

Academic Year 2025/26

Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Contemporary & Popular Music

UCAS Code: W301

Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Contemporary & Popular Music (with Year Abroad) Internal Code: 1135U

**Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Contemporary & Popular Music (with Placement Year)
Internal Code: 1670U**

Notes

- (i) *These programme regulations should be read in conjunction with the University's Taught Programme Regulations.*
- (ii) *All optional modules are offered subject to the constraints of the timetable and to any restrictions on the number of students who may be taught on a particular module. Not all modules may be offered in all years and they are listed subject to availability.*
- (iii) *Unless otherwise stated under 'Type', modules are not core.*
- (iv) *A compulsory module is a module which a student is required to study.*
- (v) *A core module is a module which a student must pass, and in which a fail mark may neither be carried nor compensated; such modules are designated by the board of studies as essential for progression to a further stage of the programme or for study in a further module.*

All modules are delivered in Linear mode unless stated otherwise as Block, eLearning or distance learning.

1. Stage 1

All candidates shall take modules to a credit value of **120** as specified in the following lists and should have no more than 70 and no less than 50 credits per semester.

- (a) All candidates shall take the following compulsory modules*:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mode</i>
MUS1014	Introduction to Popular Music Studies	20	10	10	4		
MUS1018	Academic Practice for Music Studies	20	10	10	4	Core	Blended Learning

- (b) All candidates would usually take the following module unless it is dropped in favour of a modern language:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mode</i>
MUS1059**	Contemporary Pop Performance	20	10	10	4		

- (c) All candidates must take at least **one** of the following modules:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mode</i>
MUS1011	Introduction to Ethnomusicology	20	10	10	4		
MUS1012	Understanding Music History	20	10	10	4		
MUS1096	Traditions of These Islands	20	10	10	4		

- (d) All candidates must take at least 20 credits from the table below***:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mode</i>
MUS1010	Studio Production	20	10	10	4		
MUS1101	Essentials and Applications of Music Theory	20	10	10	4		
MUS1102	Applications and Structures of Music Theory	20	10	10	4		
MUS1103	Essentials and Structures of Music Theory	20	10	10	4		

- (e) Students should note that some modules at stage 2 have MUS1101, MUS1102, MUS1103 or MUS1010 as prerequisites.
- (f) Candidates may take modules, totalling 20 or 40 credits, in a foreign language, but only with approval of the Degree Programme Director. Alternative arrangements are in place for students wishing to start learning a new language as beginners.

** In the event of a student electing to take 20 or 40 credits in a foreign language, the compulsory modules listed in section (a) cannot be dropped.*

***Candidates should note that opting out of MUS1059 at this stage will disqualify them from taking performance studies (MUS2058, MUS3014, MUS3018) at a later stage in the degree programme.*

***Candidates may only take one of the following modules: MUS1101, MUS1102 or MUS1103, but may take this in conjunction with MUS1010.

2. Stage 2

- (a) All candidates shall take optional modules to a credit value of 120 as specified in the following lists and should have no more than 70 and no less than 50 credits per semester. Students cannot take more than 70 credits in a single semester.

All candidates shall take at least **two** of the following Historical/Cultural modules:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mode</i>
MUS2004	Themes in Musical Modernism	20	20		5		
MUS2085	Popular Music and Media	20		20	5		
MUS2107	Music and Visual Culture	20	20		5		

- (b) All candidates shall take at least **one** of the following Applied or Practical Modules

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mode</i>
MUS2006	Composing for Spaces and Places	20		20	5		
MUS2016	DJing Skills and Turntablism	20	20		5		
MUS2018	Contemporary Musical Materials	20	20		5		
MUS2050	Songwriting	20	20		5		
MUS2055	Translation for Singing	20		20	5		
MUS2058	Performance Studies 2	20	10	10	5		
MUS2059	Contemporary Music Practice 2	20	10	10	5		
MUS2068	Orchestration	20		20	5		
MUS2092*	Folk Ensemble 2	20	10	10	5		
MUS2196	Music Teaching and Learning: in Formal and Informal Contexts	20		20	5		

* Candidates must pass an audition if they wish to take MUS2092.

- (c) It should be noted that a number of level 5 modules have pre-requisites in terms of either previous modules that must have been taken or in terms of level of attainment at level 4 in related modules. For detailed information about module pre-requisites candidates should consult the module catalogue (2025/26 MOFs) at: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/module-catalogue/>

3. Year Abroad

- (a) Students may with the permission of the Degree Programme Director, at the end of stage 2 and before entering stage 3, spend a year abroad with one of our partner institutions as part of the degree **or** take part in a placement with an approved organisation (see 4. Placement Year). To qualify for the year abroad, students will need to meet a threshold of at least 60% in the first three semesters of study. Students following this route will transfer to Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Contemporary and Popular Music (with Year Abroad), 1135U. The Degree Programme Director will confirm the transfer in each case.
- (b) All candidates shall take the following compulsory module:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mode</i>
ICM0030	Intercalating module for UG Music	120	60	60	6		

- (c) It is the responsibility of individual students to make sure they meet the visa requirements of the country in which they plan to undertake a year abroad. Travel and study abroad will be guided by institutional and governmental policy at the time.
- (d) The University **will** withdraw UK student (Tier 4) visas for International students spending a year overseas. It will then be the sole responsibility of the student to re-apply in a timely fashion, for a UK student (Tier 4) visa to return to Newcastle to complete their studies.

4. Placement Year

- (a) On completion of Stage 2 and before entering Stage 3, candidates may as part of their studies for the degree spend a year in a placement with an approved organisation **or** take part in a year abroad (see 3. Year Abroad). Permission to undertake a placement is subject to the approval of the Degree Programme Director. Students who are required to re-sit their Stage 2 assessment must delay the start of their placement until they have done so. Students who fail Stage 2 may not complete a placement year. Students following this route will transfer to Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Contemporary and Popular Music (with Placement Year), 1670U. The Degree Programme Director will confirm the transfer in each case.
- (b) All candidates shall take the following compulsory module:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mode</i>
NCL3000	Careers Service Placement Year Module	120	60	60	6		Blended Learning

- (c) Placement opportunities will be guided by governmental and institutional policy at the time

5. Stage 3

- (a) All candidates must take one Major Specialist Study from this list:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mode</i>
MUS3012*	Major Specialist Study: Composition	40	20	20	6		
MUS3013	Major Specialist Study: Dissertation	40	20	20	6		
MUS3014*	Major Specialist Study: Performance	40	20	20	6		
MUS3015	Major Specialist Study: Project	40	20	20	6		

** MUS3012 and MUS3014, are only available to candidates who have successfully completed the relevant pre-requisite modules with a mark of 60% or higher.*

- (b) Candidates **may** choose a Minor Specialist Study module from the following list. This must be in a subject area that is substantially different to their major specialist study.

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mode</i>
MUS3016*	Minor Specialist Study: Composition	20	10	10	6		
MUS3017	Minor Specialist Study: Dissertation	20	10	10	6		
MUS3018*	Minor Specialist Study: Performance	20	10	10	6		
MUS3019	Minor Specialist Study: Project	20	10	10	6		

** MUS3016 and MUS3018 are only available to candidates who have successfully completed the relevant pre-requisite modules. A threshold mark in the pre-requisite module may be a requirement; for more information consult the module catalogue (2025/26 MOFS at: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/module-catalogue/>)*

- (c) All candidates shall choose modules from the following list such that their credits total 120. Candidates should have no more than 70 and no less than 50 credits per semester:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mode</i>
MUS3009	Case Studies in 21st century Music	20	20		6		

MUS3051	The Total Work of Art: Richard Wagner, The Musical Stage and their continuing Agency across The Arts	20		20	6		
MUS3061	Jazz Studies	20		20	6		
MUS3070	Salsa, AfroBeat, Reggae and Rhythms of the World	20		20	6		
MUS3088	Music, Gender and Identity	20	20		6		
MUS3093*	Folk Ensemble 3	20	10	10	6		

* Candidates must have taken and passed MUS2092

- (d) It should be noted that a number of level 6 modules have pre-requisites in terms of either previous modules that must have been taken or in terms of level of attainment at level 5 in related modules. For detailed information about module pre-requisites candidates should consult the module catalogue (2025/26 MOFs) at: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/module-catalogue/>
- (e) Stage 3 (Level 6) candidates may, with DPD discretion, take ONE Level 5 module from the list below, if not taken already.

Code	Descriptive title	Total Credits	Credits Sem 1	Credits Sem 2	Level	Type	Mode
MUS2004	Themes in Musical Modernism	20	20		5		
MUS2006	Composing for Spaces and Places	20		20	5		
MUS2016	DJing Skills and Turntablism	20	20		5		
MUS2018	Contemporary Musical Materials	20	20		5		
MUS2050	Songwriting	20	20		5		
MUS2055	Translation for Singing	20		20	5		
MUS2059	Contemporary Music Practice 2	20	10	10	5		
MUS2068	Orchestration	20		20	5		
MUS2085	Popular Music and Media	20		20	5		
MUS2092*	Folk Ensemble 2	20	10	10	5		
MUS2107	Music and Visual Culture	20	20		5		
MUS2196	Music Teaching and Learning: in Formal and Informal Contexts	20		20	5		

*Candidates must pass an audition if they wish to take MUS2092

- (f) It should be noted that a number of level 5 modules have pre-requisites in terms of either previous modules that must have been taken or in terms of level of attainment at level 4 in related modules. For detailed information about module pre-requisites candidates should consult the module catalogue (2025/26 MOFs) at: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/module-catalogue/>

6. Assessment methods

Details of the assessment pattern for each module are explained in the module outline.

7. Degree classification

Candidates will be assessed for degree classification on the basis of all the modules taken at Stages 2 and 3 with the modules at stage 2 counting as one third and the modules at stage 3 counting as two thirds of the final total weighting.

8. Degree Title

Candidates who choose to take part in the year abroad year shall be transferred onto the four-year version of the programme. They will be on degree programme code 1135U and will graduate with a BA (Hons) in Contemporary & Popular Music (with Year Abroad).

Candidates who choose to take part in the placement year shall be transferred onto the four-year version of the programme. They will be on degree programme code 1670U and will graduate with a BA (Hons) in Contemporary & Popular Music (with Placement Year).