TRINITY LABAN CONSERVATOIRE OF MUSIC & DANCE

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Programme:	BMus(Composition/Jazz/Performance/Performer-Composer)
Awarding Institution: Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	
Faculty:	Music
Type of study:	Full time
UK Credits:	480
ECTS:	240

OUTLINE

Summary Description

The BMus Programme is designed for students wishing to be professional musicians: performers and composers. It aims to equip students with the necessary musical skills and knowledge required by the contemporary profession in its widest sense but with a focus on the Western Classical and Jazz traditions; the Jazz Pathway offers discrete comprehensive specialist training.

The BMus is of four years duration and by the end of the programme you will be able to create music as an instrumentalist, vocalist, composer or a composer-performer at a level appropriate to entry to the profession and/or undertake Masters level study. You will have established a secure artistic personality and developed a range of sophisticated professional skills. As an emerging artist you will have created music – solo, small and large ensemble – in a variety of settings and in relation to a range of audiences. You will have gained understanding of the music profession and its audiences in contemporary society. Through your understanding of audience you will develop collaboration, innovation and entrepreneurial skills in support of a professional career. The programme prepares you to communicate at the highest levels as an artist through your instrument/voice/compositions and to engage audiences through informed discussion and text where appropriate.

Year 1 (Level 4) lays the foundations for technique, artistic expression, contextual knowledge and musicianship – all intrinsic to being a musician. Practical activities form a fundamental learning tool throughout. Years 2 and 3 (levels 5 and 6(1)) are intensive years where you will develop your core performance skills, musical knowledge, musicianship and critical thinking. Alongside this you will develop knowledge of the wide-ranging music industry and the skills needed to operate within it. The choices available to you within the third year will permit you to begin to shape your individual musical and career pathway. The final year (Level 6(2) Hons) permits you to pursue areas of specialism alongside advanced level study of performance/composition in preparation for entry level to the profession.

What will I be expected to achieve?

On successful completion of this programme, a student will be expected to be able to demonstrate:

Systematic knowledge and understanding of:

- advanced musical knowledge and skills that support performance/composition
- a broad representative selection of repertoire relating to Principal Study
- the context of music and music performance (past, present and future eventualities)
- the multidisciplinary scope of the arts and their broader contexts
- appreciation of a range of evolving artistic and professional contexts
- the individual learning process
- and, issues relating to musicians' health and well-being and their implications for a maintaining a successful career

Skills:

- individual musical personality and artistry in a variety of musical domains supported by a secure level of skill
- the ability to apply supporting core and specialist musical knowledge and skills to performance
- the ability to generate and input creative ideas and skills to collaborative projects taking a leadership role where appropriate
- the ability to evaluate changes in the art form and to contribute to its development, taking a leadership role where appropriate
- the ability to devise, sustain and communicate ideas and concepts
- the ability to apply appropriate personal, business, technological, and organisational skills;
- the ability to apply skills of communication and presentation appropriate for a wide range of professional demands;
- and, the ability to apply independent life-long learning skills.

Values and attitudes:

- critical understanding of, and respect for, a range of social and aesthetic values relating to the artist in society;
- Understanding of, and respect for the dynamics involved in collaboration, teamwork and leadership;
- and, understanding of personal responsibilities in artistic and educational domains.

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 tuition, group tuition, rehearsals, workshops, seminars and masterclasses. You will develop and contextualize your individual tuition within a broad range of solo, small group/chamber and large ensemble activities. Visiting artists, ensemble directors and lecturers will expose you 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 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, informed performers and employability skills. Large lectures are also given in some components such as the History and Context of Music (4, 5 & 6(1), The Artist as Educator 5 and The Artist as Entrepreneur 6(1).

The programme aims to enable you to develop independent learning strategies for lifelong learning. Your tutors will regularly encourage you to reflect on learning and to formulate personal programmes of study and targets for learning.

Specific modules/components in the programme may involve you studying with another student or students in a collaborative way (e.g. with other musicians, dancers or other artists in a working relationship). 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 4800 learning and teaching hours. 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. Rehearsal and performance contact time will vary according to the instrumental discipline.

How will I be assessed?

Overview

Assessment methods as far as possible mirror professional contexts. In Professional Studies, assessments for performance/composition activities will include a combination of solo, chamber/small ensemble, large ensemble and technical work. These will be supplemented by written/oral assignments requiring critical reflection on a range of contextual matters (the wider profession, audience, the concept of the informed performer etc). Other modules, including The Artist as Citizen 4, The Artist as Educator 5, The Artist as Entrepreneur 6 (1), History in Context, Applied Musicianship and Electives feature a blend of assessment methods both written and practical (including, but not exclusive to arrangement, writing (essays, exams), verbal presentations, composition, improvisation, performance etc.) relating to performance practice, contextual and historical knowledge, and musicianship; elective assessments will focus on employability skills and knowledge. Attendance is assessed for some performance activities and CoLab.

What do I have to do to pass?

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

What award can I get?

BMus (Hons):

Year of study	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Year 4	6(2)	120	60%
Year 3	6(1)	120	30%
Year 2	5	120	10%
Year 1	4	120	Pass/Fail

Class	% required
First class	70
Second class: Upper division	60
Second class: Lower division	50
Third class	40

BMus (Non-Hons):

Year of study	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Year 3	6(1)	120	70%
Year 2	5	120	30%
Year 1	4	120	Pass/Fail

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	40

Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE):

Year of study	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Year 2	5	120	100
Year 1	4	120	0

Class	% required	
With Distinction	70	
With Merit	60	
With Pass	40	

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE):

Year of study	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Year 1	4	120	100

Class	% required	
With Distinction	70	
With Merit	60	
With Pass	40	

CONTENT

What will I study?

Students must pass all credits in each year in order to progress and must successfully complete any resits before fully enrolling in the next year of the programme (provisional enrolment may be permitted in some circumstances). An Assessment Board meeting will be held at the end of each academic year to ratify results and make decisions about students' progression and awards. Notification of the decision will be sent to students in writing alongside a transcript of results following the end of each year of study.

Where an assessment component is failed, a resit may be permitted by the Assessment Board (or by the Interim Assessment Panel subject to confirmation by the Assessment Board). The mark will be capped at the minimum pass mark of 40%. The date and mode of reassessment will be set by the Interim Assessment Panel or by the Assessment Board (depending on the timing of the assessment).

Structure

Taught Modules Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Professional Studies 4	B401	75	Core	No	4
Academic Studies 4 (Applied Musicianship, Music History in Context)	B402	25	Core	No	4
The Artist as Citizen 4 (including CoLab)	B403	20	Core	No	4
Professional Studies 5	B501	75	Core	No	5
Academic Studies 5 (Applied Musicianship, Music History in Context)	B502	25	Core	No	5
The Artist as Educator 5 (including CoLab)	B503	20	Core	No	5
Professional Studies 6(1)	B6101	75	Core	No	6(1)

Academic Studies 6(1) (Applied Musicianship, Music History in Context)	B6102	20	Core	No	6(1)
The Artist as Entrepreneur 6(1) (including CoLab)	B6103	15	Core	No	6(1)
Elective	B6104	10	Elective	Yes	6(1)
Professional Studies 6(2) and Analysis)	B6201	75	Core	No	6(2)
The Artist as Innovator 6(2) (including CoLab)	B6203	15	Core	No	6(2)
Elective	B6204	30	Core	No	6(2)

ADMISSIONS

Entry Requirements

Entry to the programme is dependent upon selection at audition. The audition comprises a performance / composition audition and a 20 minute musicianship test designed to test applicants' aural skills and ability to produce a written response on a musical topic.

Students wishing to undertake the Performer-Composer pathway must undertake an interview with the Head of Composition and the Head of their performance discipline during BMus Year 2. Candidates for the pathway are expected to be achieving, typically, marks of around 70 or above in their principal study assessments, as a demonstration of their ability to flourish amidst the added pressures of the Performer-Composer pathway. Subject to successful interview and good progress in Professional Studies, students will be able to join the performer-composer pathway from year 3.

Academic Entry Requirements

- Grade 8 standard in Principal Study
- 3 GCSEs (including English Language) at Grade C or above
- Two A level passes (of which one should normally be Music) or Equivalent qualifications and/or relevant prior experience may be considered

Applicants for whom English is not their first language should demonstrate proficiency in English equivalent to IELTS 5.5 in all elements.

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 TL 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

ERASMUS/ and other Accredited Exchange Programmes

A list of ERASMUS partners and other institutions where exchange is possible is published on the TL website.

https://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/student-life/international-students/student-exchange-programmes

Student mobility will normally take place in either the 2nd or 3rd year of the programme. Credit will normally be recognised up to a maximum of the equivalent of 40 UK credits (30 ECTS) in the academic year where mobility has taken place. The mark awarded for the year will be calculated using the average mark of the credits awarded at the home institution (TL) for that year.

Placement options

Not Currently Available