

Course Summary: March 27, 2026

Music BA Honours

- UCAS code: **W300**
- Full time
- 3 years

Become an accomplished and confident musician. Gain a solid grounding in Western art music practice and study a range of contemporary, world, traditional and popular music. From practical and theoretical to historical and contextual perspectives.

You are currently viewing course information for entry year: **2026**

Next start date:

- September 2026

Tuition fees (Year 1)

- Home: **£9,790**
- International: **£25,100**

Entry requirements and offers

- A-Level: **ABB**
- IB: **32 points**

UCAS Institution name and code:

- NEWC / N21

Undergraduate Open Day

Start your university journey. Find where you belong. Friday, June 26 (9:00-16:00)
Saturday, June 27 (9:00-16:00)

[Book your place now](#)

Course overview

Study music at Newcastle and join a dynamic community of musicians and thinkers who are committed to valuing all music. Our community will help you embrace your individual creativity, expand your knowledge, and develop your critical thinking.

Study topics based on your interests such as **performance, music history, analysis, audio production, composition** and **ethnomusicology**. Many of our modules include vocation-oriented elements including music education and various work placement opportunities

You'll develop your performance skills through one-to-one tuition, group projects, and masterclasses with our specialist performance tutors who are leaders in their fields.

Hear from our graduates about their Newcastle experience

Your course and study experience - disclaimers and terms and conditions

Please rest assured we make all reasonable efforts to provide you with the programmes, services and facilities described. However, it may be necessary to make changes due to significant disruption, for example in response to Covid-19.

View our [Academic experience page](#), which gives information about your Newcastle University study experience for the academic year 2025-26.

See our [terms and conditions and student complaints information](#), which gives details of circumstances that may lead to changes to programmes, modules or University services.

Quality and ranking

Professional accreditation and recognition

All professional accreditations are reviewed regularly by their professional body.

Modules and learning

Modules

The information below is intended to provide an example of what you will study.

Most degrees are divided into stages. Each stage lasts for one academic year, and you'll complete modules totalling 120 credits by the end of each stage.

Our teaching is informed by research. Course content may change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, and student feedback.

Optional module availability

Student demand for optional modules may affect availability.

Full details of the modules on offer will be published through the [Programme Regulations and Specifications](#) ahead of each academic year. This usually happens in May.

To find out more please [see our terms and conditions](#)

You'll take the following compulsory modules:

Compulsory modules	Credits
Understanding Music: Concepts, Skills and Methods	20
Challenges in Musicology: Music, People and Place	20

Compulsory modules	Credits
Audio Production Skills (more information to follow)	20
Performance Studies 1	20
Creative Projects	20
Musicianship (more information to follow)	20

Candidates may take modules, totalling 20 or 40 credits, in a foreign language. Please note that:

- This must be approved by the Degree Programme Director, who will also agree on an appropriate module or modules to drop from the Music degree provision to maintain the 120-credit total for the year.
- some modules at stage 2 have Musicianship, Audio Production Skills, or Creative Projects as prerequisites.
- opting out of Performance Studies 1 at this stage will disqualify you from taking Performance Studies at a later stage in the degree programme.

Choose from a range of historical, cultural and practical options, and have the freedom to determine the balance between these different strands. Module choices include historical and cultural options such as topics in Western music history, and practical options such as composition and performance.

Optional Modules

You take at **least two** of the following Historical/Cultural modules:

Optional modules	Credits
Themes in Musical Modernism	20
Popular Music and Media	20

Optional modules	Credits
Music and Visual Culture	20

You take at **least one** of the following Applied or Practical modules:

Optional modules	Credits
Composing for Spaces and Places	20
DJing Skills and Turntablism	20
Contemporary Musical Materials	20
Songwriting	20
Translation for Singing	20
Performance Studies 2	20
Contemporary Music Practice 2	20
Orchestration	20
Folk Ensemble 2*	20
Music Teaching and Learning: in Formal and Informal Contexts	20

* Students will need to take an audition if they wish to take Folk Ensemble 2

You'll conduct independent work in two specialities of your choice. For each of these you'll receive 1-to-1 supervision.

The specialities are categorised as a major specialist study and a minor specialist study in a second area.

You'll choose your other modules using the remainder of your module credit balance. These modules cover historical, cultural and practical material and are offered by our world-leading research-active staff in Music.

Modules

Compulsory modules

You must take one Major Specialist Study from this list:

Compulsory modules	Credits
Major Specialist Study: Composition	40
Major Specialist Study: Dissertation	40
Major Specialist Study: Performance	40
Major Specialist Study: Project	40

Optional modules

You may (but are not required to) choose a Minor Specialist Study module from the following list. This must be in a subject area that is substantially different to your major specialist study.

Optional modules	Credits
Minor Specialist Study: Composition	20
Minor Specialist Study: Dissertation	20
Minor Specialist Study: Performance	20
Minor Specialist Study: Project	20

You choose modules from the list below so that the total credits for the year adds up to 120:

Optional modules	Credits
Case Studies in 21st Century Music	20
The Total Work of Art: Richard Wagner, The Musical Stage and their continuing Agency across The Arts	20
Jazz Studies	20
Salsa, AfroBeat, Reggae and Rhythms of the World	20

Optional modules	Credits
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Music, Gender and Identity	20
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Folk Ensemble 3*	20
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*Students need to have passed Folk Ensemble 2 in Stage 2 in order to take Folk Ensemble 3.

You may, with the discretion of the Degree Programme Director, take one module from the list below, if not taken already at Stage 2, in place of a module selected in the list above.

Optional modules	Credits
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Themes in Musical Modernism	20
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Composing for Spaces and Places	20
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DJing Skills and Turntablism	20
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Contemporary Musical Materials	20
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Songwriting	20
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Translation for Singing	20
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Contemporary Music Practice 2	20
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Orchestration	20
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Popular Music and Media	20
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Folk Ensemble 2	20
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Music and Visual Culture	20
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Music Teaching and Learning: in Formal and Informal Contexts	20
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Teaching and assessment

Teaching methods

Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Assignments – written or fieldwork
- Coursework
- Dissertation or research project
- Essays
- Examinations – practical or online
- Group work
- Interviews
- Musical performance
- Portfolio submission
- Practical sessions
- Presentations
- Projects
- Reflective report/journal
- Reports
- Seminar tasks/exercises

Skills and experience

Opportunities

Study abroad

Experience life in another country by choosing to study abroad as part of your degree. You'll be encouraged to embrace fun and challenging experiences, make connections with new communities and graduate as a globally aware professional, ready for your future.

You may choose to spend a year abroad as part of your degree in one of our partner institutions. You can do so in consultation with the Degree Programme Director. In order to qualify, you must have attained at least 60% in the first three semesters of study.

[Find out more about study abroad](#)

Work placement

Get career ready with a work placement and leave as a confident professional in your field. You can apply to spend 9 to 12 months working in any organisation in the world, and receive University support from our dedicated team to secure your dream placement. Work placements take place between stages 2 and 3.

You'll gain first-hand experience of working in the sector, putting your learning into practice and developing your professional expertise.

If you choose to take a work placement, it will extend your degree by a year. Work placement is not available if you're spending a year abroad. Placements are subject to availability.

[Find out more about work placements](#)

Facilities and environment

Facilities

You'll be based in [the School of Arts and Cultures](#), in the University's main campus.

Our department is based in the Armstrong Building, which overlooks the university's beautiful main quadrangle.

You'll have access to outstanding specialist music facilities, including state-of-the-art recording studios, rehearsal spaces, specialist tuition rooms, flexible study spaces, and the music skills suite.

The impressive King's Hall is used for orchestral and choral concerts, our professional lunchtime concert series, and student performance workshops.

Studios

Our professional recording and music production suites provide a space for:

- full band multi-track recording
- electro-acoustic composition multimedia work
- sound art installations

We have a range of portable recording equipment and tools designed for live electronics and technologically mediated live performance. These are accessible to all music students.

Rehearsal spaces

You'll have access to a range of rehearsal spaces, including:

- 25 acoustically treated practice rooms
- five instrumental teaching rooms
- a large, acoustically isolated, ensemble/band practice room
- two large performance/rehearsal spaces (each seats up to 50 people)
- the University's King's Hall (seats 400 people)

Read more about our Music facilities

Opportunities to perform

We offer a free professional concert series every Thursday lunchtime during term time, followed by a student performance where you have the chance to perform for, and listen to, your colleagues from all of our music degrees.

Newcastle University Symphony Orchestra rehearses weekly and usually gives 3 or 4 performances each year in the King's Hall and in the Great North Museum.

There is also a student-organised annual Summer Music Festival, showcasing our students' talents and giving you the chance to gain real-world experience of event management.

Our music students immerse themselves in Newcastle's thriving music scene which includes everything from high-profile venues like the O2 Academy and the City Hall, to more intimate local spots such as The Cluny, The Cumberland Arms and Bar Loco. It's also home to the UK's first co-operatively owned music venue,

The Globe.

[Watch some of our student performances](#)

Support

You'll have an academic personal tutor throughout your degree. They will provide academic and pastoral support.

Peer mentors will help you in your first year. They are fellow students who can help you settle in and answer any questions you have when starting university.

Your future

Join our network of confident and successful graduates who benefit from our well-established ties with arts institutions in the city, in the wider region and beyond. These include:

- Royal Northern Sinfonia
- Samling Academy
- Opera North

Preparing you for career success

We work with a range of partners across the Music sector, providing you with professional development and networking opportunities.

We're the only [North-East Music Academic Partner of UK Music](#), the collective voice of the UK's world-leading music industry, which represents all sectors of the music industry to champion Music.

Through this partnership we provide a range of sector-leading opportunities, including:

- engaging with the industry
- providing research and networking opportunities

- a range of career development support

We also work closely with a broad range of regional cultural organisations, including strategic partnerships with the Glasshouse, so you can engage with the professional music sector and give back to the region in which you will be studying.

Find out more about the careers our graduates choose

Careers support

We'll help enhance your employability through access to career-related training, both as part of the course and through extra-curricular activities. Modules in teaching music help build skills needed for your future career.

We work with a range of arts, music and creative organisations and businesses including artist management and development, music production, community arts, festival and event management, and music therapy. These provide our students with guest lectures, masterclasses and placement opportunities.

Examples include:

- Nordoff Robbins
- PRS for Music
- Generator
- Seven Stories
- Side by Side Arts
- Blank Studios
- Harambee Pasadia

[Read more about careers with a Music degree](#)

[Hear from our graduates](#)

Our Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers. We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through our ncl+ initiative.

[Visit our Careers Service website](#)

Recognition of professional qualifications outside of the UK

If you're studying an **accredited degree** and thinking about working in Europe after you graduate, the best place to find current information is the [UK Government's guidance on recognition of UK professional qualifications in EU member states](#). This official resource explains whether your profession is regulated in another country, what steps you need to take, and which organisation you should contact.

Find out more...

- Go online for information about our full range of degrees:
www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate
- Watch videos about student life in Newcastle by visiting our YouTube channel at **www.youtube.com/@newcastleuni**
- Watch a virtual tour of our campus at
<https://youtu.be/vJUfHcqB7l8?si=8lUrf7kTxXbgdfr1>
- Book for an Open Day to come and see us in person
www.ncl.ac.uk/openday
- Contact us online at **www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries** or phone +44 (0)191 208 3333

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<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/student-welcome/student-contract/>

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