

Programme change proposals

At York each degree programme has its own, tailored set of distinctive learning outcomes. These won't change, no matter what your location or mode of delivery, and our academics are working hard to ensure your programmes and modules next year continue to inspire and motivate you.

Your health and safety is our number one priority and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic we have needed to make changes to some of your programmes of study for the coming academic year. This document summarises the changes that are proposed.

Programme(s)	MA Community Music https://www.york.ac.uk/students/studying/manage/programmes/programme-specs/postgraduate/music/
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Summary of Overall Plans

Our approach in the coming year will be to adopt a 'blended' model for your teaching. Blended teaching combines online and face-to-face delivery and activities in a clearly-structured way, and by using this throughout your programme we can ensure consistency in how you are taught. It also allows us maximum flexibility as we go through the year, meaning that we can respond to increased opening-up of facilities or localised restrictions and still maintain the level and quality of the teaching that you receive.

Teaching will be delivered using a three-step structure: one or more videos made by the module leader will introduce concepts, ideas, techniques, and so on; these will be made available to you in advance. There will then be activities relating to and extending the ideas in these videos. This might, for example, involve exploring literature, developing a sample funding proposal, or working on a teaching plan; sometimes they will require you to collaborate with other students on practical activities - for students on campus that can happen face to face. The final step is a group session where we draw together what has been learned from the activities, and extend and develop them. For students on campus those sessions will be face-to-face as much as possible, where a member of staff will lead the discussion and work through the material. For students unable to attend face-to-face, for instance because of quarantine, there will be an online, synchronous version of this discussion group – where necessary, on-campus students will also take part in the online rather than the face-to-face version on a rolling basis.

Assessments will run as normal, with the submission of folios of work at the start of the following term.

Programme Structures

We have changed the order in which modules will be delivered. A number of modules contain more in the way of practical elements (workshop techniques, hands-on playing opportunities), and these have been moved later in the academic year, when we anticipate increased opening up, and greater opportunity for this kind of interaction with a variety of different musicians and practitioners. Because of the different mode of delivery being used for this coming year, where discussion groups are at the centre of each activity, we have also moved the materials normally covered in our stand-alone seminar sessions into these modules; this will enable us to provide a more consistent and focussed delivery of course content through the year.

The resulting structure is as follows:

Autumn Term: History and Practice of Community Arts; Community Music in Principle

Spring Term: Groupwork, Classwork, and Project Management; Music in Education, Therapy and Health

Summer Term: World Music and the other Arts; Music Technology and Arts Administration

All modules will be delivered using the 'blended' model outlined above.

Independent Study Module - taught through individual tutorials (face-to-face / online).

Further changes or information of note

The module leaders are monitoring closely the ongoing relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions and are exploring student fieldwork opportunities in the organisations with which we work. It is anticipated that face-to-face contact may be limited during the Autumn term but there is evidence that several sectors have begun to accept visiting artists, including schools and prisons and we anticipate that 2021 will see an opening for more opportunities. Many charities have established a range of online activities including choirs, dance groups and film music projects and have invited us to take part. It is likely that these will continue as a form of delivery, especially in cases where it creates greater access for hard-to-reach groups.