



East Park Terrace
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MUSIC FOUNDATION YEAR

We would like to take this opportunity to firstly welcome you to the Music Foundation Year at Southampton Solent University. Our many congratulations. We are delighted to welcome you and look forward to supporting you as you begin your journey into higher education and prepare for progression onto our music degree program.

The Foundation Year is designed to help you develop the practical, creative, technical, and academic skills needed to succeed at university level. Whether your interests lie in performance, production, songwriting, music business, or another area of the music industry, this year will provide an excellent opportunity to build confidence, develop your abilities, and explore new creative approaches.

To help you prepare for the start of the course, we have put together some guidance and recommendations.

HEADPHONES

We recommend that all students purchase a pair of good-quality headphones before starting the course.

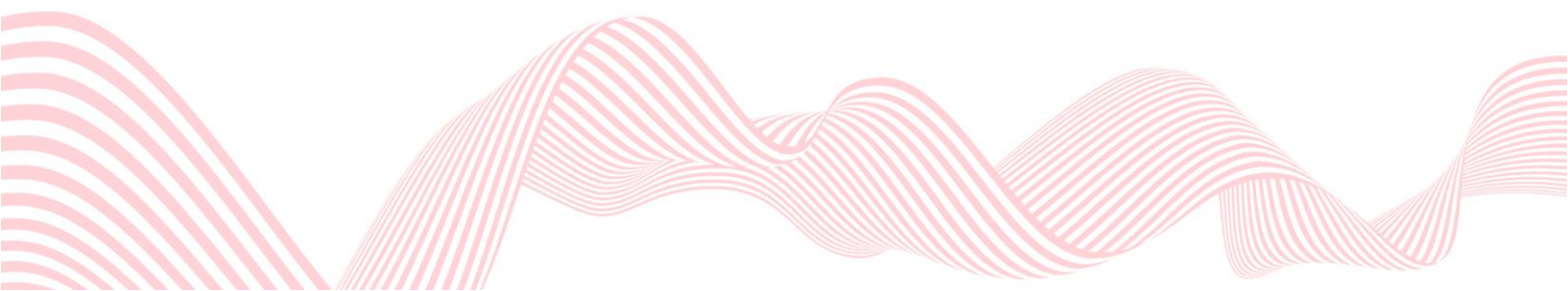


The University has headphones available for use during teaching sessions and within our specialist facilities. However, having your own pair will allow you to work more comfortably and consistently both on campus and at home throughout the year.

As you begin creating recordings and production projects, your own headphones will help you develop a familiar listening environment and make it easier to hear detail when recording, editing, mixing, and producing music. They are also useful for independent study sessions, collaborative work, and using our open-access music facilities outside of timetabled classes.

When choosing headphones, we recommend looking for studio-quality models designed for music production. There are many excellent options available at a range of price points, so we encourage you to research what might best suit your needs and budget. If possible, avoid relying solely on wireless, noise-cancelling, or consumer-focused headphones, as these can sometimes alter the sound in ways that make production work more difficult.

You do not need to purchase the most expensive model available; a reliable pair of entry-level studio headphones will serve you well throughout the Foundation Year and beyond.





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EAR PROTECTION

As musicians and music professionals, your hearing is one of your most valuable assets.

Throughout the course there may be occasions when you are exposed to louder sound levels during rehearsals, performances, or studio recording sessions. For this reason, we recommend that all students have access to their own ear protection.



Basic hearing protection is available when required, but many students choose to purchase reusable musician's earplugs. These are designed specifically for music environments and generally provide a more natural listening experience while still protecting your hearing.

INSTRUMENTS AND PERFORMANCE EQUIPMENT

The University provides a range of equipment for rehearsals, performances, and teaching activities, including drum kits, amplifiers, PA systems, keyboards, and microphones. Students should aim to bring any instruments and personal equipment they regularly use where possible.

SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY

We primarily use Logic Pro X (for Mac), and Avid Pro Tools (for Mac and PC); although we will use other music software on the course from time to time. You do not need to be an expert in music production software before starting the course as we will introduce the tools and techniques you need throughout the year.

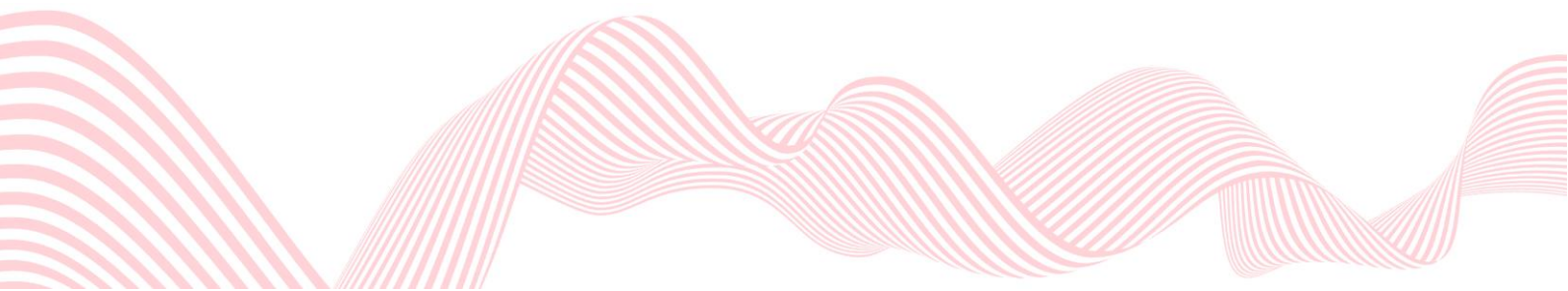
However, if you would like to explore music production in advance, there are a range of free and trial versions of software available. Familiarising yourself with basic recording, sequencing, and editing processes can be beneficial, but no prior experience is required.



Throughout the year you will create recordings, projects, coursework, and creative portfolios. We recommend having access to a USB memory sticks/flash drive and SD cards for personal recordings, submissions, etc. You can either purchase these in advance, or as/when you need them once you're here (recommended).

LOOKING AHEAD

Many students eventually invest in personal music technology such as laptops, audio interfaces, MIDI controllers, studio monitors, or software licences. However, these purchases are not required before starting the Foundation Year.





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The University provides access to specialist facilities and equipment, and your tutors will be happy to advise you on future purchases once you have developed a clearer understanding of your interests and progression pathway.

We are excited to welcome you to Southampton Solent University and look forward to helping you develop your musical, creative, and academic skills over the coming year.

Best wishes,

Jenna

Jenna Barker

Course Leader –Music Foundation Year

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