

## 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: <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

#### Overall Approach

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 this year 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.

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; it might require you to do some writing of music or words. Sometimes you will be asked 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. In a normal Project option-module, you will have two such 1-hour sessions each week the project runs. 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. [This diagram summarises the 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. There will be a dedicated Virtual Learning Environment ('Blackboard') site for each module that you take.

Some core Year 1 modules will be delivered in slightly different ways. Listen to This! will involve pre-recorded lecture material and then a live, online discussion to explore the issues raised by the music. 'Developing Musicianship' will be taught in small groups for harmony and counterpoint, and in larger 'non-blended' groupings (online and face-to-face) for aural skills. 'Making Music, Studying Music' will use the blended model. We're very happy that we are able as normal to run a Practical Project this year as a part of that module: on the appropriate theme of 'Telemusic', this will as usual involve all first-year students working together. This work will take place in small groups, either in person or online. The outcome will be an interactive website capturing performances, recordings and installations that focus on how music and sound can bring us together when we're physically apart.

Assessments will be structured as normal, with the submission of folios of work for assessment for each module. Assessed performance will take place in person where possible under social distancing regulations; when that cannot happen it will be assessed through video recording.

### **Instrumental / Vocal Lessons and 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. Individual music tuition will be delivered using a mixed approach of face to face and online contact, depending on visiting staff.

### **Programme Structures**

The programme structure will remain as normal. Core, all-cohort modules will run in their normal places within the academic year; these will be delivered using a variety of approaches as outlined above.

We have had to adjust the scheduling and availability of option-module Projects for the year ahead. 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 in each term has therefore necessarily been reduced slightly from our normal provision. Some projects which involve more practical work have been moved later in the year or replaced

as options. We have, though, been able to maintain the usual balance of topics available within each term, and there will be a number of choices available to you in each option block. In the Autumn Term, we have reduced the number of 1st-year options available to just one - Musical Analysis; we consider that this is the option to best provide you with the core skills for the year ahead. 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

You will receive in August a form through which to make your Project choices for the coming year. Please make sure that you first check the details for each Project carefully, in particular the specific contingency planning for assessments. As normal, we will aim to give as many students as many preferred choices as possible, dependent on restrictions on numbers and the requirements of a balanced programme.