

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Foundation Degree Science in Sound Engineering and Music Production

Awarding institution	Liverpool John Moores University
Teaching institution	Coleg Cambria
JACS Code	
Programme Duration	Full-Time: 2 Years
Language of Programme	All LJMU programmes are delivered and assessed in English
Subject benchmark statement	Engineering Council UK Spec for IEng. QAA Communication, media, film and cultural studies.
Programme accredited by	
Description of accreditation	
Validated target and alternative exit awards	Foundation Degree Science in Sound Engineering and Music Production Certificate of Higher Education in Sound Engineering and Music Production
Link Tutor	Karl Jones

Educational aims of the programme

The FdSc Sound Engineering and Music Production programme is intended to produce graduates able to critically evaluate sound & music production and to operate effectively in technical areas of live or recorded entertainment industries. The programme aims to develop knowledge and understanding in appropriate areas of sound recording, electronics, and digital recording technology, together with a range of widening activities of relevance to live or recorded entertainment in associated modes of media content creation.

The objectives of the programme are that graduates should be able to:

- Use a combination of general and specialist knowledge and understanding in the context of existing and emerging sound recording technology and allied media formats
- Apply appropriate practical methods to commission, operate or maintain products, equipment, processes or services in the context of live or recorded entertainment.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of content creation and capture, technical operations and commercial management
- Demonstrate effective communication and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional standards and recognise obligations to society, the profession and the environment.
- Encourage students to fully engage with the World of Work programme.

Additionally for sandwich students:

The aim is to provide students with an extended period of work experience at an approved partner that will complement their programme of study at LJMU. This will give the students the opportunity to develop professional skills relevant to their programme of study, as well as attitude and behaviours necessary for employment in a diverse and changing environment.

Alternative Exit/ Interim Award Learning Outcomes - Certificate of Higher Education

A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:

Demonstrate a range of audio editing and production techniques to develop custom audio solutions to appropriate industry standards.

Use industry standard equipment in a professional manner.

Propose solutions to problematic environments and equipment.

Describe and analyse the properties of industry standard audio connectivity.

Recognise and define the primary components of a computer-based audio production environment.

Appreciate technical specifications.

Demonstrate key skills appropriate to an audio/media production specialist.

Target award Learning Outcomes - Foundation Degree Science

A student successfully completing the programme of study will have acquired the following subject knowledge and understanding as well as skills and other attributes.

A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:

1. Develop a rigorous approach to the nature, application and operations of audio and allied media production, and its associated technology
2. Deploy management of technological systems including associated people and organisational management; societal and legal aspects.
3. Appreciate issues and theory within the audio and music environment, including associated electronics
4. Demonstrate the development of creative solutions based on appropriate research strategies
5. Understand the importance of the commissioning and funding structures of the creative industries and demonstrate a capacity to work within the constraints imposed by them
6. Critically evaluate own and others audio and media presentations, with reference to relevant technology, theory and practice.
7. Plan, conduct and report on an individual project to make an audio and/or media production showcasing mastery of a variety of technically complex operations.
8. Integrate and evaluate information and data from a variety of sources.
9. Identify problems, generate and select solutions, and plan implementation of improvements in a management and technical context.
10. Determine the requirements to create and organise an audio or media production and evaluate possible solutions and technical options.
11. Design and create professional audio and allied media productions based on industry standard packages and processes.
12. Apply problem-solving techniques to technical, operational, business and management issues
13. Manage media related projects with respect to time and resources.
14. Make effective use of a range of research techniques, methodologies, technologies and information sources.
15. Work effectively in a team and independently to deliver objectives on time.
16. Communicate effectively orally and in writing for a variety of purposes.
17. Make effective use of a wide range of software packages for communication editing and presentation delivery.
18. Manage own learning

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated are as follows:

Core knowledge and understanding is acquired mainly through practical fieldwork, lectures, laboratories and tutorials. Web-based or other open learning resources are also used in some modules. Group work is important in some modules. Development of the student as independent learner is achieved via directed and independent learning approaches within modules. Work based learning and graduate skills development are incorporated into the programme to provide a vocational element.

Promoted by lectures, tutorials, seminars, group discussions and other work, and assignment tasks.

Use of case studies and other 'work-based learning' such as guest lecturers, industry visits, at all levels.

By examination and coursework. Courseworks include media presentations, portfolio assessment; individual written reports; group reports.

Examination questions may be based on case studies to develop students' ability to apply theory to practice. Assignment includes practical tasks (such as studio operations) and oral/written reports of work carried out.

Practical work is carried out in studio, class and/or as assignment tasks. Industrial visits and guest lecturers are

also used to provide additional work-based learning opportunities. In this way the relevance of theory to practice is developed to a strong extent. The final year project provides opportunity for these skills to be developed to a high level.

Assignment such as portfolios, oral and written reports. Some assessment of practical skills may take place in examinations e.g. where appraisal of the use of a tool/technique is required; or where tools/techniques are applied to case study examples.

Practical work is carried out in studio, class and/or as assignment tasks. Some modules are supported by open-learning resources etc. Key skills are developed in particular at Level 4 through professional development, and production work, further enhanced at Level 5 with entrepreneur work, and recording opportunities.

Programme structure - programme rules and modules

The programme is offered on a full-time basis. Entry to the course can be at level 4 or 5 for suitably qualified candidates.

Level 5	Potential Awards on completion	Foundation Degree Science
Core	Option	Award Requirements
5500AMPCC Audio Recording (20 credits) 5501AMPCC Broadcast Standards (20 credits) 5502AMPCC The Media Entrepreneur (20 credits) 5503AMPCC Live Performance Operations (20 credits) 5504AMPCC Broadcast Studio Operations (20 credits) 5505AMPCC Sound for TV, Film and Games (20 credits)		120 core credits at level 5 0 option credits at level 5

Level 4	Potential Awards on completion	
Core	Option	Award Requirements
4500AMPCC Computer Audio Technology (20 credits) 4501AMPCC The Media Industry (10 credits) 4502AMPCC Spreadsheets and Data Presentation (10 credits) 4503AMPCC Audio Production Technology (20 credits) 4504AMPCC Practical Audio Production (20 credits) 4505AMPCC Sound Technology (20 credits) 4506AMPCC Radio and Podcasting (20 credits)		120 core credits at level 4 0 option credits at level 4

Information about assessment regulations

All programmes leading to LJMU awards operate within the University's Academic Framework.
<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/public-information/academic-quality-and-regulations/academic-framework>

The following variance to the Academic Framework regulations has been approved for this programme:

Assessment through the medium of Welsh.

All learners at Coleg Cambria have the right to be assessed through the medium of Welsh.

Students who wish to be assessed through the medium of Welsh should inform their module tutor at the earliest possible opportunity, normally at the start of the module and then should complete a formal application within three weeks of the module's commencement, this formal process will allow translation arrangements to be made.

At submission, any work presented in Welsh will be translated into English for assessment purposes. Assessed

work to be translated must be submitted through the normal formal process common to the submission of assessment materials. Our translators have been instructed to translate without changing the meaning of the work that is being presented or improving the clarity of expression.

Once translated it is a student's right to inspect the translated work for accuracy. As part of the submission process students will be asked to confirm that the translation appropriately reflects their original work as submitted, however at this stage, students are not allowed to make any substantial changes to their work other than to correct any inaccuracies in translation.

The internal examiner will then mark the translated work and be able to confer with the translator where the presentation and/or meaning may appear unclear due to the nature of the translation. The marked translation and Welsh original will then be made available for external verification, during which further checks may be conducted regarding the accuracy of translation.

Opportunities for work-related learning (location and nature of activities)

Industry standard hardware and software, and real life case studies are used throughout the programme. Industry processes and practices are also used and taught.

Criteria for admission

A/AS Level

Typical total 88 UCAS tariff points.

BTEC National Diploma

Extended Diploma subjects / grades required: MMM if studied on its own or to the total of 88 UCAS points when combined with other qualifications

Access

Access to HE Diploma with at least 9 Distinctions and 36 Merits or any other combination that equates to 104 UCAS tariff points in a relevant subject

Other

GCSE Maths and English Language at C grade / grade 4 or above. Plus an interview or presentation of portfolio may be required

Mature entry

Mature students with GCSE grade C or above in English Language and Maths or equivalent, but lacking traditional Level 3

qualifications will be considered on the basis of relevant experience and an appropriate portfolio of work

Overseas qualifications

The Department actively supports the University Equal Opportunities policy and strategy in its underlying philosophy to value and respect individuals, and its commitment to maximize the potential of each student. The School is committed to complying with legislation, in particular the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001. Applications from students with disabilities are positively welcomed.

Applications are considered on the basis of academic criteria alone. Students are invited to contact the Equal Opportunities Unit for an information pack detailing the facilities, support available and physical access to the main University buildings. Students may also visit the University to discuss support strategies with the University Disability Welfare Advisor.

English Language Requirements

All applicants must provide evidence of competence in English. The level of English language required should be equivalent to 6.0 for IELTS within the previous 24 months. Equivalent to this score are:

1. UK GCSE English grade C or above
2. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 550 or above.
3. Cambridge Examination Board: Advanced Certificate of English, grade C or above.

Applicants who have studied and successfully achieved a UK Degree within the previous 24 months are exempt from the requirements to produce evidence of competence in English.

External Quality Benchmarks

All programmes leading to LJMU awards have been designed and approved in accordance with the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, including the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in the UK (FHEQ) and subject benchmark statements where applicable.

The University is subject to periodic review of its quality and standards by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). Published review reports are available on the QAA website at www.qaa.ac.uk

Programmes which are professionally accredited are reviewed by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies (PSRBs) and such programmes must meet the competencies/standards of those PSRBs.

Support for students and their learning

The University aims to provide students with access to appropriate and timely information, support and guidance to ensure that they are able to benefit fully from their time at LJMU. All students are assigned a Personal Tutor to provide academic support and when necessary signpost students to the appropriate University support services.

Students are able to access a range of professional services including:

- Advice on practical aspects of study and how to use these opportunities to support and enhance their personal and academic development. This includes support for placements and careers guidance.
- Student Advice and Wellbeing Services provide students with advice, support and information, particularly in the areas of: student funding and financial matters, disability, advice and support to international students, study support, accommodation, health, wellbeing and counselling.
- Students studying for an LJMU award at a partner organisation will have access to local support services

Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Student Feedback and Evaluation

The University uses the results of student feedback from internal and external student surveys (such as module evaluations, the NSS and PTES), module evaluation questionnaires and meetings with student representatives to improve the quality of programmes.

Staff development

The quality of teaching is assured through staff review and staff development in learning, teaching and assessment.

Internal Review

All programmes are reviewed annually and periodically, informed by a range of data and feedback, to ensure quality and standards of programmes and to make improvements to programmes.

External Examining

External examiners are appointed to programmes to assess whether:

- the University is maintaining the threshold academic standards set for awards in accordance with the FHEQ and applicable subject benchmark statements
- the assessment process measures student achievement rigorously and fairly against the intended outcomes of the programme(s) and is conducted in line with University policies and regulations
- the academic standards are comparable with those in other UK higher education institutions of which external examiners have experience
- the achievement of students are comparable with those in other UK higher education institutions of which the external examiners have experience

and to provide informative comment and recommendations on:

- good practice and innovation relating to learning, teaching and assessment observed by external examiners
- opportunities to enhance the quality of the learning opportunities provided to students

Please note:

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme guides.