflect our ethics and morals, the approach and actions of our staff and the behaviours we encourage from our students.

We believe in them wholeheartedly - they are at the core of everything we do.

- **Creativity**  
We are pioneers. We innovate and think differently to explore new avenues and push boundaries.
- **Responsibility**  
We are clear, true, honest and show respect to one another. We demonstrate integrity and take ownership of our actions.
- **Entrepreneurship**  
We use initiative and seize opportunities. We work closely with partners to promote innovation and nurture entrepreneurial spirit.
- **Ambition**  
We harness our passion for creativity and have the courage to turn it into reality. We never stop striving for excellence.
- **Teamwork**  
We collaborate with others to produce our best work. The extraordinary is created when we're challenged, supported and work as a team.
- **Equity**  
We're inclusive and fair to everyone, all of the time. We celebrate achievements no matter the size and show care, empathy and generosity to others.





## NORWICH

**If you want to study a music degree in Norwich, then Access Creative is the only place to do it. The city is a hive for young creatives with a huge amount of record shops and events, including two major festivals. If you're after a beautiful historic city with a thriving music scene, then Norwich is the place for you.**

The college's very own Let's Eat Grandma and Mullally both came from this city and patron Ed Sheeran honed his skills in the area. With venues such as Norwich Arts Centre, Epic Studios and The Waterfront, there are loads of great places to hear established and up-and-coming artists. You may well be taking to the stage yourself.

Norwich also has a thriving social scene and nightlife. Head down to Prince of Wales road for a range of different venues, from comedy clubs and cocktail bars to tapas, Norwich has it all.



Our campus is located on Magdalen Street, a vibrant area of the city centre, known for its alternative shops and culture. Inside you will discover fantastic, dedicated degree suites with everything you'll need to pursue your creative career. The campus hosts two industry standard recording studios along with iMac editing suites, media rooms and seminar spaces.

Our partner, Plug Studios is situated a few minutes walk from the college and offers thirteen airconditioned, fully-equipped rehearsal rooms as well as a 24-track digital studio. Degree students have their own dedicated space at our music campus located at Epic Studios.





## NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

**We love NTU. We respect their ethos and values, but more than anything, we respect their focus on engagement with employers.**

We believe this is fundamental in creative education and is something we strive to deliver for our students. It was also a vital factor in our choice to partner with them to accredit our degrees.

➤ **At this level, we're looking for people who live and breathe music**

Studying for a degree is challenging; we'll be expecting you to work hard and put the time in, but the skills and experience you will gain over the two years will give you everything you need to achieve your aims as a creative in the industry.

➤ **Expect a change of pace**

We don't audition or interview for our degree places but these courses are more academically demanding than college level. You should be keen to develop your analytical skills, work at a higher level and take a mature approach to the modules and workload.

➤ **Glance over the next pages for a selection of our students' progress**

These highlight the emotional and educational journeys they went on during their experience on our HE courses.



Nottingham Trent  
University





## SOPHIELOU

Sophielou joined ACC in 2016 on the two year Music Performance course. She had the passion, drive and talent to succeed but felt she needed to polish her songwriting. She worked extremely hard to develop her songs but did not expect to also leave the course a more polished performer.

**“Before starting the course I was someone who could write and sing. Upon leaving the course, I was a professional musician.”**

Dr Paul Francis, HE Course Director, worked with Sophielou on the course. “Sophielou really impressed me when we first met, she had a fantastic rawness about her songs but you could see, and she also knew, that she needed to refine them to become the finished product. We worked on her performance as well, also releasing a number of music videos to improve her confidence and now she’s a mature artist.”

Since completing the course, Sophielou has released numerous EPs. Her first, *Out With The Old*, reached number 7 in the iTunes R’n’B charts. Sophielou’s music has reached different cities around the world and led to a huge amount of gigs, two of which saw her supporting UK artists Dappy and Akala. Sophielou is currently working on her debut album with live musicians that she met on the course.



## JOSS FRANCIS

Joss Francis studied Music Production as a drummer with limited production experience, but was eager to pursue a career as a recording engineer. With the support of his tutors and an unwavering dedication to honing his craft throughout his time on the course, Joss challenged himself to develop his skillset, which has enabled him to forge a path for himself in the creative industries in a number of recording and production roles.

**“The music production course was a gateway into the music industry for me. Before I started I had no knowledge of mixing, mastering or music production but the course gave me a strong foundation of knowledge in all of these areas to begin a career. Now I’m head sound tech for a Jazz bar in Nottingham and have worked privately with bands 1 to 1, as well as an award-winning London-based producer and engineer. Without this course and the tutors I wouldn’t be where I am today!”**



## DYLAN BARBER

Dylan's passion for the production industry and the music industry began when he was seven his dad bought him a two channel interface. From there, he taught himself the basics of recording and mixing a song in their home living room.

**“Access is a great place to study everybody in the building is like-minded and really wants to work hard to be a member of the creative industry access has got excellent access to industry standard facilities all of the tutors around us are really knowledgeable and it's a really sort of supportive and a great place to be to be doing a degree.”**

With some experience as a live sound engineer, Dylan wanted to turn his focus towards studio engineering and production, which is when he decided that the degree course was exactly what he needed to develop the skills required to meet his career goals.

Our tutors spent one-to-one time with Dylan, looking at how to approach the recording and production process from demo creation to completed masters, providing tailored feedback throughout, ensuring Dylan had an industry facing portfolio of work that would serve him beyond his time on the course.

One of Dylan's highlights from his time on the course was during an industry week talk with studio engineer Andrew Scheps (Adele, Beyonce, Metallica), hosted by the university, where Scheps offered feedback on one of Dylan's mixes. Scheps' positive feedback gave Dylan the confidence to pursue a career as a freelance studio engineer and producer.

Since completing the course, Dylan has gone on to open his own recording studio in Norwich under the name Fine City Recording Studio, win the Production Futures Breakthrough Award for Standout Technical Talent, record and mix projects for NPR's Tiny Desk, as well as work on projects and shows locally and nationally of various kinds including festivals, conferences, location recording work in unusual spaces, broadcast work and more.



## WHAT STUDYING WITH US MEANS



### Opportunity

Gain industry experience with work experience opportunities at venues, studios and festivals. Play your music on stages, or mix the live sound at a venue. Start releasing and distributing your music whilst you're on the course, there's no need to wait.



### Experimenting

You're in safe hands. Take the opportunity to go out on a limb and try something new. Think outside the box and create something you've never done before. Dare to make mistakes by being innovative and unique. Learn from what works and what doesn't.



### Perseverance

Nobody likes to make mistakes, but they're inevitable in the creative industries. As long as you learn from them, mistakes and setbacks can be opportunities to learn and grow. There will be some tough days during your career and we'll prepare you for that. Find your confidence on the course, never give up and we won't either.



### Success

Take it all in. You'll have plenty of time getting hands on with the equipment and technology in our studios and rehearsal rooms, so you can do it again and again until it's just right. Once you leave, you'll be bang up to speed with transferable industry standard practices, skills and knowledge.



### Collaboration

Making music is about working together. Musicians working in bands. Producers and engineers recording and producing artists. Songwriters collaborating. Artists liaising with managers, agents, promoters and labels. It's all about teamwork.



### Mentoring

You will be mentored by tutors with professional industry experience. Previous talks include: Andrew Scheps, Steve Albini, Sylvia Massy and more. Learn from those who have been there, failed, succeeded and got the t-shirt.



### Practicality

You already have a great set of skills. Now is the time to learn new ones and fine tune the ones you have. It's time to get ready for professional work.



### Flexibility

Night owl? No worries, our campuses stay open late, so you can work away into the night. If you fancy a change of city, you could study your second year at one of our other campuses. Norwich is the only campus offering Music Performance and Audio and Music Technology FD courses.





## MUSIC PRODUCTION FdA

**Level of Study:** Foundation degree

**UCAS Code:** J944

**Start Date:** September

**Duration:** Two years, full-time

**Study Mode:** Full-time

Learning in world-class studios, packed full of industry-standard kit, you'll explore music creation from a technical and creative standpoint and discover and nurture your own creative path.

You'll learn practical music theory and apply it to your own compositions, whether that's individually or collaboratively in your work in employable fields such as media composition or songwriting.



You'll understand and work within commercial parameters to ensure you graduate with the best chance of working within the industry, but you'll be encouraged to explore the more experimental aspects of recording, production and composition to truly find your own identity.

You'll have plenty of opportunities to put your learning into practice, through live projects, masterclasses and guest lectures. You'll also benefit from being assigned an industry mentor in your final year.

### What you'll study

The course curriculum balances theoretical study alongside practical application. Throughout the course you'll be challenged to develop your decision-making in new, and at times, complex and unpredictable contexts. The content of the course also closely reflects current working practices in industry, and aims to prepare you for work in a highly competitive workplace. Students in audio and music technology will increasingly be faced with freelance and self-employed models of work upon graduation.



## YEAR 1 MODULES

- **Introduction to the Studio** 20 credits  
You will begin your journey into the studio environment by developing your understanding of the fundamentals of recording. You will learn about large format consoles, signal flow, connections, microphone types, and DAWs to record audio.

You'll be able to apply these skills whether you're in a traditional studio or have a small home set up: get this right now, and it will set you up for all of your future studio work.

- **Studio Practice** 20 credits  
In this module, you'll discover the magic of recording various artists using different styles of recording such as multitracking and overdubbing, in session and in your own time, to form a portfolio of studio work.
- **Pro Tools Techniques** 20 credits  
In the professional audio world Pro Tools is the DAW of choice. In this module, you'll learn how to use this powerful application by covering Pro Tools navigation and operation, setting you up for the rest of your course and career in audio, and paves the way for Pro Tools accreditation.
- **Creative Music Technology** 20 credits  
In this module, you will explore the creative potential of various music technologies. You will exercise your creativity through music production, and learn a variety of techniques and technologies, such as sampling, synthesis, improvisation and composition in the DAW, hardware controllers, sound design, and remixing.

You will also gain a deeper contextual understanding of electronic music, through a global and ethical lens.

- **Music Composition and Theory** 20 credits  
Composing music is like painting on a blank canvas, and depending on the genre there are certain rules to be aware of. This module will provide you with the guidelines that will form the foundation for your music to be functional with these forms, as well as allowing you to build in your own creativity and originality.

This module will teach you the fundamentals of music theory such as harmony, melody, accompaniment and arranging, enabling you to communicate emotions and feelings through your compositions. You'll demonstrate your understanding through portfolio tasks and explore a genre of interest and compose a representative piece as well as research the genres context in a short negotiated practical research submission.

## YEAR 2 MODULES

- **Studio Production** 20 credits  
You will explore digital, analogue, and hybrid studio technologies, developing recording and processing techniques to take on a variety of productions over the module: this could be using traditional studio environments (on-site or external) or your own DIY production set ups.
- **Mixing** 20 credits  
In this module, you'll work to client supplied briefs as well as your own self sourced material, engaging in technical and creative post production and mixing processes to create a portfolio of work. You'll critically compare your mixes with industry outputs from around the world and learn approaches to help you meet commercial benchmarks.

You'll cover techniques with compression, effects and automation with additional production skills such as vocal editing and production, drum production and other genre specific approaches of additional production through a range of projects.

- **Contextual Studies in Music Production** 20 credits  
The history of music technology has informed where we are and where we might go next. In this module, you will be exposed to decades of key recordings, technologies, events, artists and the movers and shakers involved in shaping modern popular music as we know it.

You will choose your own specific area of interest in music technology and production and explore how it's impacted creativity and the development of the wider world of music within an essay, accompanied by practical assets to illustrate your understanding.

- **Music Composition Portfolio** 20 credits  
In this module, you will learn how to compose music for a wide range of purposes, including songwriting and music for media with both solo and collaborative approaches.

You will develop an understanding of the wider global, historical and ethical contexts whilst building on your existing technical and artistic skills. You will continue to develop your ability to express yourself artistically, while also understanding the needs of a demanding and ever-changing industry.





## MUSIC PERFORMANCE FdA

**Level of Study:** Foundation degree

**UCAS Code:** W313

**Start Date:** September

**Duration:** Two years, full-time

**Study Mode:** Full-time

Study our foundation degree in Music Performance and you'll be equipped with a broad set of practical skills, while being given the opportunity to focus on your personal development as a professional musician. At key points during the course you'll also have direct access to Confetti's sister company - record label, Denizen - for advice and guidance.



- This course is designed to meet the demands of industry.
- Engage with a variety of composition, arrangement and performance projects, working individually and collaboratively, directly mimicking working practices in the industry. Explore new creative avenues when learning how to compose music for visual media, while continuing to develop as a songwriter and performer.
- Core areas of study include; stage craft, music theory, composition and arrangement techniques, audio and MIDI sequencing, studio sound recording, editing, composing and performing with technology, musicology and event management.
- Have access to Confetti's annual Industry Week - previous guests include Professor Green and Casetteboy.
- Undertake an industry-focused module in each year of the course.
- Benefit from bespoke guest lectures and workshops delivered by visiting industry professionals.

### What you'll study

Our Music Performance degree is tailored to your musical goals allowing you to develop technical mastery of your first instrument whilst also broadening your understanding of other subject areas and ways of thinking about songwriting, composition, performance and music management.



## YEAR 1 MODULES

- **Composition & Arrangement** 40 credits  
Here you will develop your understanding of composition and music arrangement. You'll be given grounding in music theory, arrangement techniques and composition, while developing hands-on skills in music production software. During this module you'll study different approaches to composing. You'll work individually and collaboratively on projects as you develop your understanding of composing for a range of genres, creating a body of work that demonstrates your developing practice.
- **Performance Techniques** 40 credits  
This module aims to develop your performance techniques, focusing on several key areas. You'll develop technical competence in playing an instrument through studying contemporary performance techniques, developing skills in sight reading, listening and improvisation. You'll develop your skills as a performer in solo and group contexts, considering the communicative nature of musical performance, your relationship with the audience and exploring the performance environment.
- **Recording Studio Practice** 20 credits  
New technologies are enabling more musicians to record their own music and self-produce. However, the ability of musicians to effectively communicate thoughts and ideas about their work with sound engineers and producers is still an invaluable asset. You'll develop your understanding of sound recording practices to aid you in your future career as a professional musician. You'll also study the historical development of recording technology and its impact on musical styles, as well as the wider influence on society and culture.
- **The Music Industry** 20 credits  
You'll develop knowledge and understanding of how changes in the industry impact consumer trends and working practices. This module focuses heavily on your development as an emerging professional, so there is a strong emphasis on completing work for clients as part of your study. You'll also be introduced to the pressures of working for clients through the completion of a live client brief. The aim is for you to acquire practical experience of the skills and attributes needed for employment in the industry.

## YEAR 2 MODULES

- **Applied Contemporary Musicians** 60 credits  
You'll develop your performance techniques and enhance your technical skills, while broadening your contextual understanding of musical performance. You'll continue to develop technical mastery on your first instrument – performing individually and collaboratively to develop your stagecraft and hone your skills as a performer. As well as a focus on traditional musicianship, you'll also explore the integration of different technologies in performance. You'll research the historical and contemporary use of technology in performance and use this research to inform the integration of technology in your own work.
- **Composing Music for Visual Media** 20 credits  
A composer for visual media must be able to work collaboratively, taking direction from others to develop their work. It is also important to understand the emotive impact music can have and how to write music that enhances the viewing experience. You'll explore the application of compositional tools for specific themes, such as horror, romance, drama, sadness, suspense and comedy. There is a strong emphasis on critical thinking and reflection through the study of a wide range of commercial compositional work and analysis of your own work.
- **Contextual Studies in Music** 20 credits  
Music plays an integral part in everyday life across a diverse range of cultures and societies. In many ways, music provides the touchstones of human experience. Music can transcend language and cultural barriers. It can have an effect on individual and social identity, politics, fashion and technology. This module encourages you to examine the historical significance of music and its impact on global cultures and societies. You will also study the fundamental aspects of the psychology of music and its effect on the human brain in terms of emotive response to music and sound.
- **Industry Practice** 20 credits  
You'll undertake appropriate self-directed projects, working collaboratively on creative work, allowing you to directly apply the knowledge and skills learnt throughout the programme in the context of the workplace. This module aims to develop your overall professionalism and provide you with the knowledge and resources required to begin your career in the creative industries.



## STUDENT SUPPORT

As a student studying a foundation degree with ACC, you will also have the benefit of being enrolled with Nottingham Trent University (NTU). This entitles you to student support and other facilities available from NTU.

NTU offer a range of student support via their website:  
**[ntu.ac.uk/life-at-ntu/support](https://ntu.ac.uk/life-at-ntu/support)**

### Support includes:

- **Wellbeing support tutor**  
You will have access to an in-house wellbeing support tutor available for one-to-one tutorials as well as a dedicated academic support tutor.
- **Academic**  
You will also have free access thousands of online courses available on LinkedIn Learning for developing creative, business and technology skills.
- **Disability**  
Students can apply for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) to cover some of the extra costs they have because of a mental health problem, long term illness or any other disability.
- **Health & wellbeing**  
SilverCloud is an NTU online support system designed to help with a range of mental health issues. The resources are intuitive, interactive and easily accessible, and can provide you with valuable support for anxiety, depression, stress and body image issues. SilverCloud is a valuable accompaniment to face-to-face counselling or support, and is available immediately.
- **Individual support**  
This can be accessed on campus, online, via email or phone.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

### NTU advisors can offer advice and information relating to:

- Entitlement to government loans for your tuition fees and living costs.
- Eligibility for additional funding and benefits if you have children, adult dependants, or are disabled.
- Maximising your income, money management and budgeting advice.
- Applying to the Discretionary Hardship Fund and other available funds.
- Negotiating with your bank, or other creditors.
- The availability of funding if you have studied in higher education before.
- How your funding can be affected if your circumstances change, including if you need to withdraw, suspend your studies or make some other change to your course of study.
- Signposting to other services.

Further information is available via NTU's fees and student finance page:  
**[ntu.ac.uk/student\\_services/fees\\_finance](https://ntu.ac.uk/student_services/fees_finance)**

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

### Advice is available for international students via phone, online or email including:

- The application and renewal process for student visas, and your CAS number.
- The process for inviting friends and family to visit you in the UK, whether it's during your studies, or at graduation time.
- The rules on employment for international students, if you're thinking of applying for casual work in the UK.
- Advice on travelling outside of the UK as an international student, and the regulations you'll need to know about.
- Settling in and staying safe and in control — whether that's opening a UK bank account, or registering with the local police.
- Your entitlement to NHS healthcare, plus how and where to register.





## ACCOMODATION

If you are looking for student accommodation during your studies, then we can help. We have partnerships with trusted student accommodation companies, giving you a choice of options close to our campus.

In Norwich, student accommodation is available through Heathfield or University of East Anglia.

- **mystudenthalls.com**  
hello@mystudenthalls.com
- **heathfieldnorwich.co.uk**  
live@heathfieldnorwich.co.uk  
01603 622171
- **uea.ac.uk**  
accom@uea.ac.uk  
01603 592092

## APPLYING AND FEES

**Apply for Music Performance FdA here**

**Apply for Music Production FdA here**

Or you can visit: [accesscreative.ac.uk/degrees-nottingham-trent-university](https://accesscreative.ac.uk/degrees-nottingham-trent-university)  
On this page you will find links to application forms on the UCAS website.

### ➤ Fees

Tuition fees are £9,250 per year.

A non means-tested, tuition fee loan may be available and is linked to the cost of your course. You can apply to borrow some of, or all of, the cost of your tuition fees. If you apply and are granted a loan, this will be paid directly to your Higher Education institute by Student Finance England.

You don't start repaying this loan until you have graduated and are earning over £25,000. Payments come directly out of your salary, so you don't have to worry about it.

### ➤ Entry requirements

- You must be at least 18 years of age on 31st Dec on the year of entry.
- You will be required to achieve a recognised Level 3 qualification (e.g. RSL, BTEC, A Levels) which generates a minimum of 64 UCAS points (2017 tariff) in a music related subject, or where music is a key component.
- All candidates must have achieved A\* – C in GCSE Maths and English.
- You will be required to provide evidence of your prior qualifications (achieved or predicted).
- Mature candidates (21+ years of age) with non-standard qualifications and/or substantial experience in the music or related industries, are encouraged to apply and will be considered if they demonstrate appropriate ability through interview.
- Students who do not have English as a first language are required to achieve the equivalence of a minimum of 6.0 overall with no band below 5.5 from a Secured English Language Test (SELT), the most common being IELTS, PTE or CAE. A student may be advised to undertake additional language courses or receive language support toward achieving the required standard by the start of the course, during the first term or by the end of the first year.
- Applicants without the full entry requirements may be considered for non-standard entry.





## COME AND SAY HI

**We have dedicated degree open events taking place across the year. The best way to find out more about us is to book a place at one of these sessions.**

### ➤ **Open days**

These events usually take place on Saturdays. They will include a presentation about the courses, tours of the facilities, the chance to meet tutors and students and the opportunity to ask questions. Please check the website for the next event.

### ➤ **Meet and greet**

If you can't make it to one of our scheduled events, or you want a more in-depth chat, then you can book in for a one-to-one meet and greet session at your local campus.



## GET IN TOUCH

**[accesscreative.ac.uk](https://accesscreative.ac.uk)**

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