TRINITY LABAN CONSERVATOIRE OF MUSIC & DANCE

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Programme:	Foundation Certificate: Music
Awarding Institution:	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Type of study:	Full-time
UK Credits:	120
ECTS:	60

OUTLINE

Summary Description

The Foundation Certificate: Music programme is designed for aspiring musicians who wish to develop their musical skills and techniques through a dedicated programme of study rooted in studio or practice-based activity. It is an opportunity for students to access high-quality conservatoire study and may provide an entry route to further specialist/vocational training (e.g. undergraduate degree programmes within the conservatoire or wider higher education sectors, particularly within the UK) or a platform for a dedicated period of personal study with a vocational focus. The programme aims to equip students with a secure grasp of the foundational skills required by the contemporary profession in its widest sense, but with a focus on Western Art Music.

The Certificate is of one year's duration (10 months) and by the end of the programme students will be able to perform and/or create music as an instrumentalist, vocalist or composer at a level appropriate to entry to conservatoire BMus or university music faculty study. Students will have consolidated a consistent artistic personality as appropriate to a range of performance settings, and developed a broad set of skills and knowledge suited to diverse further training routes in music.

Students will develop their instrument/voice-specific performance skills alongside practical study in areas that support their fluency and their internalised and embodied perceptions of music. This includes 1-1 lessons, Departmental Classes, Performance Workshop, Dalcroze Eurythmics, Alexander Technique, Generative Techniques, Applied Musicianship, and Audition Class. They will develop collaborative skills through participation in the college's renowned CoLab Festival, and academic skills through a critical thinking seminar and the Music, History, Society module, which offers an introduction to the past and present sociology of music. There will also be activities designed to develop an appreciation of professional and educational settings of music practice, and the early development of professional skills in music. Students will maintain a personal development portfolio of key documents in their progress through the programme and will have termly tutorials to review these documents and discuss their progress.

The programme aims are:

- To enable aspiring musicians to further develop their musical skills and techniques through a dedicated programme of study rooted in studio or practice-based activity, including support for autonomous study;

- To permit early-stage students access to high-quality study within a conservatoire environment and preparation for entry to further specialist/vocational training (e.g. undergraduate degree programmes within the conservatoire sector) or a platform for a dedicated period of personal study;

- To offer a performance training that not only foregrounds technical and notational fluency, but also interpretative and communicative coherence, awareness of bodily well-being and skills in managing the performance experience;

- To provide a breadth of study that includes how music is situated historically and socially (through aural and theory knowledge), collaborative and leadership skills in performance and generative music, and a nascent awareness of the artist as citizen; and

- To create a learning environment that encourages risk and nurtures creativity and innovation, reflecting, cutting-edge thinking about musical performance and learning from around the world and taking advantage of advances in digital technologies.

What will I be expected to achieve?

Knowledge and understanding - on successful completion of this programme, a student will be able to demonstrate:

- preliminary musical knowledge and skills that support performance/composition, including technical and notational fluency;
- a nascent understanding of the historical and social contexts of music and music performance (past, present and future eventualities);
- an awareness of the multidisciplinary scope of the arts and their broader contexts in relation to creativity and innovation;
- a nascent appreciation of a range of evolving artistic and professional contexts and their connection with citizenship;
- responsiveness to HE self-directed learning processes, appropriate to expectations for BMus conservatoire study; and
- the early application of learning relating to musicians' health and well-being.

Skills - on successful completion of this programme, students will be able to:

- perform and/or compose fluently with secure technique at a standard commensurate with entry to a BMus programme;
- demonstrate an emerging musical personality, meeting expectations for BMus conservatoire entry;
- make connections between core musical knowledge and skills and performance activities, including generative music;
- generate and input creative ideas and skills to collaborative projects taking a leadership role where appropriate;
- apply appropriate organisational skills, and evaluate different approaches to problem solving in their studies (both academic and practice-based activities); and
- demonstrate accurate, reliable and coherently structured communication and presentation, appropriate for BMus conservatoire entry.

Values and attitudes - on successful completion of this programme, students will have:

- a preliminary understanding of, and respect for, a range of social and aesthetic values relating to music and society;
- an embryonic understanding of, and respect for, the dynamics involved in collaboration, teamwork and leadership;
- an emerging understanding of personal responsibilities as artist-as-citizens; and

- respect for life-long learning processes and an ability to initiate their own development through structured opportunities, demonstrating emerging autonomy.

How will I learn?

Learning takes place through a blend of formal tuition, experiential learning and personal study. Instrumental / composition / vocal tuition is the central element of provision consisting of individual lessons, group classes, rehearsals, workshops and seminars, with some masterclasses also available for observation. Students will develop and contextualize their learning from individual lessons within a broad range of solo, small group/chamber and large ensemble activities, including access to, on audition, the Chapel and Chamber Choirs, Jazz Choir and various orchestras and ensembles. Visiting artists, ensemble directors and lecturers will expose students to a variety of views and approaches current within the profession. CoLab is an integral element of performance studies and is a ring-fenced period of the academic year where students from across the institution work together to create and develop creative projects and where artistic risks and innovation are encouraged.

Most tuition in academic study is delivered in small groups where practical experience is blended with theoretical knowledge to develop musicianship and informed performance. The programme aims to enable students to develop independent strategies for lifelong learning, and tutors will regularly encourage reflection and the formulation of specific targets for learning.

Specific modules/components in the programme may involve study with another student or students in a collaborative way. Collaboration is considered to be at the heart of professional artistic life and as such, opportunities such as these represent valued learning experiences.

This programme assumes 1200 learning and teaching hours, with around 270 hours contact time. Contact time is defined as tuition which is delivered by a tutor. It includes performances, individual tuition, larger group tuition, seminars, departmental & academic classes, directed rehearsals, masterclasses, competitions and supervised study. Contact and self-study time is itemised in module descriptions, although rehearsal and performance contact time will vary according to the professional study discipline. Self-study is supported by Moodle, the college's virtual learning environment, and students will be expected to regularly upload material to their personal development portfolio. Learning is also supported by the award winning Jerwood Library of the Performing Arts and academic support from Student Services where needed.

How will I be assessed?

Overview

There are a range of assessment methods across the credit-bearing elements of the programme, which as far as possible mirror challenges encountered in professional contexts. Assessments are both formative, in that they offer detailed feedback to the student, and summative, in that they offer a mark and justifications for that grade both to the student and the institution. The programme throughout takes the view that assessment is primarily a learning rather than a grading tool, and students will undertake regular formative tasks in lessons and seminars.

The Professional Studies module is assessed primarily through a short technical test and an end of year recital; Applied Musicianship through a series of practical and notation-based assessments; Music, History and Society through a written portfolio and a presentation, and CoLab through project research, documentation and reflection.

What do I have to do to pass?

To pass the programme you need to satisfactorily PASS (40%) each of the modules that constitute the programme, which effectively means you must achieve a mark of 40% or above, as defined by the

Programme Generic Grade Descriptors. The proposed grade will reflect, in the view of the assessment panel, the extent to which the project has met both the general and module-specific assessment criteria. There are provisions to apply compensation for a 'missed' pass under certain defined circumstances, and similarly there are provisions to retrieve a failure: please see further details about these in the section on Assessment Regulations. All performance assessments taken in Professional Studies must be passed.

To complete the programme students must attain a pass or better for each module. Please see the full version of the regulations and the generic grade descriptors for further information concerning where compensation may be applied for an unsatisfactory mark, and for grade thresholds that allow resubmission of assessment tasks for a pass mark.

What award can I get?

Successful completion of this programme will lead to the Foundation Certificate: Music. All awards are decided on the overall aggregate of all modules calculated as a weighted average.

Foundation Certificate:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	4	120	100%

Class	% required
With Distinction:	70
With Merit:	60
With Good Pass:	50
With Pass:	40

CONTENT

What will I study?

The programme runs across three terms (Sept to July), and most teaching takes place in the first two to allow students adequate self-study time to prepare for the final recital. The formal credit framework is as follows:

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Professional Studies		80	Core	No	4
Applied Musicianship		15	Core	Yes	4
Music, History and Society		15	Core	Yes	4
CoLab		10	Core	Yes	4
Total Credits:		**120**			

The Professional Studies module includes 1-1 lessons, departmental classes, Alexander Technique, Dalcroze Eurythmics, audition class, performance workshop and generative techniques.

Please see module specifications for detailed description of module content.

Outside of the formal programme structure students will take a class in critical skills, visit a professional rehearsal, give a concert in a local school and set-up and run one or more public cohort concerts.

ADMISSIONS

Entry Requirements

Entry to the programme:

Trinity Laban places greater emphasis on its own audition process than on formal qualifications. The course is aimed at students considering entry to undergraduate study at conservatoire or university, and places are offered to candidates who demonstrate the potential to reach that level within the year. As a guide, ABRSM/Trinity College London Grade 8 or equivalent would be the minimum expected level of entrance to the programme, although this is not a pre-requisite. All applicants should note that Trinity Laban will not consider applications for deferred entry.

The programme accepts students in all Western Art Music instruments and voice (NB this programme does not accept jazz students). The Foundation Certificate: Music has an English language entrance requirement of CEFR B2 (ISE II – Integrated Skills in English or IELTS Level 5.5 in all 4 areas). For Tier 4 purposes the IELTs will need to be the specific IELTs for UKVI test. Students with English at a lower level than this are encouraged to apply for the International Foundation Certificate: Music and English.

Audition Requirements:

Applicants must prepare two contrasting pieces of their own choice, written for their principal study instrument or voice, and lasting no longer than 15 minutes in total. Applicants may be required to take a short sight-reading and/or playing-by-ear test, but are not expected to have prior experience of improvisation.

Composition: Applicants must submit a portfolio of between 3 and 6 compositions in advance. Any styles are acceptable and unfinished works may be included. The portfolio must illustrate the applicant's ability to produce notated scores and recordings should be submitted where possible. Portfolios will normally be assessed by the Head of Composition and an additional relevant member of staff, who will then conduct an interview with applicants which will take the form of a discussion about the applicant's compositions, interests and ambitions.

Composition applicants will also be asked to perform a prepared piece of 2-3 minutes of their own choice in length in a style and on an instrument of their choice (including voice) and they may also be asked to improvise.

Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate the following through the application, audition and interview:

- a level of technical competence and fluency appropriate to foundation level performance study;
- a nascent but clear artistic identity as appropriate for ongoing conservatoire study;
- The motivation for in-depth detailed development of performance skills;
- The capacity for independent, critical and reflective judgment;
- The ability to organise and communicate ideas effectively.

CAREERS

Alumni profiles can be found on the website: http://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-profiles?tag=2089

Comprehensive careers support is available for all Trinity Laban students and recent graduates, supported by a dedicated Careers Coordinator and our careers website: www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/student-experience/careers

STUDY ABROAD / WORK PLACEMENTS

Study Abroad options

Not Available

Placement options

Not Available