

**Kingston
University**
London



Creative Music Technologies BMus/BA(Hons)

single/joint honours

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

www.kingston.ac.uk/bmusmusictechnology



Creative Music Technologies

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Our programme

Kingston's Music Department places a strong emphasis on creativity through composition, multimedia work and performance which is supported by the research of its lecturers. Specialist skills in the creative use of music technology are developed alongside a thorough training in theoretical and practical musicianship, academic skills and consideration of cultural issues. You will also learn advanced skills in recording, production and sound manipulation. We aim to teach as much as possible through practical workshops and hands-on experience. The course will address a wide range of musical genres with a particular focus on music written since 1950.

Music-making at Kingston

Practical music-making is a key feature of life at Kingston and we promote around 60 concerts and gigs a year. We have two choirs, an orchestra, big band, improvisation ensemble, KU digital arts collective, soundpainting group, gamelan ensemble, djembe group and a range of smaller student-led bands and groups in a variety of genres. Venues include Hampton Court Palace, Ham House and Kingston's Rose Theatre, together with local clubs and halls – band nights at the Grey Horse have become popular with students and performers. The Delta Saxophone Quartet and other artists visit frequently to perform and to lead workshops. Visits are also made by leading composers such as Steve Martland and Peter Wiegold.



Why study Creative Music Technologies at Kingston University?

- Creativity is the key concern of the course.
- Top-quality, practically-based music education.
- An opportunity to work in new ways with a range of media and artists from other disciplines.
- State-of-the-art technology and facilities.
- Teaching across a range of musical styles and genres.
- Thorough tuition in key musical skills and techniques.
- One-to-one or group instrumental and vocal teaching from top professionals.
- Around 60 student concerts and gigs each year.
- An excellent situation, near to London and in beautiful parkland.
- You can choose to combine Creative Music Technologies with a range of other subjects.

Facilities

Music has its own dedicated accommodation, the Coombehurst buildings, which are situated on the leafy Kingston Hill campus. Coombehurst Studio, our main performance space and recording studio, comprises a live space large enough to accommodate a full symphony orchestra. It has two control rooms equipped to the latest industry standards and an eight-channel surround-sound system for live performance of electro-acoustic music. Coombehurst House is the main Music building, housing staff offices, a range of lecture, seminar and practice rooms, studios and a workstation suite containing 23 Apple iMac computers for professional standard processing of sound and video. It also houses a full-size Javanese gamelan. Coombehurst Court provides further lecture and practice rooms and the Lodge contains a further two recording studios.

The department has an extensive collection of instruments: pianos; a harpsichord; western percussion instruments; non-western instruments including the gamelan and a set of djembe drums; school percussion and some early instruments. You will have access to our Learning Resources Centre, which houses an extensive collection of books, scores, periodicals, sheet music and recordings. In addition, we subscribe to a large number of online music resources accessible from all University workstations including the Naxos collection of recordings. Audio- and video-editing facilities, notation and word-processing software and internet access are available in all studios.

BA(Hons) joint honours

You can choose to take a joint honours degree in Creative Music Technologies in combination with either: Dance; Drama; Film Studies or TV & New Broadcasting Media. If you choose to study for a joint honours degree, you will take 60 credits from Creative Music Technologies and 60 from your other half field. For details of available modules please see www.kingston.ac.uk/bamusictchnology

Teaching and assessment

Teaching methods include lectures, seminars, tutorials and practical workshops that enable you to gain hands-on experience. Special lectures and master classes are led by visiting producers, composers and artists. If you take performance as a specialism you will receive individual tuition on your main instrument or voice, but access to this option is restricted to those who have achieved ABRSM grade 8 or equivalent standard. Assessment is through written coursework, practical presentations and tests.

Careers

Typically, over 90 per cent of Kingston music graduates have been in employment or further study within six months of graduating. They can be found throughout the music profession, cultural sector and in music education. Music graduates are also sought after by other employers because of their wide range of transferable skills. Kingston has a thriving postgraduate music portfolio, and many of our students go on to study for a masters degree. For more information on the MMus/MA or music research degrees contact the Music Administrator at music.administrator@kingston.ac.uk

Student feedback

"The lecturers were friendly and approachable. The teaching was of a very good standard and I never struggled to understand or be afraid to ask questions. Even if it's out of teaching hours, you could knock on lecturers' doors and they were happy to help you."

What you will study

Examples of modules that may be offered are shown below. The number of modules taken each year and the choices available will vary depending on whether you study Creative Music Technologies as a full field (single honours) or as a half field (joint honours). The module list varies from year to year as the course structure is reviewed and refined.

Year 1

You will work on specialist creative music technology studies and recording techniques while developing key musical and study skills. You will also take part in a Year 1 project to put on a multimedia event and have the opportunity to pursue studies in performance or composition. Access to solo performance modules in which you will receive individual tuition requires you to demonstrate existing expertise to approximately ABRSM grade 8 standard on your instrument or voice.

Examples of possible modules:

- Recording and Production Techniques 1 (30 credits)
- The Foundations of Music Technology (30 credits)
- CMT Performance or CMT Composition
- Writing About Music
- The Big Event
- Creating with Technology

Year 2

You will continue exploring studio, recording and production techniques alongside the exploration of a range of electro-acoustic music from an analytical perspective. You will also develop practical skills in arts management and will prepare materials to help in gaining career opportunities. Three specialist module choices from the list supplement the core.

Examples of possible modules:

- Recording and Production Techniques 2 (30 credits)
- Sonic Art in Theory and Practice (30 credits)
- Arts Management and Career Development
- Revolutions in Music History
- CMT Performance 2 or CMT Composition 2
- Introduction to Music Psychology
- Rhythm and Groove
- Performing Technologies 1
- Jazz 1
- Approaches to Improvisation
- Composing for Film and TV
- Kingston Language Scheme

Year 3

You have a choice of two project modules: a group project that works on the creation of a song from composition, through performance and production, to marketing, with different team members taking different roles or an Individual Project which could be in composition, performance or by dissertation, each option supported by individual tutorial or instrumental/vocal lesson. There is a core module where research in a specialist area is supported by presentations from visiting speakers and four specialist module choices supplement this core.

Examples of possible modules:

- The Studio Musician or Individual Project (30 credits)
- Music Research and Special Study (30 credits)
- Performing Technologies 2
- Live Electronics
- Sound and Moving Image
- The Freelance Musician
- Jazz 2
- Applied Musical Skills
- A Change is Gonna Come: Global Perspectives and Cultures of Popular Music
- Those Who Can, Teach: Contemporary Issues in Music Education
- Conducting
- Entrepreneurship
- Smells Like Teen Spirit: Writing Popular Music Lyrics
- Kingston Language Scheme



Centre for Academic Skills and Employability (CASE)

CASE offers students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences one-to-one help with their studies, supporting both undergraduate and postgraduate students with:

- researching and presenting;
- structuring and editing traditional academic writing;
- structuring and editing multimedia texts;
- referencing; and
- music theory.

CASE also provides a range of resources to enhance employability, including help with writing CVs, application forms and preparing you for interviews. Results show that students who use the centre are significantly more likely to complete their degree. As they are better equipped to act on feedback, they also tend to do better in their studies.



Want to know more?

[www.kingston.ac.uk/
bmusmusictechnology](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/bmusmusictechnology)
[www.kingston.ac.uk/
bamusictchnology](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/bamusictchnology)

Creative Music Technologies staff

Staff teaching Creative Music Technologies at Kingston have a comprehensive range of specialisms and research interests. We have particular strengths in composition, seven staff members being active composers across a range of genres and styles from multi-media, electro-acoustic and film music to more conventional concert music in a variety of genres. Other specialisms include a variety of improvisation techniques, performance, French music of the 20th century, music education, performance practices and world music.

"Our emphasis on teaching subjects relevant to the world today, and producing graduates able to make a positive contribution to that world, makes the educational experience on offer in our Faculty at Kingston unique among universities in the United Kingdom."

Professor Martin McQuillan
Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences



Entry requirements

Typical offer

- Points: 260–280 for BMus(Hons) and up to 360 points for BA(Hons) combinations.
- Units: to include two A-levels or equivalent
- Subjects: A-level: Music or Music Technology (100 points) or BTEC equivalent required.
- General Studies accepted when one of three A-levels or equivalent.
- ABRSM grades: points accepted in tariff.
- Key Skills: points accepted in tariff.
- Music theory to ABRSM grade 5 standard required.
- Plus GCSE: Mathematics and English (grade A–C required). Key Skills Level 2 may be used in lieu of poor GCSEs, depending on combination.

NB: reading and writing music from staff notation is a requirement of the course.

Further requirements for combinations

Please see the course webpage for details.

International students

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall, with special conditions for students who require a Tier-4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on our course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

Other entry routes

- Access course.
- International applicants and mature applicants with relevant qualifications are welcomed.

Joint honours combinations

Creative Music Technologies is offered as a single honours degree or as a major, half or minor field in combination with one of the following subjects:

- Dance
- Drama
- Film Studies
- TV & Broadcasting Media

UCAS codes

Creative Music Technologies full-field: W301
Half-fields with Dance: WWH4; with Drama:WWG4; with Film Studies: WPH3; with TV & New Broadcasting Media: WPG3.

Open days

Several open days are held each year. Please contact the admissions office or visit the University website for more details.
www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays

Contact details

Course enquiries

Modular Admissions Office
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Kingston University
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT1 2EE
T: +44 (0)20 8417 2378/2361
F: +44 (0)20 8417 2292
E: fassundergrad-info@kingston.ac.uk

Accommodation

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3829
E: accommodation@kingston.ac.uk
www.kingston.ac.uk/accommodation

Student Funding Service

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3560
www.kingston.ac.uk/studentfunding

Disability and Dyslexia Support Services

T: +44 (0)20 8417 4284/4252
Minicom: +44 (0)20 8417 4447
F: +44 (0)20 8417 4443
www.kingston.ac.uk/disability-and-dyslexia

International Office

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3411
www.kingston.ac.uk/international