

## 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)	BA Music and Sound Recording: <a href="https://www.york.ac.uk/students/studying/manage/programmes/programme-specs/undergraduate/music/">https://www.york.ac.uk/students/studying/manage/programmes/programme-specs/undergraduate/music/</a>
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Summary of Overall Plans
<p><b>Overall Approach</b></p> <p>Our approach in the coming year will be to adopt a 'blended' model for as many teaching situations as possible. 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.</p> <p>Most teaching will be delivered using a three-step structure. One or more videos made by the module leader will introduce concepts / ideas / approaches / repertoire, 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 recordings, engaging in further reading, or doing some guided independent research; you might need to do some production or recording work. Sometimes these activities will require you to collaborate with other students in your module group – 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, in small groups, 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 – on-campus students will also take part in the online rather than the face-to-face version on a rolling basis. <a href="#">This diagram summarises the</a></p>

[blended approach](#). We believe that this way of working can turn into a real partnership between staff and students, and the more engaged with all the teaching materials you can be, the more effectively it will work.

A number of sound recording modules will be taught through a variety of other approaches. Some will involve recorded content, tasks with practical work, and discussion sessions exclusively online; these will be recorded for later access. Others will take place face-to-face, and close-up demonstrations will be filmed and made available online for those unable to attend. Finally, interactive demonstrations of recording techniques will be live-streamed to our Rymer auditorium and online. There will be a dedicated Virtual Learning Environment ('Blackboard') site for each module that you take.

Assessments will run as normal, with the submission of folios of work for assessment. There will be additional submission options for some modules to cater for those students unable to produce work for assessment using the departmental studios and facilities.

### **Ensembles**

We are reliant upon the level of access to departmental facilities for this, and risk-assessments of all our rooms are currently ongoing. Under current guidelines, some face-to-face music making will be available for students. Larger departmental ensembles will be split into smaller groups for social-distancing, and some of those group activities can remain online (we have learned much about operating this way in the last three months) or a combination of the two. Smaller ensembles should be able to meet in their normal formations, and further reduction of separation distances will allow bigger ensembles to take place in person. We are also planning for a Recording Collective group to take place, in person in small groups or online.

### **Programme Structures**

The programme structure will remain almost entirely as normal. Core, all-cohort modules will run in their usual places within the academic year, with one exception: 'Software Systems for Music Technology' has been moved back in the year to start in Week 7, Spring Term; we have made this change so that the teaching interfaces better with Spring-Term option modules to reduce demand on teaching space.

We have had to adjust the scheduling and availability of option-module Projects in the spring term. Space available for teaching under social distancing regulations means that it is not possible to run the same number of projects at the same time as we usually can; the number of options has therefore necessarily been reduced slightly from our normal provision. Some projects which involved more practical music-making have been replaced as options. We have, though, been able to maintain the usual balance of topics available, and there will be a number of choices available to you to choose from. All these projects will be delivered using the blended learning approach; when places are finally confirmed in August, we will contact you in order for you to make those choices.

Further changes or information of note
<p>At the time of writing we believe that all of our studios will be accessible. However, social distancing and decontamination requirements are very likely to curtail the numbers of people that can be accommodated at the same time and the types of activity that can take place within them, and the amount of time each day that they can be continuously open. For example, ensemble recording may not be possible and some spaces may only be available for limited activities (e.g. mixing only, with no recording). Assessment tasks have been redesigned to take into account the impact of any such restrictions.</p>