Level 4 Cert HE
Beatmaking and Production

Programme Specification
January 2022

Notting Hill Academy of Music with Rose Bruford College
Cert HE in Beatmaking and Production Programme Specification

1. INTRODUCTION

The Cert HE in Beatmaking and Production offers you the opportunity to study the art of creating and producing music whilst situated at the heart of the music industry and with the opportunity to experience professional contexts directly. You will be taught by working industry-experts and informed by a range of dynamic music business experiences at labels, in studios and working with music executives and artists. The curriculum covers a full range of current industry issues and themes that give you a broad contextual understanding of the modern music industry, using the industry-standard software to create and build your portfolio of music and the business skills to develop your career. Beginning with an introduction to the cultural contexts from which digital music creation emerged, you will then have the opportunity to develop the music creation skills using industry-standard software to not only create your own music but to collaborate with and create music for others too.

Just as the programme is a blend of music industry knowledge, alongside the development of professional beatmaking and production skills, you will also be taught by both academics and specialist industry practitioners directly at the heart of the industry. Notting Hill Academy of Music seeks to give you an immersive music industry experience and get your music exposure in the right circles. All your lecturers are working industry professionals and will teach the specialist subject relevant to their own career. Your assignments have been developed to reflect the real world of creating music and working within the industry, ensuring that you develop the skills you'll need to succeed in the professional world. Central to the ethos of this programme, is the aim to get you ready for industry by giving you access to it from the start.

Depending on your progression choices after Level 4, as a graduate, you will be able to enter a range of music industry professions equipped with the industry knowledge, academic and industry skills that companies require. Notting Hill Academy of Music alumni have gone on to work as artists, songwriters and producers, in A&R, record labels, copyright, streaming services and talent/creative management.

The programme sits within Rose Bruford College's (RBC) wider range of creative industries courses, all with a practical performance ethos. This environment provides many opportunities for collaboration on projects, events and performances. This unique multi-disciplinary context is key to the rich industry and creative experience of studying with NHAM and Rose Bruford College.

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2. GENERAL INFORMATION

UCAS code	Name of Final Award	Programme Title	Duration	Mode of Study
	Cert HE	Beatmaking and Production	9 months	Blended (online and on campus)

Teaching institution	Notting Hill Academy of Music
Awarding institution	Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance
External Examiner	Cliff Jones, BIMM
Programme Accreditation	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmarks	Music (2019)
Other points of reference	i. The UK Quality Code for Higher Education, which contains the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies

ii. Guidelines for Preparing a Programme Specification (QAA)

iii. NHAM Learning and Teaching Strategy

iv. Development Events, with Industry |

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3. AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

As a student and future graduate of the Notting Hill Academy of Music and Rose Bruford College, our broad ambition is for you to...

...seek to make a positive difference to those around you, by working collaboratively to create value

...be curious, creative and take responsibility for your own life-long learning

...be mindful of the impact of your actions on others – those you work and study with, those in your professional and social community, in wider society, and globally

...respect and value diversity and difference, showing tolerance and understanding

...develop a range of transferable skills, to equip you for the wider world.

The Cert HE in Beatmaking and Production aims to:

1. Develop your understanding of how music is created from first principles to consumption through analytical and cultural perspectives within practical and creative professional business contexts;

2. Explore and apply academic and technical skills to practical industry contexts and challenges by giving you access to a range of professional experts and industry experiences;

3. Develop you as an adaptable, reflective practitioner capable of integrating transferable critical thinking, creative, problem-solving and collaborative skills, enabling you to apply these in real-world creative industry contexts;

4. Evaluate and navigate changing industry trends to create music independently and collaboratively, developing working practices that fit you for the industry of the future;

5. Support you to develop your own creative ideas and enhance your career opportunities within the music industry through understanding how to manage and exploit your intellectual property in commercial markets.

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4. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME

A. Knowledge and Understanding
On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

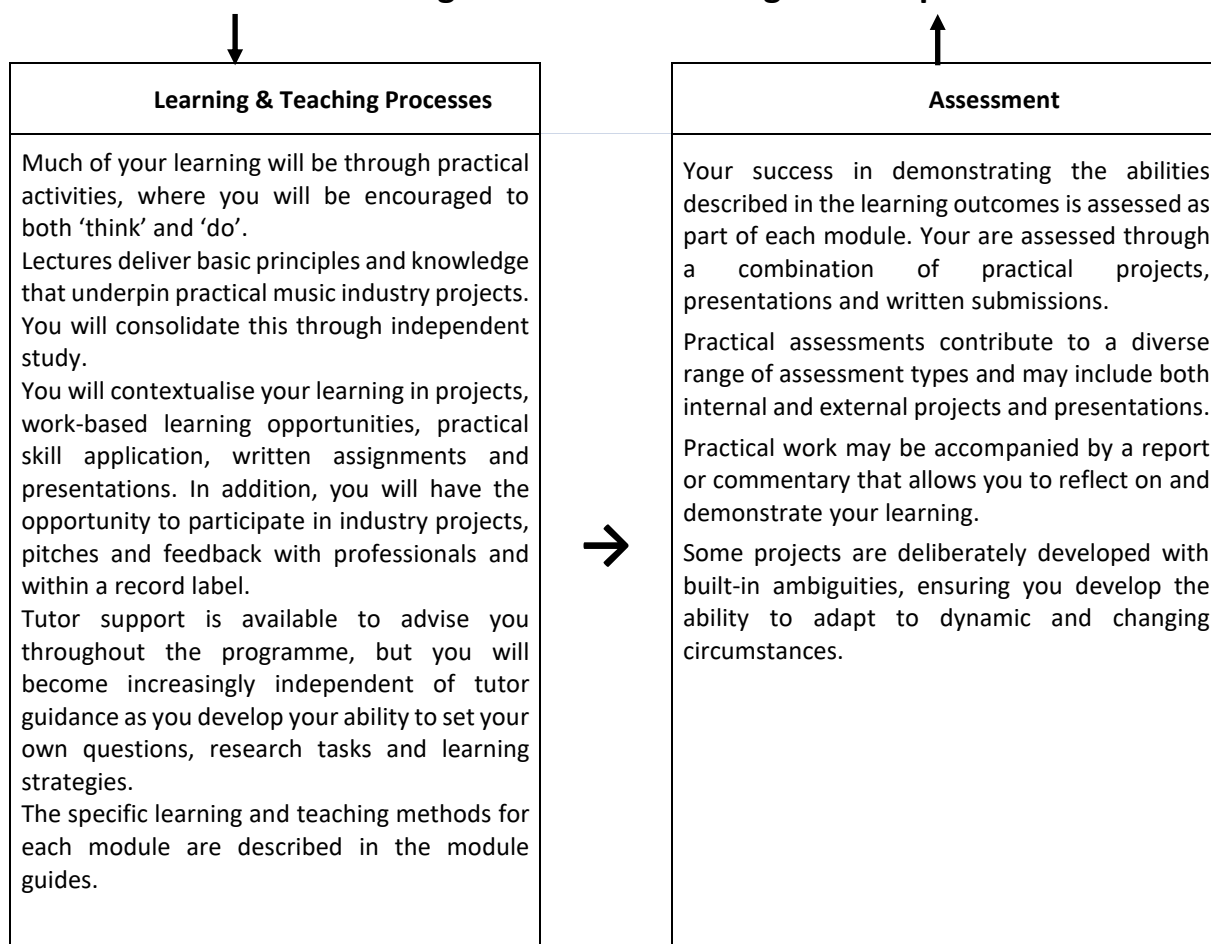|		Benchmark
A1	Understand and evaluate the impact of technology on the creation and consumption of music.	Music 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7
A2	Analyse the cultural, stylistic and musical components of a range of styles and genres in order to incorporate those diverse styles and techniques into your own music.	Music 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8
A3	Identify and work in a number of different creative ways to make music: write, engineer, produce, perform, collaborate, promote, represent.	Music 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8
A4	Know how to use audio production software to a professional level to create music for yourself and for others.	Music 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8,

Learning & Teaching Processes (to allow you to achieve intended learning outcomes)		Assessment (of intended learning outcomes)
Much of your learning will be through practical activities, where you will be encouraged to both 'think' and 'do'. Lectures deliver basic principles and knowledge that underpin practical music industry projects. You will consolidate this through independent study. You will contextualise your learning in projects, work-based learning opportunities, practical skill application, written assignments and presentations. In addition, you will have the opportunity to participate in industry projects, pitches and feedback with professionals and within a record label. Tutor support is available to advise you throughout the programme, but you will become increasingly independent of tutor guidance as you develop your ability to set your own questions, research tasks and learning strategies. The specific learning and teaching methods for each module are described in the module guides.		Your success in demonstrating the abilities described in the learning outcomes is assessed as part of each module. Your are assessed through a combination of practical projects, presentations and written submissions. Practical assessments contribute to a diverse range of assessment types and may include both internal and external projects and presentations. Practical work may be accompanied by a report or commentary that allows you to reflect on and demonstrate your learning. Some projects are deliberately developed with built-in ambiguities, ensuring you develop the ability to adapt to dynamic and changing circumstances.

B.   Intellectual Skills

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

		Benchmark
B1	Create and develop music in a wide range of styles and genres through an understanding of musical cultures, contexts and technological developments.	Music 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8
B2	Synthesise a range of musical and creative techniques to practically realise these through complex technology.	Music 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8
B3	Reflect on and evaluate your own musical practice to improve and influence your own and others' creative output.	Music 3.3, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8

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C.   Practical Skills

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

		Benchmark
C1	Recognise various components and conventions in music and integrate them into your own music-making repertoire.	Music 3.1, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8
C2	Explore and assimilate unfamiliar sounds, concepts, repertoires and practices through creating and recreating music with and for others.	Music 3.2, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8
C3	Develop musical material into established structures working with a variety of styles and media.	Music 3.3, 3.4 3.6, 3.7, 3.8
C4	Use digital audio technology to create and develop a portfolio of independent and collaborative work.	Music 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8
C5	Apply the features of the digital audio workstation to enhance your own compositional capability.	Music 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8

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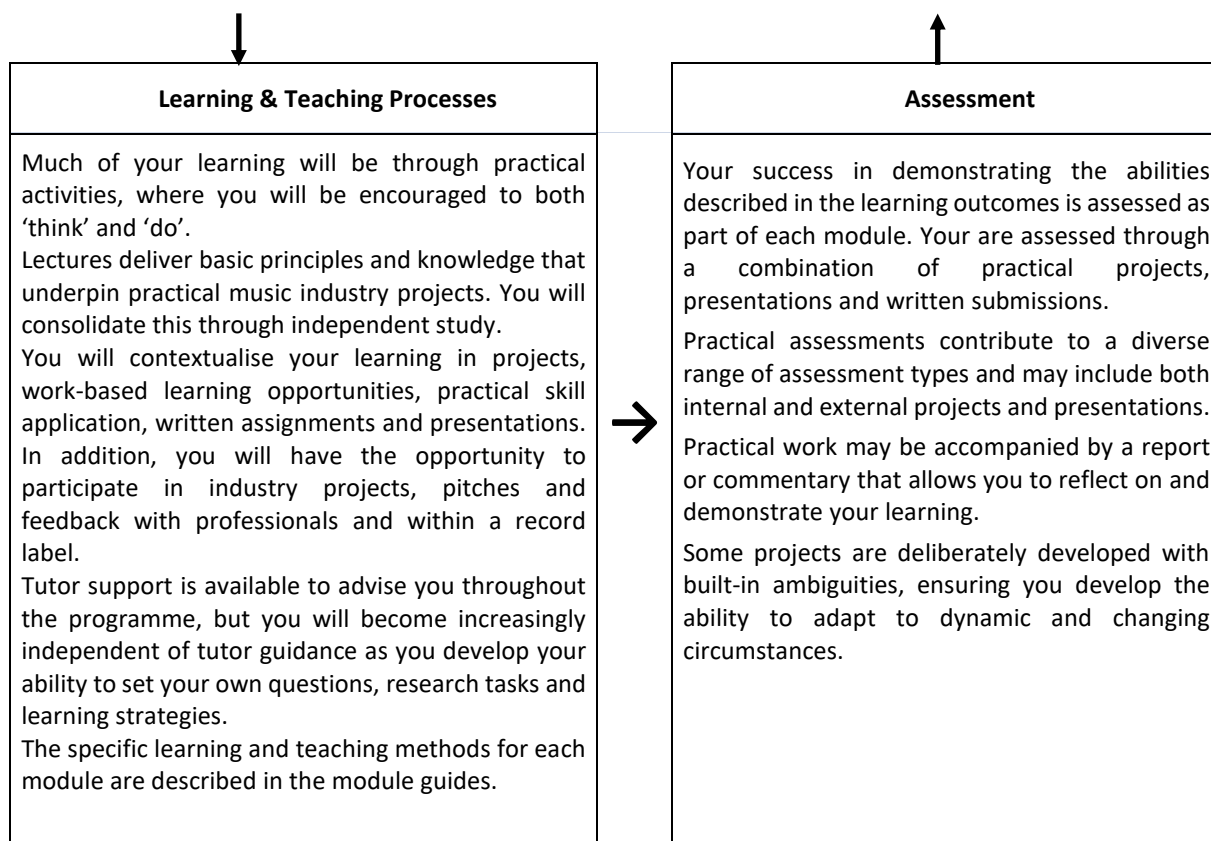## Cert HE in Beatmaking and Production Programme Specification

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D.   Transferable Skills/Personal Qualities

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

		Benchmark
D1	Develop the self motivation to acquire new skills and stay abreast of new technology.	Music 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8
D2	Collaborate with others professionally and creatively across a range of contexts and situations.	Music 3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8
D3	Communicate clearly and confidently to influence others using evidence-based pitches, plans, strategies and presentations.	Music 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8
D4	Organise yourself and your work to meet deadlines and succeed.	Music 3.6, 3.7, 3.8

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5. THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Modules and Credit Weighting

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	ECT Credits
Level 4			
BP421	Beat Culture	**20**	**10**
BP422	The Digital Audio Workstation	**20**	**10**
BP423	Build the Beat	**20**	**10**
BP424	Record/Mix/Master	**20**	**10**
BP425	Producing the Song	**20**	**10**
BP426	Beats and Business	**20**	**10**

Programme Structure

Level 4	
Semester 1	**Semester 2**
TERM ONE. TERM TWO.	TERM THREE.
Beat Culture The Digital Audio Workstation	
Build the Beat Record/Mix/Master	
	Producing the Song Beats and Business

6. STUDENT INDUCTION, SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

Student induction and support takes place at Notting Hill Academy of Music where you will receive information on your academic programme and student support services:

At the programme level:

- You receive a Student Handbook at Registration.
- Each module throughout the programme is introduced with a briefing by the module coordinator.
- You are allocated a personal tutor from the programme team, to provide both academic and pastoral support.
- Peer learning and mentoring, both within your year group and programme are intrinsic to the programme's learning and teaching strategy.
- You will receive written feedback on all assessment tasks, and will be debriefed in a tutorial following the majority of practical projects, to encourage reflection on practice and to identify future learning goals.

At the Academy level

- Welfare advice and counselling is available to all students.
- A Support and Equality Officer is available to all students (students are contacted at admissions stage and invited to disclose any disabilities).
- Dyslexia support is available.
- You will take part in the Academy's Personal Development Planning scheme. During the programme, students discuss their personal and professional development with a programme tutor, and plan future action.
- Ongoing study support is provided through the tutorial process and through online support materials.

The programme is designed to be developmental and on completion of a Cert HE in Creative Music Business, you will be ready to progress to Level 5. At Level 4, induction and study support equip you for degree-level study, while regular tutor contact with core programme staff ensures that you are aided in putting all aspects of your studies into the context of the contemporary music industry and your developing professional practice.

7. CURRICULUM MAP: MODULES AGAINST INTENDED PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

8. CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

Notting Hill Academy of Music operates a fair and transparent admissions policy, welcoming applications from students from a wide range of backgrounds and stages in their life. The common requirement for all applicants is a passion to make a career within the music industry, to be assessed as able to benefit from and succeed on the course and be aged 18 or over. Applicants should normally hold Level 3 qualifications, either two GCE 'A' levels, a single AVCE Double Award or a BTEC National Diploma; or other equivalent qualifications.

Notting Hill Academy of Music also welcomes applications from learners without formal qualifications at this level, as learning and experience is often gained in different settings outside the classroom, and this experience elsewhere will be taken into account where it can be assessed as equivalent to Level 3. To support this, we have an alternative application route comprising a structured interview where your knowledge, skills and experience relevant to the programme will be explored, followed by the submission of a 1500 word essay related to your career ambitions within the music industry. Admissions decisions will take both the interview and essay into account.

9. PROGRESSION AND ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Please refer to Rose Bruford College Undergraduate Academic Regulations.

10. MECHANISM FOR PROGRAMME REVISION

The programme is regularly reviewed through Notting Hill Academy of Music and Rose Bruford College's annual programme monitoring process. As part of this process, the Programme Committee receives feedback from students, external examiners and academic staff. Recommendations for any revisions to the programme can be discussed as part of this annual monitoring process.

Any proposed modifications by the programme team should be considered initially at Notting Hill Academy of Music and then forwarded to Rose Bruford College's Academic Registrar and Vice Principal. Each programme is subject to an Annual Programme Review undertaken by the Teaching, Learning and Quality Committee where any proposed changes and updates are discussed with appropriate External Examiners. Proposed modifications, together with the completed proforma will then be sent to Rose Bruford College's Academic Development Committee for consideration.

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