

Module Specification

Module Title: Fundamental Skills

Module code:	X_SHR3C004R	NQF level:	Level 3
Credit value:	10 credits	Semester of study:	1 and 2
Module type:	Compulsory	Pre-requisites:	None
Available to:	BA (Hons) Music with Foundation Year – All pathways		

Module overview

To enable them to develop their fundamental skills, students will be guided by tutors to study the following topics below. Each will be covered for a duration of five weeks, with students completing four of the topics depending on their specific specialism. Students will rotate around the four different subject areas,

DAW SKILLS (all Pathways) – 5 weeks

The objective of this section is to familiarise students with a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) that is suitable for their specific pathway, essential for nurturing their creativity. Understanding the functionality and operation of these systems is crucial to developing their fundamental skills. Participants will delve into various aspects, including DAW recording, audio editing, manipulation, and MIDI sequencing. Technology serves as an important supplementary skill, enriching both theoretical knowledge and creative practice. This enables students to effectively use audio-based digital tools.

LIVE SOUND (all Pathways) – 5 weeks

This module section is designed to acquaint students with a variety of live sound technologies, allowing them to understand and operate such systems effectively. Participants will investigate equipment prevalent in the current live music industry and gain hands-on experience with it. They will learn about fundamental acoustic principles and acquire the essential skills necessary to manage a diverse array of sound sources in various acoustic settings. This will include proficiency in using a range of technological equipment, including PA systems and microphone setups.

MUSIC INDUSTRY - 5 weeks

This section of the module is designed to provide students with a grounding in the fundamental aspects of the music industry, emphasising its organisational structure, core functions, and methods for generating income. Participants will explore the basics of industry operations, developing an understanding of the diverse ways in which income can be generated. Through this exploration, students will gain insight into the framework and mechanics of the music industry. This knowledge will enable them to navigate some of the complexities of the industry and identify opportunities to engage with the wider sector throughout their academic journey.

ACADEMIC WRITING & PRESENTATION SKILLS – 5 weeks

This module section is designed to equip students with both academic writing principles and spoken analysis skills, foundational for their success in higher education. Participants will be introduced to structuring essays, critical thinking, and adhering to academic standards in referencing and citation for written work. Additionally, they will learn to develop coherent arguments, critically engage with sources, and improve writing clarity and precision.

In parallel, the module will focus on enhancing students' abilities to analyse spoken language, covering aspects such as tone, pace, and rhetorical strategies. Students will practice identifying and evaluating persuasive techniques in

speeches and presentations, refining their listening and analytical skills. This dual focus aims to prepare students to produce clear, well-argued academic texts and to critically assess spoken communications, supporting their ability to effectively participate in academic discourse and convey their ideas throughout their studies.

Aims

This module allows students to address aspects of their musicianship which need additional development.

The module aims to:

1. Further develop students' specialised skills and knowledge essential to the understanding, appreciation and creation of music;
2. Allow each student to focus and add to their skill set;
3. Provide the opportunity to study in small group settings where a particular aspect of musicianship can be brought up to the level required for progression.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Evaluate and critically assess their own practice.
2. Exhibit reflective awareness regarding the professional, artistic and stylistic contexts inherent in their music making.
3. Apply cohesive analytical skills to presentation tasks effectively.

Learning and teaching methods

The module is delivered via seminars and workshops. All subjects will be delivered in a small group setting and will be pathway specific where this is appropriate in order to develop knowledge and skills in areas of study identified as requiring additional focus.

Contact hours and directed study (over semesters 1 and 2)

Delivery type	Student hours
Indicative hours for learning and teaching activities	20 hours
Indicative hours of directed study	80 hours
Total hours (100hrs per 10 credits)	100 hours

Opportunities for formative feedback

In addition to general ongoing feedback from their module tutor, students will be formatively assessed at the end of semester one as appropriate to the subject area.

Assessment Method

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Spoken audio/video recorded evaluation	10 minutes	100%	1, 2, 3

Re-Assessment Method*

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Spoken audio/video recorded evaluation	10 minutes	100%	1, 2, 3

*Where practicable, assessments may be delivered through the conservatoire's VLE or by video to ensure that overseas students are not disadvantaged or incur unnecessary travel costs. Assessments delivered through the VLE will be timed and invigilated.

[Module resource lists are available via Key Links](#)