
Key Information for the BA (Hons) Popular Music Degree starting in 2020/21

About this document: This key Information gives you a summary of the core characteristics of the BA (Hons) Popular Music degree at HCA. Students may have learnt about this course from multiple sources: the college website, the college prospectus, and from conversations with staff and students for example, but we want to ensure that students have this overview for reference at any time during their studies with us as a record of the service we are agreeing to provide when a student accepts our offer of a place.

Award: The qualification that a student will receive upon successful completion of the programme is a BA (Hons) Popular Music. This means that the award will be a Bachelor of Arts 'with honours'.

If a student does not complete the course, they may be eligible for a Certificate or Diploma of Higher Education.

Validating Body: The BA (Hons) Popular Music Degree is validated by the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. However, the course has been designed and is delivered by Hereford College of Arts.

Regulatory Body: Hereford College of Arts is registered with the Office for Students (OfS) to deliver Higher Education. The OfS is an independent public body which reports to Parliament through the Department for Education <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk>. (Their aim is to ensure that every student, whatever their background, has a fulfilling experience of higher education that enriches their lives and careers.)

Length of Course: The standard and minimum length of this course is as follows:

Course	Standard/minimum length of the course
BA (Hons) Popular Music Full time	3 years

Students will need to complete the course to gain the award.

Entry Requirements

All students need to be at least 18 years of age at the start of the course.

Applicants will normally have an interview where they will present a portfolio of work or perform an audition. In exceptional cases this can be conducted remotely. This will be a supportive process where guidance will be given on the strengths and areas for improvement.

We normally expect applicants to have achieved 80 UCAS points at entry. Whilst qualifications are important, our offers are not solely based on academic results. We may make offers based on other evidence of talent or suitability for the course.

Applicants who do not satisfy the normal entry requirement but offer other qualifications and or relevant experience will be considered on an individual basis subject to satisfactory information being provided at interview.

Applicants whose first language is not English and require a tier 4 student visa must achieve Level B2 in an approved secure English Language test prior to enrolment. For further guidance please visit the UK Visa and Immigration website www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa.

Your offer letter will include any requirements specific to your offer.

Our Admissions Policy can be found here; <https://www.hca.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/HCA-Admissions-Policy-Procedures-2017.pdf>

Core modules:

All programmes of study are made up of modules. Some modules are comprise of two or more assignments. Modules have a credit value that contribute to the achievement of the qualification. Each module has its own syllabus, handbook and assessment. In order to pass each year you need to achieve 120 credits. Modules vary in size from 20 credits to 60 credits.

Programme Structure:

BA (Hons) Popular Music Level 4 (Year 1) Full time		
Module Title	Credits	Module Descriptor
Popular Music Histories	20	This provides an introduction to the work of key bands and practitioners in popular music to provide a broad overview of the development of popular music and of the contexts that enable it to be understood and assessed.
Music Promotion	20	This module aims to introduce you to market research, branding, and use of video. The module utilises industry standard software to produce relevant promotional material (printed, digital media and video) for the popular musician.
Principal Study One	20	You will engage in specialist 1-to-1 sessions with an instrumental tutor for one hour per week over the academic year (24 weeks). The sessions will develop technical proficiency, musicality, and awareness of repertoire.
Performance Ensemble	20	This module takes the form of a weekly performance workshop within which you will receive formative feedback from a specialist tutor, as well as from others on your course. Sessions address aspects of analysis, and approaches to arranging for the live ensemble.
Music Theory	20	You will initially engage with the fundamentals of notation and the various elements of music to develop your musical vocabulary. Music computer software will be integrated within sessions to enable you to see and hear the musical information presented.
Live & Recorded Audio	20	Workshop sessions explore the theory, principles and practices of live sound engineering and recording. This will consist of safely setting up and running PA systems for performance and effectively utilising the Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) setup to produce demo quality work

BA (Hons) Popular Music Level 5 (Year 2) Full time		
Module Title	Credits	Module Descriptor
Popular Music Studies	20	You will consider various theories, concepts, and ideas related to the multifaceted discipline of Popular Music. This may include, for example: authenticity, identity, sexuality, fandom, the auteur, dissemination, reception, industry, technology and sonic analysis.
Management of Music & Events	20	<p>This module aims to develop your understanding of the management of music and live events.</p> <p>Particular attention will be paid to skills that will enhance self-employment, entrepreneurship within the industry, and how to approach professional communication and maximise your contact networks successfully.</p>
Principal Study Two	20	This continues your specialist 1-to-1 sessions with an instrumental tutor for one hour per week over the academic year (24 weeks),

		tailoring specific learning to your own needs. You will engage in a practice routine in which you will develop stylistic awareness, creativity, and technique, in order to realise and clearly express musical ideas.
Professional Practice One	20	This is a practical module that will focus on deconstruction, analysis and application of music theory with more specific focus on musical structure. Workshop sessions will enable you to apply theory, experiment with ideas, and to create improvisations and/or compositions. You will develop your practical technique and facility to express musical ideas in practice.
Professional Practice Two	20	Continuing from <i>Professional Practice</i> , this module explores deconstruction, analysis, and application of theory allowing more specific focus on musical arranging and orchestration. Practical workshop sessions will enable you to put theory into practice, collaborate in ensembles exploring a broad range of styles, and create music that stretches your technical and stylistic boundaries.
Music in Practice (Experiential Learning)	20	This is a work-based learning module in which you will plan, organise and engage in professional research about possible employment routes. You will then undertake a work placement or professional project for a set period of time in, for example: live sound, multi-media, community music, arts administration, teaching, running workshops in schools and colleges, or working alongside practising music practitioners etc.

BA (Hons) Popular Music Level 6 (Year 3) Full time		
Module Title	Credits	Module Descriptor
Popular Music Research	20	In this module lectures and seminars will be dedicated to aspects of popular music research such as musicology, audience studies, performance studies and/or cultural studies. You will work toward the submission of a focused piece of work examining a specific area of music.
Preparing & Learning Music	20	You will examine and explore the wide variety of contexts within which there is a requirement for music leadership which might include such areas as: teaching, ensemble management, musical theatre, band leading, music in worship, production, musical directing and academic delivery. You will engage in a practice based project within which you will undertake research, engage in and lead sessions, and document your progress and development.
Principal Study Three	20	1-to-1 sessions run throughout the academic year with an instrumental tutor for one hour per week (24 weeks). The focus is on the development of your musical voice in appropriate repertoire both

		independently and in a group context within which you may be required to take a leadership role.
Practice in Context Three: Dissertation	30	<p>This option (versus a Negotiated Practical Project or the Session Musician module) is a largely independent academic research module resulting in the production of a large scale written piece.</p> <p>You will be supported by an academic supervisor within tutorial sessions throughout the year.</p>
Negotiated Practical Project	30	<p>This option (versus a Dissertation or the Session Musician module) is a self-directed practical module enabling you to engage in a research informed investigation leading to a substantial practical piece.</p> <p>In consultation with your supervising tutor, the module enables you to determine your own area of investigation.</p>
The Session Musician	30	<p>This final option (versus a Dissertation or a Negotiated Practical Project) is a practical module providing you with an opportunity to experience a range of the likely musical scenarios you may encounter during the course of a music career.</p> <p>You will undertake practical workshop sessions engaging in simulated 'real' tasks and then be provided with an opportunity to evaluate them weekly.</p>

Composition of the course and how the course will be delivered:

The course is modular and is managed on a two semester schedule, each of 15 weeks duration. The academic year begins in September and ends in June.

Level 4: the course defines Level 4 as induction and core generic skills acquisition

Level 5: applies the new skills gained at Level 4 in a range of appropriate contexts

Level 6: students specialise through individual learning programmes

The total length of the academic year is 32 weeks (including enrolment, induction and a reading week), with breaks for Christmas, Easter and Summer.

Students will have access to College resources (studios, library, workshops, social areas) on week days during normal working hours and later on some days and at certain times of the year.

Students may also have access to some of the resources in vacations, and current information on this is available by request.

Students are awarded 'credits' for the successful completion of a module, totalling 120 in each academic year. A single credit is defined as ten hours of study so a 20 credit module requires 200 hours of study in total. A student must successfully achieve 120 credits. 1200 hours of study in total.

The percentage of contact time devoted to differing learning environments depends on the individual module content, but the course seeks to use a wide variety of teaching methods wherever possible. Examples of teaching methods include, process inductions and workshops, demonstrations, lectures, presentations, master-classes, on-line learning activities, tutorials and seminar discussion groups.

Assessment is almost exclusively made by submission of course work in the form of a portfolio, although written essays and reviews plus presentations are also used. There are no timed, written examinations.

Tuition Fees

The tuition fees for 2020/21 are outlined in the table below. For more information about applying for a tuition fee loan, please visit www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance.

Please note that this annual fee will remain unchanged for the 3-year duration of your course. However, following enrolment, students transferring to an alternative mode of study, repeating or retaking modules or suspending their studies, will need to confirm fees with the Finance Department.

Course	Level	Year	Fees
BA (Hons) Popular Music full time (UK/EU students)	4	Year 1	£9000
BA (Hons) Popular Music full time (Overseas students)	4	Year 1	£11,200

Please note that the Higher Education Student Finance portal normally opens in mid-February. The College would encourage students to submit their student finance application as soon as possible.

All students need to ensure that the funding is in place for their tuition fees and living costs prior to enrolment.

Payment, service delivery and performance arrangements:

- If the tuition fee is paid to the College via the Student Loans Company, it will be paid in 3 instalments – 25% in term 1, 25% in term 2 and 50% in term 3.
- If a student is paying their own tuition fees, students can pay in instalments by direct debit only. Students will be required to pay 1/3 of their annual tuition fees each term.
- Overseas students are required to pay their tuition fees in full by June prior to the commencement of their course.
- Any of the additional costs (see additional costs section) are collected via an online secure payment system.

Additional Costs

Additional costs are directly related to your study but exclude accommodation and student's personal living costs. Further information about halls of residence and other accommodation available in Hereford is available on our website.

In addition to the tuition fees charged, the nature of creative arts practice means students will need to allow for some additional costs, for example, materials that they choose to use in the production of work and activities such as trips to external events and exhibitions. The courses at HCA have been designed to minimise the impact of additional costs; some trips and materials will be fully funded by the college or heavily subsidised. However, typically, a student will choose to spend around an additional £250 in the first year, £375 in the second year and £400 in their final year, depending on scale of work and materials chosen or other related costs. Students spend different amounts depending on the areas in which they specialise and individual choices. We appreciate that not all students will be able to invest the same money in their work and staff assessing it will not judge work by the cost of materials or other resources.

The college shop stocks specialist materials at competitive prices and digital equipment can be loaned from the media stores at no extra cost to students.

Students on all courses will also have the chance to take part in optional trips that require additional payment. Non – attendance on the trips will not incur assessment penalties, though trips are designed to help students develop their practice. There is an optional annual cross-course overseas residential trip. During the academic year 2019-20, the planned destination was Copenhagen and the cost to students was £385 for shared dormitory rooms which included UK airport transfers, overseas airport transfers and insurance.

Places on the optional trips are allocated on a first come first serve basis.

On completion of Level 6 (the final level of study), some students also choose to take part in an optional residential trip to London for one of the various graduate showcases (for instance Free Range). Decisions about these showcases are made by the college with students on an annual basis and costed according to differing showcase fees, numbers of students taking part and ambition of display. Students are required to contribute to financing this activity and are encouraged to take part in fundraising events and grant applications.

The College is committed to ensuring that students considering studying at HCA are fully aware of the possible additional costs.

Following enrolment, students that face genuine financial hardship may apply to the College Hardship Fund.

Average Annual Cost Breakdown

This table is an estimate of the costs a typical student may face during each of the three years on the course.

The blue figures represent realistic costs for students who purchase materials at their average costs. The Yellow figures are hypothetical costs for those that would have the luxury of being able to afford top-of-the-range resources.

Costs are annual figures unless specified.

Level of study	Lv4		Lv5		Lv6	
Adobe CC subscription for use outside of college hours (discounted by 70%) NB Adobe CC is free to use for any student working within the college.	£16.24 per month		£16.24 per month		£16.24 per month	
Print charges for course work	£10	£25	£10	£25	£15	£35
Musical Instruments	Nearly all students begin the course already owning their chosen instrument. This is one cost that is hard to define due to the sheer number of variables from personal and technical preferences to the choice, brand and condition of instrument its self.					
Strings, Sticks, Skins	£5	£40	£5	£40	£5	£40
Transport costs on city visits	£20	£20	£20	£20	£20	£20
Web hosting and domain name registration	£5	£5	£5	£5	£10	£10
Books, magazines, subscriptions	£10	£30	£10	£30	£10	£30

Location of Study Our degree courses are all based at our College Road Campus but several specialist workshops and performing spaces are located nearby on our Folly Lane Campus and degree level students often work between both sites. Much of a student's study will also involve working in different locations in the city and surrounding area.

Locations and contact details:

College Road Campus: Hereford College of Arts, College Road, Hereford. HR1 1EB.

Folly Lane Campus: Hereford College of Arts, Folly Lane, Hereford. HR1 1LT.

Telephone: 01432 273359

Fax: 01432 341099

If you have any enquiries please contact our registry department: registry@hca.ac.uk

Complaint handling process.

Our full complaints policy can be found here; <https://hcalive.b-cdn.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/student-complaints-policy-and-procedure.pdf>

Information relating to all academic regulations, including complaints procedures can be found via the UWTSD public website. <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/academic-quality-handbook>

