

BA (Hons)

Communication, Media and Popular Music

UCAS code WN23

Entry requirements

A level: ABB

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

3 years

Apply by: **30 June 2026**Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Whether you want to work in Communication, Media or Popular Music, research their impact or simply understand more about our relationship with these areas, this programme provides a thorough introduction with plenty of opportunities to develop specialist skills. There is scope for specialisation within a coherent and integrated framework that ensures academic progression, allows for increasing specialisation year on year, and emphasises synergies between the disciplines.

Introduction

Study in a department currently ranked within the world top 75 and 5th in the UK for Communication (Shanghai Global Rankings of Academic Subjects 2025).

The Communication and Media side of the programme examines how media shape our understanding of what we know and what we consume. A range of optional modules selected to emphasise synergies between communication, media and popular music, allow students to pursue their own interests and focus on particular media and communication forms. The Popular Music side of the programme provides students with a comparative understanding of Western Popular Music's varied and diverse significance in a range of different cultural

contexts, and caters for both students who would like to concentrate on more historical and theoretical study and those who would like to engage with more practical studies.

This programme can also be studied over four years with the third year spent on a relevant, salaried work placement. Students can transfer to the [Year in Industry version of the programme](#) after their first year if they wish.

What you'll learn

- Practical skills, including media writing, blogging, social media, video-making, performance and composition
- A critical understanding and awareness of Western Popular Music from a wide range of aesthetic, cultural and social perspectives
- Academic research skills, problem solving and the ability to devise and sustain complex arguments and convey ideas effectively
- Written and oral communication and presentation skills

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Year one

You must take 60 credits from Communication and Media and 60 credits from Popular Music. All first year Communication and Media modules are compulsory. In Popular Music, one module in semester one (MUS1140) is compulsory. The other three Popular Music modules are selected from the options offered.

- If you opt for **MUS1104**, you must satisfy the induction audition requirements for entry.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA STUDIES B (COMM102)	15
INTRODUCTION TO POPULAR MUSIC HISTORY (MUS1140)	15
MEDIA INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS B (COMM110)	15
COMMUNICATION, CULTURE, AND MEDIA ANALYSIS B (COMM112)	15
DIGITAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA (COMM114)	15

Optional modules	Credits
INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL AUDIO WORKSTATIONS (MUS1109)	15
MAKING MUSIC IN CULTURE (MUS1121)	15

Optional modules	Credits
INTRODUCTION TO SOUND AND TECHNOLOGY (MUSI171)	15
POPULAR COMPOSITION 1 (MUSI107)	15
INTRODUCTION TO SOUND RECORDING AND PRODUCTION (MUSI108)	15
MUSIC AS AN INDUSTRY (MUSI150)	15
INTRODUCTION TO SOUND AND MUSIC IN AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA (MUSI170)	15
POPULAR PERFORMANCE 1 (MUSI104)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year two

Year two offers a chance to begin to specialise in areas that particularly interest you. Again, you must take 60 credits from Communication and Media modules and 60 credits from Popular Music in year two.

All students must take COMM207 and COMM208. This allows for one additional Communication and Media module per semester from the list provided. You must also choose two optional modules each semester from Popular Music, of which at least one must be MUSI261, MUSI220 or MUSI263.

- **SOTA260** is required for students taking Year in Industry and optional for other students.
- **SOTA260** can be taken either as a Communication and Media selection or as a Popular Music selection.
- Some Popular Music modules have pre-requisites – you will be advised of this when registering for your year two modules.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA RESEARCH I (COMM207)	15
COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA RESEARCH II (COMM208)	15
Optional modules	Credits
PUBLIC RELATIONS, MEDIA AND DIGITAL SOCIETY (COMM240)	15
CONVERGED MEDIA AND SCREEN ENTERTAINMENT B (COMM251)	15
APPROACHES TO CULTURAL AND MEDIA STUDIES B (COMM254)	15
POPULAR PERFORMANCE 2A (MUSI203)	15
FOLEY AND SOUND DESIGN (MUSI208)	15
MAX AND ABLETON LIVE (MUSI209)	15
POPULAR MUSIC COMPOSITION 2 (MUSI210)	15
LIVE SOUND (MUSI214)	15
EARLY MUSICAL CULTURES FROM THE ISLAMICATE COURT TO THE ENGLISH REFORMATION (MUSI219)	15
SOUND RECORDING AND PRODUCTION 2 (MUSI243)	15
WORKING IN MUSIC INDUSTRY (MUSI252)	15

Optional modules	Credits
GLOBAL POP: POPULAR MUSICS OF THE WORLD (MUSI261)	15
MUSIC IN GAMING (MUSI273)	15
PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT (SOTA260)	15
GLOBAL HOLLYWOOD AND BEYOND: FROM THE MAINSTREAM TO THE MARGINS (COMM203)	15
FEMINIST MEDIA STUDIES (COMM206)	15
IMMERSIVE MEDIA AND VIRTUAL WORLDS (COMM211)	15
MEDIATING THE PAST (COMM256)	15
AI AND DIGITAL MEDIA (COMM258)	15
POPULAR PERFORMANCE 2B (MUSI204)	15
COMPOSITION FOR FILM AND TELEVISION (MUSI205)	15
COMPOSITION FOR DIGITAL GAMES (MUSI206)	15
SAMPLING AND REMIXING (MUSI213)	15
MUSIC, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY (MUSI220)	15
SOUND, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY (MUSI241)	15
CONTEMPORARY GENRES (MUSI263)	15
MUSIC IN WORLD CINEMA (MUSI270)	15

Optional modules	Credits
INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC PSYCHOLOGY (MUSI290)	15
MUSIC AND HUMAN EXPERIENCE (MUSI291)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year three

You will take 60 credits from Communication and Media modules and 60 credits from Popular Music modules in year three (except Year in Industry students, who will take these credits in year four).

You must take **one** of the following Capstone modules: COMM335, COMM342, COMM401, MUSI399 or SOTA300.

If you choose COMM335, COMM342 or COMM401, this leaves room for one optional Communication and Media module per semester from the list provided. If you choose MUSI399 this leaves room for one optional Popular Music module per semester from the list provided.

- **HISP348** is counted as a Communication and Media module.
- **SOTA300** can be counted either as a Popular Music module or a Communication and Media module, depending on your preference.
- Some Popular Music modules have pre-requisites – you will be advised of this when registering for your final year modules.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
STARDOM AND MEDIA CELEBRITY (COMM303)	15

Optional modules	Credits
QUEER FILM, VIDEO AND DOCUMENTARY (COMM305)	15
GAMES AND ALGORITHMIC CULTURE (COMM309)	15
RESEARCHING DIGITAL CULTURES IN THE AMERICAS (HISP348)	15
POPULAR PERFORMANCE CONTEXTS (MUSI303)	15
COMPOSING ELECTRONIC MUSIC (MUSI308)	15
RECORD LABEL RECORDING, PRODUCTION AND PROJECT PLANNING (MUSI314)	15
SELF-MANAGEMENT FOR THE MUSIC INDUSTRIES (MUSI319)	15
JAZZ (MUSI341)	15
CULT TELEVISION AND DIGITAL FANDOMS (COMM300)	15
INTRODUCTION TO STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION (COMM312)	15
POPULAR CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND POLITICS (COMM318)	15
ISSUES IN PHOTOGRAPHY (COMM323)	15
PROPAGANDA, POWER, AND PERSUASION (COMM329)	15
POPULAR MUSIC COMPOSITION 3 (MUSI310)	15
RECORD LABEL MANAGEMENT, MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION (MUSI315)	15
ADVANCED LIVE SOUND (MUSI316)	15

Optional modules	Credits
CURATION AND HERITAGE (MUSI353)	15
THE FILM MUSIC OF JOHN WILLIAMS (MUSI370)	15
FINAL YEAR PROJECT (COMM335)	30
VIRAL VIDEO (COMM342)	30
DISSERTATION (COMM401)	30
INDEPENDENT PROJECT: RESEARCH (MUSI399)	30
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS WORK PLACEMENTS MODULE (SOTA300)	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Weekly lectures and seminar discussions may be supplemented by screening sessions, presentations and opportunities for group work where appropriate. We regularly invite expert speakers and practitioners to speak to our students about their work. Some modules also make use of our specialist equipment or software.

Dissertation and work placement modules involve more independent study, but always under the careful individual supervision of a member of academic staff.

How you're assessed

We are committed to using a range of different forms of assessment, so types of assessment vary widely from module to module. Depending on your choice of modules, these may include coursework projects, essays, blogs, reports, literature reviews, writing exercises, presentations, online tests and unseen examinations.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year - £9,790

Year in industry fee - £1,955

Year abroad fee - £1,465 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £27,000

Year in industry fee - £1,955

Year abroad fee - £13,500 (applies to year in China)

The fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27. Please be advised that tuition fees may increase each year for both UK and international students. For UK students, this will be subject to the government's regulated fee limits.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. [Learn more about paying for your studies.](#)

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

A levels

ABB

Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **BBB** from A levels, with **A** in the EPQ.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about [how we make reduced grade offers](#).

T levels

T levels considered in a relevant subject.

Applicants should contact us by [completing the enquiry form on our website](#) to discuss specific requirements in the core components and the occupational specialism.

GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

BTEC applications are encouraged. We evaluate each BTEC application on its merits and may make offers at DDM.

International Baccalaureate

32 points overall with no score less than 4 or pass the IB Diploma plus 6,5,5 in 3 HL subjects.

Irish Leaving Certificate

H1, H1, H2, H2

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

ABB in Advanced Highers, combinations of Advanced Highers and Scottish Highers are welcome

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

B in the Welsh Baccalaureate, plus AB at A level.

Access

Not acceptable without A level grade B in Music or Music Technology or ABRSM Grade 8 in Music Theory at Pass.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our direct entry requirements. Although there is no direct Foundation Certificate route to this course, completing a Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), can guarantee you a place on a number of similar courses which may interest you.

Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
 - [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.
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English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511

0510: Grade B overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade B overall.

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991

0993: Grade 6 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 6 overall.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

176 overall, with no paper below 162

International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

International Baccalaureate English B

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

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