

Music

Essentials

What music degrees are there?

BA degrees

Music

Music Informatics (p51)
Philosophy and Music (p106)

BSc degree

Music Informatics (p51)

FdA degree (offered by BIMM – Brighton Institute of Modern Music)

Professional Musicianship

What A levels/IB scores do I need?

(For other qualifications information, refer to pages 125-129)

Typical A level offer for the BA in Music: ABB including A level (or equivalent) Music or Music Technology at grade B or above, or evidence of advanced musical literacy (to grade 7 theory standard)

Typical IB diploma offer for the BA in Music: 34 points including at least 5 in Higher Level Music

For the FdA in Professional Musicianship, most successful applicants will have CCC grades in A level or MMM in a BTEC National Diploma or 26 points in the IB diploma. The minimum requirement for entry, however, is EE at A level (or equivalent) and the admissions tutor is pleased to consider applicants offering a range of different qualifications and experience. Interviews and auditions are used as part of the selection process. The standard of performance expected is equivalent to Trinity grade 6-8, together with grade 5 or equivalent-level music theory. We welcome applications from those applying on the strength of wider experience who can demonstrate appropriate performing skills and aptitude/willingness to undertake a programme of study at undergraduate level

Fees

Refer to pages 137-138 for information on fees

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall and not less than 6.0 in both the Listening and Writing sections. Internet-based TOEFL with 90 overall, including at least 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 130

How do I find out more?

For more information about the BA degrees, contact the programme coordinator:

E mfm@sussex.ac.uk

T +44 (0)1273 872621

F +44 (0)1273 877217

School of Media, Film and Music, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RG, UK

www.sussex.ac.uk/mfm

For more information about the FdA degree, contact:

E heinfo@bimm.co.uk

T +44 (0)1273 626666

Brighton Institute of Modern Music, BIMM East,

7 Rock Place, Brighton BN2 1PF, UK

www.bimm.co.uk

When can I visit?

Our Open Day dates for 2011 are 11 June and 8 October. We also run regular campus tours. Please book online at www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors or call 01273 876787

For information about visiting BIMM (including Open Days), refer to the contact information below left

Why music?

Music is a creative art and central to contemporary expression both in live performance and across social and broadcast media of all kinds. Music reflects and expresses social forces, political aspirations and cultures, and is vital to understanding communication in the modern world. Studying music at university confers unique and highly valued skills such as analytical thinking, teamwork, communication, negotiation and the development of the creative imagination.

Why music at Sussex?

- Music at Sussex scored 91 per cent overall in the student satisfaction category of the combined 2009 and 2010 National Student Survey (NSS).
- Our research pushes the boundaries of thinking in music theatre, composition, opera and musicology. In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 95 per cent of our music research was rated as recognised internationally or higher, and 65 per cent rated as internationally excellent.
- We have superb dedicated electronic studio facilities for recording and creative musical expression, regular access to venues on campus for live performance, and the use of two Steinway grand pianos.
- We offer dedicated pathways in performance, film music, composition, studio work and musicology. These pathways build on core foundation courses in musicianship and musicology in Year 1, and enable you to tailor your degree according to your strengths and interests in classical, jazz or popular music.
- Performance students have up to three years of free tuition at Trinity College of Music for classical and jazz performance or Northbrook College for popular music performance (subject to grade 8 pass in your instrument or voice).
- We maintain a substantial dedicated library of scores, CDs and DVDs. All music students have 24-hour access to dedicated computer/midi workstations, practice rooms with pianos, and online recordings' libraries in addition to the collections in our main Library.
- Brighton has a lively music scene and London is less than an hour away by train. The University of Sussex Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Choir give regular concerts and there are many other bands and activities, including the annual musical organised by the Sussex Musical Theatre Society. Many of our experienced choral singers also perform with the Brighton Festival Chorus, recently rated one of the top 5 amateur choirs in the UK by *The Times*.



Lauren's perspective

'Studying Music at Sussex has been such a great experience for me. The small classes mean that a lot of support is available from the lecturers, and the students get to know each other really quickly. The breadth of courses allows each student to choose where they want their education to go, without feeling constrained, and the staff are very personable and engaged, offering one-to-one help when needed. 'Because of this great student-lecturer relationship, we were able to organise trips to see operas (one even by a lecturer himself!), concerts and even had some nights during which students themselves could showcase their work. 'The School has also funded my singing lessons for the past two years and, considering how pricey these can be, this has certainly helped me greatly. The careers day opened my eyes to the many options a music graduate has and, thanks to the support of the staff and the interesting courses available, I feel prepared for my future career.'

Lauren Sadler
Music student



Core courses

Courses currently include:

BA in Music

Year 1

[Approaches to Composition and Performance](#)

[Introduction to Music Studies](#)

[Music and Society](#)

[Options: Introduction to](#)

[Electronic Music • Media, Music,](#)

[Performance, Location: Making](#)

[Site-Specific Artworks • Popular](#)

[Musical Cultures](#)

Year 2

[The History of the Modern](#)

[The Rise of Classical Music](#)

[Options: Creative Music](#)

[Technologies I and II • Ensemble](#)

[Performance • Music, Stage and](#)

[Screen 1: From Opera to Film](#)

[• Music, Stage and Screen 2: Film,](#)

[Musicals and Music Theatre • Solo](#)

[Performance](#)

Year 3

[Options: Advanced Composition](#)

[and Arrangement • Advanced](#)

[Performance • Dissertation:](#)

[Analytical Approaches](#)

[• Dissertation: Historical and](#)

[Contextual Studies • Media](#)

[Composition: Screen](#)

[• Media Composition: Studio](#)

Professional Musicianship (this degree is offered by BIMM – Brighton Institute of Modern Music)

Year 1

[Aural and Notation Skills](#)

[Music Business and Study Skills](#)

[Music Theory in Practice](#)

[Performance](#)

[Performance Styles](#)

[Pre-production and Live Technical Development](#)

Year 2

[Applied Technical Development](#)

[Creative Composition, Theory and](#)

[Arrangement](#)

[Critical Insights into 20th-Century Music](#)

[Engaging with Industry](#)

[Live Music Project](#)

[Session Skills](#)

[Transcription and Critical Listening](#)

What sort of career could I have?

Sussex music graduates have gone on to a wide range of careers, including:

- BBC Radio
- publishing
- teaching
- writing music for computer games
- arts administration
- postgraduate study in performance, composition or research.

Recent Sussex music graduates have obtained work at:

- MTV UK
- the London Film Commission
- RCA record company
- the Orchestra of St John's Smith Square
- the National Association of Youth Orchestras.

How will I learn?

Teaching methods vary from lecture-based core courses with accompanying seminars in Year 1 to more specialised options relying more heavily on independent study in the final year. Practice skills are taught by working to a particular brief and on self-initiated projects. Modes of assessment include group presentations, creative projects, portfolios of compositions, performance recitals and more traditional essays and dissertations.

What will I achieve?

- The BA in Music equips you to debate and critically analyse the roles, functions and consumption of the various forms of music in society. It will provide you with the skills and experience to present your own ideas with clarity and conviction, orally and in writing.
- Performers will achieve confidence in live performance and deeper knowledge of their instrument and repertoire.
- Composers will develop a breadth of knowledge and experience in composing techniques and working with technology.
- All students develop the ability to successfully collaborate and communicate with colleagues – skills highly prized by employers and central to music.

Why music at BIMM – Brighton Institute of Modern Music?

Complementing the degree programmes offered by Sussex, BIMM offers a Foundation Degree in Professional Musicianship. The programme (on the right) is delivered by BIMM and leads to a University of Sussex award.

- BIMM is staffed by music educators who have all been involved in the music industry at a very high level and have a wealth of professional experience and industry contacts.
- Course delivery is supported by a comprehensive tutorial programme that enables every student to formulate individual learning plans and gain access to music industry professionals for help and advice.
- Recent guests and masterclasses at BIMM have included members of Pink Floyd, The Libertines, Franz Ferdinand, Shaun Ryder, and Chad Smith of the Red Hot Chili Peppers.
- Brighton is the perfect place to undertake a degree in professional musicianship, with its very large and diverse array of venues, events, arts festivals and music industry connections.



Degrees

Music

BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: W300

This programme will give you an in-depth understanding of the music of recent centuries and enable you to understand its centrality in modern life. It offers space for both creative practice and a critical engagement with musical forms.

In Year 1 you are involved in producing an experimental concert and developing your first portfolio of creative work at Sussex, while developing key foundation skills in the study of music and musicology.

In Years 2 and 3 you can select from an exciting array of pathways – composition, performance, music technology and musicology – enabling you to strike the right balance between creative practice and the skills associated with analysis, critical writing and research planning. Performers can also benefit from one-to-one training with top instrumental tutors throughout their studies.

Your degree will lay the foundations for a successful career in music practice, the music industries and a variety of work in other fields.

Refer to the core courses list top left and visit www.sussex.ac.uk/music for details of music courses.

Professional Musicianship

FdA, 2 years UCAS Code: W310 Campus Code: B
(This degree is offered by BIMM – Brighton Institute of Modern Music.)

The Foundation Degree in Professional Musicianship, delivered at BIMM, is a two-year programme that provides musicians with the key practical, theoretical and business skills required for a long-term career in the professional music industry. The degree integrates vocational skills in popular music performance with academic study and work-based learning.

The programme offers you the opportunity to develop professional-level performance skills in a wide variety of popular music styles for your chosen instrument: drums, guitar, bass or vocals, and to engage in work-based learning via music industry experience. You will acquire personal transferable skills such as team work, communication and presentation skills, research skills, creativity and self-management, and will gain a thorough understanding of the career path requirements of the music industry.

Further study options include progression to Year 3 of the BA (Hons) degree programme at BIMM or other Higher Education institutions (subject to academic performance and audition).