

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information

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| 1. | Awarding Institution: | Nottingham Trent University |
| 2. | School/Campus: | Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies |
| 3. | Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study: | FdSc Audio & Music Technology
Full time |
| 4. | Normal Duration: | 2 years |
| 5. | UCAS Code: | J931 |

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

The audio and music technology industries cover a broad range of career prospects for graduates. While studying the FdSc in Audio and Music Technology you will study subject areas that will help prepare you for the diverse nature of your industry. Core areas of study include; audio recording, editing, mixing and mastering, music production techniques, composition with technology, acoustics, audio synthesis and the underlying physics of the subject discipline. You will also study the wider context of your industry, investigating working practices, business models and career opportunities.

The overarching aim of the FdSc in Audio and Music Technology is to equip you with a broad set of technical and practical skills, whilst also developing your critical and divergent thinking, so that you are able to not only work effectively within your chosen subject discipline, but that you can go on to help shape the future of your industry. You will be encouraged to develop an inquisitive, problem solving approach to your learning and development, through the study of theoretical concepts and their application in practical settings.

The content of the course 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. Consequently, the course aims to equip you with appropriate skills for this type of workplace through 'live' client-led briefs with local and national industry partners, which will help you to build a varied and distinctive portfolio of work throughout their studies. Additionally, there is a strong emphasis on close interaction with industry in the form of lectures, workshops and seminars from industry professionals throughout the two years of study.

The course also aims to develop your cognition, autonomy and research skills, enabling you to continue in further academic study of your subject discipline at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

7.	<p>Core modules: The course comprises of a range of modules achieved over two years of study. The following modules make up the programme of study.</p> <p>Level Four (120 Credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audio Production Technology (40 Credits) • Electronic Music Production (20 Credits) • Sound & Audio Theory (20 Credits) • The Audio and Music Industry (20 Credits) • Research Methods in Audio & Music Technology (20 Credits) <p>Level Five (120 Credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Audio Production Technology (40 Credits) • Creative Audio & Music Technology (20 Credits) • Acoustic & Electronics (20 Credits) • Industry Practice (20 Credits)
8.	<p>Optional modules There are no optional modules on this course.</p>
9.	<p>Course outcomes</p>
<p>Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.</p>	
<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>By the end of the course you should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and apply scientific and mathematical principles underpinning audio and music technology. (B) • Utilise technical literature associated with audio and music technology to solve problems. (B) • Justify the use of audio and music technology equipment to create and record music and sound. (B) • Identify and appraise the performance of systems and components in audio and music technology. (B) • Evaluate the impact of technology on working practices in your subject area, within a historical, commercial and economic context. (B) • Evaluate, interpret and present findings from research in a clear and cogent manner. 	
<p>Skills, qualities and attributes</p> <p>By the end of the course you should be able to demonstrate:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage your time effectively in the development of your academic work. 	

- Work collaboratively with others in the development of audio and musical works.
- Use appropriate technical language to communicate ideas and intentions effectively to a range of audiences.
- Reflect on your audio and musical work, in the wider context of your industry.
- Utilise well developed critical listening skills to identify and analyse components of music and audio work. **(B)**
- Use technology to conceive well-formed musical ideas, and manipulate them in an inventive and individual way. **(B)**
- Use and create computer software for musical tasks including recording, editing, analysing and synthesising sound. **(B)**
- Produce audio content using well developed practical skills with equipment and processes, taking into account customer and consumer needs. **(B)**

(B) denotes subject benchmark statement

10. **Teaching and learning methods**

Teaching and learning will take place in a range of bespoke IT suites, classrooms and recording studios. The overarching teaching and learning ethos is to develop your practical, technical and critical thinking skills.

Classes will be a mixture of lectures, workshops, seminars and tutorials where you will explore the core scientific and mathematical principles of the module subject areas, alongside the practical skills needed for work in industry. You will be encouraged to develop a critical and inquisitive approach to your studies through research into areas of study that are of particular interest to you.

In some modules you will work on 'live' projects, where you are required to complete work for industry clients. This work will give you the opportunity to demonstrate your developing professionalism whilst also building a portfolio of work that will aid your future employability.

Significant amounts of independent self-directed work will be required in order to get the most out of the course. Your success in industry will be defined by your ability to work with initiative and autonomy not only on self-directed projects but also within collaborative settings. Successful achievement on your FdSc will therefore require self-directed reading, self-directed industry research (into specific industry practice), independent practical development and sustained project management.

Your Module Leaders will provide support specifically related to each module. Your personal tutor will also be on hand to offer guidance and support where necessary.

You are encouraged to take responsibility for your own learning. All related module information can be accessed on NTU's Online Workspace (NOW) to support your learning.

In year 1 you will have 12 hours of contact time and be expected to undertake a minimum of 16 hours of self-directed study.

In year 2 you will have 11 hours of contact time and be expected to undertake a minimum of 20 hours of self-directed study.

11. **Assessment methods**

Assessment is conducted according to the School 'Assessment and Feedback Principles and Guidelines' policy. This policy ensures the academic standards and their appropriateness, are made clear to you.

You will receive a lot of informal Formative Feedback during the course. This feedback is provided to help you evaluate your progress as you work through problems. This type of feedback is typically provided within tutorials verbally, as part of seminars, lectures or workshops.

Summative Feedback provides you with an overarching review of your achievements set against the learning outcomes for a module. Formal Summative Feedback occurs at the end of each assignment.

12. **Course structure and curriculum**

You will study towards 120 credit points in each year of study. The first year of study focusses on introductory material to establish a base level understanding of theoretical principles and practical processes. Your second year of study will expand your technical understanding of the core subject disciplines, whilst also introducing you to new contexts and working practices.

Both years of study include an 'Industry' based module, which will form the majority of your work-related learning activities. These modules are designed to introduce you to working practices in audio and music technology, through 'live' client projects and industry guest lectures. They are also an opportunity for you to put into practice the skills acquired in your other modules within an industry setting.

The assignments completed across all modules of the course are designed so that you will have developed a core set of skills by the end of your studies that will prepare you for work in industry. Additionally, the work you complete as part of your studies will form an ongoing collection of work that demonstrates your developing professionalism in the subject area, thus helping support your entry into industry or further study after graduation.

Higher Certificate

Interim Award

The interim award for this foundation degree is a Higher Certificate in Music Performance. 120 credits at level 4 FHEQ (Framework for Higher Education Qualifications) are required to achieve this award.

Progression routes

The formal automatic progression route for students on the foundation degree, who have succeeded at level 5, is to progress to the BSc (Hons) Audio Music Technology.

13. **Admission to the course**

Application is through UCAS. Minimum entry requirements follow the University's Code of Practice for Admissions.

The target groups for the course are:

- Applicants who have gained a BTEC Extended Diploma award
- Students with A-Level award qualifications in a related subject area.
- Mature students looking for career development or change.

For admission to the course students will need to have achieved 160 UCAS points from one of the following:

- at least 2 A levels or equivalent + 5 GCSEs grade A – C including maths and English
- Applications from mature students will also be considered in terms of their skills, aptitude and experience
- An audition/submission of work will be required

It is yet to be determined whether under the new ownership arrangement CICT will accept International students; however, should they do the following admissions criteria will need to be met:

International applicants will require an equivalent Level 3 qualification and will also require an IELTS score of at least 6.0, in addition to the standard entry criteria. Equivalent scores from other English language tests will be considered.

Non-UK qualifications will be assessed in comparison to their UK equivalents.

Additional English support is available to non-native English speakers.

Though the entry requirements outlined are such as to encourage applications from a wide range of potential students the course has no part-time route.

APEL

In exceptional circumstances students with APL will be considered for admission to the course.

Widening Participation

The course will consider applicants with non-standard entry qualifications on demonstration of potential to undertake and benefit from the course.

14. **Support for learning**

You will be assigned a named personal tutor at the start of your year who can act as a guide in more personal matters.

Your Course Handbook will contain details of the support available to you should there be an interruption in your studies, due to circumstances outside of your control, or through other factors affecting your academic performance. The School provides three options for requesting consideration and these are found in the section on Special Situations.

The School is committed to assisting you to achieve the best results possible during your studies with us, providing a wide range of academic help and advice. A comprehensive learner support system is adopted by the School, which also can include input from the university and student union, and can be tailored to meet your needs.

The University provides resources such as open access computers and the course provides specialised computer facilities, mixing suites, recording studios and a commercial live event venue.

15. **Graduate destinations / employability**

Academic Tutorials are designed to help focus your individual career plan. These sessions, designed by your tutors are supported by Careers Service. The workshop series in the Portfolio and Professional Practice module help align your own exit trajectory with the assignment work you will be completing during the course.

The audio and music technology industries represent a divergence of traditional job roles with professionals working in established areas and others with new emerging technologies. This requires a modern graduate population with a diverse range of technical skills. The course's close contact with professional practice ensures that graduates continue to emerge from the learning experience with skills which position them well for this dynamic and demanding area of practice. Employment in the sector is very diverse and graduates can expect to work in positions that encompass the need for a broad skill set. Typical job roles in industry might include:

- Recording engineers
- Music producers
- Live sound engineers
- Music composers
- Sound editors
- Mixing engineers
- Mastering engineers
- Record label owners
- Software programmers

- Film & TV post production sound
- Game audio sound design
- Acousticians

Many roles in industry operate on a freelance or self-employed basis and the course aims to equip students for these working models through professional industry based projects and specific business skills workshops and seminars. Graduates seeking to enter the industry in a freelance capacity are well placed to successfully do so.

16. Course standards and quality

There are well-established systems for managing the quality of the curriculum within the School. External examiners are appointed to each course and report on the appropriateness of the curriculum, the quality of student work and the assessment process.

The School reviews, defines and updates its courses and modules with dialogue between staff and students an important part of this process. Whilst there are good informal relationships between staff and students, the School and University, we also have formal channels for student feedback which comprise:

- Student/Staff Liaison Committee
- Formal module evaluation, undertaken by questionnaire
- Course Student Representatives, elected by the student group, represent students.

At the end of each year the course team write an evaluative Course Standards and Quality Report (CSQR) which is discussed by the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee (SASQC) for actions recommended. Your contribution to this process is important.

17. Assessment regulations

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16 of the NTU Quality Handbook). Any course specific assessment features are described below:

There are no course specific assessment features

18. Additional Information

Collaborative partner(s):	Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies/ Nottingham Trent University
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Engineering (2010), Music (2008)
Course recognised by:	N/A
Date implemented:	April 2015
Any additional information:	

Key features of the course:

- Strong links with industry with an emphasis on 'live project' briefs as an essential part of the curriculum.
- Study on industry standard hardware and software, in professional commercial recording facilities.
- A broad-based curriculum that allows students to explore and experience the full range of disciplines within the subject area.
- A focus on critical thinking and professionalism ensures the employability of graduates