



MA

The Beatles, Heritage and Culture

Study mode

Part-time

Duration

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

The Beatles are the world's most successful pop group, whose popularity has endured for over 60 years. But their legacy extends far beyond music, and the Liverpool City Region has built an industry from its most famous sons. This part-time, online programme examines the lasting cultural and economic impact of the Fab Four.

Introduction

The Beatles are a central musical, cultural and industrial force in Liverpool, the UK and the world, and Beatles tourism is worth approximately £82 million annually to the local economy. But the concept of 'Beatles heritage' is far more complex than tourist attractions, and is bound up with issues such as institutionalisation, conservation and history. The city's ongoing efforts to promote its connection to the world's most famous pop group continues to influence civic infrastructure and even its wider cultural offerings.

This programme draws on Liverpool's Beatles industry and heritage sectors to challenge the traditional frameworks within which the band, their music, and their story have so often been presented. You'll be encouraged to critically evaluate the ongoing impact of their legacy on areas such as urban planning and regeneration, civic design, heritage, and the tourism and leisure industries, as well as the music and creative industries. Liverpool is a global hub for

Beatles research, and your lecturers will include members of the city's Beatles Legacy Group, who will be supported by employees from the sector.

An optional Special Project module will offer you the chance to spend two weeks in Liverpool, attending daily lectures and site visits linked to the Fab Four's history, culture and heritage. You'll have the opportunity to personally interact with lecturers, peers, industry practitioners, government officials, historians and scholars.

Please note: as this is an online programme, students will require access to their own devices and broadband in order to access the course materials and participate fully in learning activities.

Who is this course for?

This programme will be of interest to Beatles enthusiasts, or those who want to play an active role in preserving the Beatles' cultural legacy. The MA may also be of interest to those looking to pursue a career or further research in music, culture, heritage or tourism more broadly.

What you'll learn

- Critical and analytical skills
- Knowledge and transferable skills that can be applied in allied and wider music and creative fields
- An understanding of the influence of Liverpool's history and culture on the development of the Beatles; and in turn, the Beatles' historical and ongoing influence on the city of Liverpool
- How to interpret and critically reassess the impact of the Beatles from a global perspective and within contemporary and emerging discourses of race, class and gender
- Independent research skills, and how to engage with relevant scholarly and popular media texts and government policies.

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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

During each semester you'll study one 4-week, 10-credit module with a 1-week assessment period. You'll then study an 8-week, 20-credit module followed by the University's traditional end-of-semester assessment period.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCHING THE BEATLES (MUSO603)	10
THE BEATLES' LIVERPOOL THROUGH 1966 (MUSO607)	20
MUSIC OF THE BEATLES (MUSO602)	10
THE BEATLES IN THE 20TH CENTURY (MUSO604)	20

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

Year two

During each semester you'll study one 4-week, 10-credit module with a 1-week assessment period. You'll then study an 8-week, 20-credit module followed by the University's traditional end-of-semester assessment period.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DECENTRING THE BEATLES (MUSO601)	10
THE BEATLES' LIVERPOOL 1967-PRESENT (MUSO605)	20
THE BEATLES IN THE 21ST CENTURY (MUSO606)	20
THE BEATLES, LIVERPOOL AND HERITAGE (MUSO608)	10

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

Final project

You'll choose one option. Students taking the Special Project module will spend two weeks in Liverpool, during which you'll engage directly with the local Beatles tourism sector through industry talks and site visits.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
DISSERTATION – MA THE BEATLES, HERITAGE AND CULTURE (MUSO600)	60
SPECIAL PROJECT – MA THE BEATLES, HERITAGE AND CULTURE (MUSO609)	60

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

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Lectures will be organised in the 'bite-sized learning' model, with 2 hours of weekly lecture material interspersed with opportunities for students to engage in active and peer-supported learning rather than delivered in a single block, as would be typical of in-person lectures.

Students will complete the MA in 24 months, with modules delivered sequentially. There'll be no teaching or learning in the summer of Year 1. In the summer semester of year 2, students will choose between the completion of a dissertation or a special project.

Each semester will comprise one 4-week, 10-credit module with a 2-week assessment period. This will be followed by an 8-week, 20-credit module, then by the University's traditional end-of-semester assessment period. This structure is intended to accommodate the challenges many online and distance learning students face by ensuring modules, coursework, assessment and support activity are both varied and dynamic as well as manageable within a part-time learning structure.

The programme has embedded support with particular attention to research and referencing, IT and assessment submission and student health and welfare. Students will have regular opportunities for synchronous tutorial meetings with module convenors each semester. In addition, each student will be allocated an academic advisor.

How you're assessed

Assessment across all modules will include a variety of formal and informal, formative and summative techniques. Each module has one formative assessment that will inform one final, summative module assessment. This strategy has been adopted with the requirements of online and distance learning, maximising opportunities for informal and peer-based feedback ahead of submission of assessed work.

Assessment methods used include essay, report, presentation and production of industry-facing materials including items like maps, playlists, surveys and marketing documents.

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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Careers and employability

Staff in the [Department of Music](#) sit on the city of Liverpool's Beatles Legacy Group (BLG) and work with local government leaders including the city-region Mayor and Lord Mayor's offices on Beatles heritage and tourism policy. As such, the MA programme will be uniquely placed to deliver 'real-life' and 'real-time' policy-led teaching based on these industry and city connections.

This degree will be a valuable credential to people who are interested in careers in the:

- Heritage and culture sectors
- Music and creative industries
- Museums, galleries and fine arts
- Tourism and leisure sectors.

The programme will also prepare students to pursue further study or research.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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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)

Part-time place, per year - £6,850

International fees

Part-time place, per year - £6,850

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

For students who take up the optional Special Project module, it's anticipated that you'll need to budget up to £400 for local travel and admission fees associated with the two-week visit.

Students will also need to budget accordingly for travel to/from Liverpool, accommodation, visas (where required) and sustenance. These costs will vary widely depending on individual circumstances. It's therefore not possible to provide a more specific estimate.

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.

Postgraduate entry requirements

Normally a first degree award of 2:2 or higher (or its equivalent) is expected. There are no restrictions on the discipline of your first degree.

Applicants with non-standard entry qualifications may be considered where 5+ years of relevant work experience can be evidenced. Applicants with non-standard entry qualifications will be required to complete a supplemental 500-word academic essay on a topic provided to them.

For students for whom English is a second language there will be the requirement that they attain a minimum of IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0.

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 entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

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 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

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 writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 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 6.0, for further details.

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