

Music and performing arts

2023 undergraduate courses

MAKE WAVES

www.solent.ac.uk

You're passionate about popular music and performance.

That's clear. And it's more than a hobby. You want to make a living out of it. There are a wide range of real career options in this sector – and our graduates prove it.

Are you a dramatic artist or musician? We support you on stage and screen – performing, recording, broadcasting and promoting in this evolving industry.

Do you want to be a music writer and content creator? We help you get your views and reviews online, on air, on vlogs and in print.

Do you want to build a sustainable music industry career in marketing, promotion or management? Do you want to build artist careers and stage great events?

We help you to develop exciting and innovative entrepreneurial businesses, work with artists, book and manage gigs and club nights, and run promotional and PR campaigns.



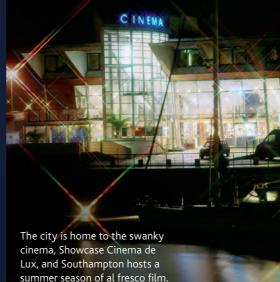
Location Location Location



Southampton continues to build on its great tradition for live music, with venues hosting acts ranging from heavy metal to house music. *NME* favourite The Joiners has launched many well-known rock and pop bands, The Hobbit is renowned for folk and rock, the Orange Rooms and Switch draw the best live DJs, while the Platform Tavern is a must for soul and blues.











The Mayflower Theatre – the third largest theatre outside London, with 500,000 visitors every year – puts on West End productions, opera and ballet.







Stadium acts come to the Ageas Bowl, while the O2 Guildhall hosts mainstream pop and rock legends. Festivals and street music thrive in the city, and our own SO:Music City (formally SMILEfest) attracts top artists.



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Our music courses

Are you looking to kickstart a career in music? Whether you want to perform or work behind the scenes, Solent has a range of music degrees to help you attain the skills and professional portfolio you'll need to be successful.

Visit individual course pages at **www.solent.ac.uk/courses** for the specific facilities available for your chosen degree.



Our state-of-the-art music facilities include:

- industry-standard digital recording facilities and audio production suites including: Pro Tools Ultimate and Logic digital audio workstations; microphones by Sontronics, Sennheiser, Neumann, AKG and Shure; analogue processing including Neve, Universal Audio, Focusrite and Empirical Labs; plus a large variety of live sound mixers
- professional-quality rehearsal rooms, with instruments including: drums by DW and Mapex; Moog and Korg Kronos synthesisers; Marshall, Orange, Friedman, Fender and Vox valve guitar amplifiers; Ampeg and Eden bass amps; and Mackie PAs
- industry-standard IT software suites to create, manage and edit websites, magazines, podcasts and videos; software includes Native Instruments Komplete, Ableton Live, Adobe CC Suite and plug-ins by Sonnox, McDSP and Celemony
- opportunity to use Solent's outside broadcasting facilities at live events.

Why Solent?

We're a Music Academic Partner of UK Music, an Educational Associate of the Music Managers Forum and a member of Creative & Cultural Skills. Through these national endorsements our students attend key industry events, gaining great insight and boosting career opportunities.

Guest speakers are a regular fixture, with recent visitors including international artist Craig David, music manager Marcus Russell, *The Guardian*'s music critic Alexis Petridis, festival producer Rob da Bank and MOBO Awards founder Kanya King, to name just a few.

Learn from an enthusiastic and dedicated team of professional producers, composers, musicians, sound engineers and DJs with a wealth of international industry experience.

You'll study in our state-of-the-art facilities, including a rehearsal and performance space and recording studios in our Media Academy.

We've got excellent links to Southampton's vibrant local music scene, and work with the city's best music venues including The 1865, The Joiners and Switch Southampton.

We're at the centre of major festivals including Glastonbury, Bestival and Teddy Rocks where our students perform, promote, manage and review.



Jo Howarth

Management Assistant, YM&U Group

BA (Hons) Music Management*, 2018

*Our music courses have recently been redeveloped – see BA (Hons) Music Business.

Tell us a bit about your career journey so far.

My first full-time role was at TaP Music, which looks after Dua Lipa, Lana Del Rey and Ellie Goulding, among many others. They took me on before I'd graduated, and I spent 18 months there, putting the skills I'd learnt at university into practice with artists such as Rat Boy, Chelcee Grimes and DJ Shadow. My first opportunity to step up came when I was offered a short-term contract working with Liam Payne in the run-up to a big single release.

I now work at YM&U Group assisting two directors in the music team. I work across a small artist roster including Take That, James Arthur and Emily Burns, among others, and also across the company's impressive team of producers and songwriters. The company has a very extensive roster across sports, entertainment and music, and it's very much an exciting new venture for me.

What do you enjoy most about your role, and what are the biggest challenges?

The thing that drew me to artist management is the people side of what I do. I love the bigger picture – you're the only person on the team thinking about the artist as a business, a public figure and, crucially, a person. I love being part of building a career for a new artist, and of course it's really rewarding to play a part in keeping that momentum going as their career evolves.

The biggest challenge is often the sheer amount of plate-spinning – the management team is the people pinning the operation together and it's a lot of moving parts to stay on top of.

What's been your greatest achievement in your career so far?

I was really honoured to be given an Outstanding Music Graduate award by UK Music in 2019. You can be nominated for the award up to three years after graduating, so to be recognised in this way less than a year after graduating was lovely.

How do you feel your studies at Solent have helped you to progress in your career?

For me, it was about the confidence I gained while at Solent. I left sixth form feeling a bit lost. I knew I wanted to work in music but – completely erroneously – thought that it wasn't an option for a woman. I discovered Solent's course, and it just fit like a glove. It gave me a little support network in which to build my knowledge and skills before stepping out into real-world industry.

What advice would you give to those wanting to break into this industry?

My advice for someone wanting to break into the music industry would be to try out a few different sectors and work out what it is that you enjoy most. For me, I love artist management as it's the more nurturing role. Others might find that they enjoy more of a marketing role statistics and sales - and that a record label is the right place for them. Some might find that new music is the thing they care about, so publishing or A&R might be the right thing for them. And some might love the live side of the industry – touring and festivals. If you've tried a fair few of these through work experience while you're at university, you'll come out of it knowing exactly what it is that you want, and you'll have enough experience to land the role.

Robert Franklin

BA (Hons) Digital Music, 2017

"This course is for you if you are able to produce electronic music but need that helping hand in realising a career, building contacts and taking your work to the next level."





How did university prepare you for your career?

University prepared me for my career by helping me refine my skills and discover which path within digital music I wanted to take.

Favourite Solent memory?

My favourite Solent memory was in the second year, performing with Adam Long and Tom Freeth for the Live Performance unit. It helped solidify a friendship that has continued after Solent.

Tell us a little about your career story so far.

The visual media units on the BA (Hons) Digital Music course made me realise that I enjoy creating music for films. This has led to freelance opportunities which I am continuing to work on.

What's been your career highlight?

My career highlight so far was working with a large UK company to create music for their online media campaign.

Tell us about what you are doing now and what it involves – a typical working day.

I am now creating music for digital media in a freelance environment. From a home studio, my typical day consists of working to a deadline. This means that I am able to choose my own working hours which, although good, can lead to some late nights!

What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in your industry?

There are points in music where you sit in front of a blank screen or a piece of music that you don't like and want to tear your hair out. Being able to work through these moments is the key to creating the work that will help you progress in this industry.

Solent Music

gets your talents out and brings in giants from across the music industry at a wide range of conferences and events.

Do you want to promote and manage events, book artists and support the local music scene? Are you keen to film, photograph or interview bands? We give you real opportunities to build your experience and help your career.

We promote Solent student music and music businesses through our website and social media.

We support your music releases, concerts, club nights, magazines and many other projects, and help you with management, promotion and journalism.

We hold live gigs, electronic music nights and outdoor shows at Engine Rooms, *NME* favourite The Joiners, Art House, Mettricks and Palmerstone Park.



www.solent.ac.uk/music-and-performance 11

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Miles Hobbs

Musician BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance and Production, 2019

While studying at Solent in 2018, Miles formed the band BASH! with four other classmates. Since then, the band has gone from strength to strength, becoming signed recording artists and playing gigs all over the country, including BBC Introducing and Larmer Tree Festival. We caught up with Miles to find out more.

Tell us a bit about what you've been up to since leaving Solent.

Since leaving university, I've been focusing on all sorts of musical endeavours, the band being the main one, but also busking, composing for projects (most notably, getting my music played on rides at LEGOLAND Windsor), building and then teaching my musical repertoire, and learning video editing software.

What's been your career highlight so far?

My main career highlight is becoming a signed recording artist as part of BASH! We've achieved so much, including recording at Abbey Road and Maida Vale studios. The signing has given us areas of focus, particularly in terms of songwriting. Everyone seems to form their own path in the creative industries, and having a label boss gives us some clarity in a hard-to-navigate landscape.

What do you enjoy most about what you do, and what are the biggest challenges?

The thing I most enjoy is that I live with my closest friends. The band lives together, which makes our home a hub for musical inspiration, albeit I feel for the neighbours. The nature of what we do means that, like many creatives, we're pretty much skint the whole time – our part-time retail jobs just about pay the rent. But I wouldn't change a thing.

If someone wanted to follow in your footsteps, what advice would you give them?

My advice would be to milk the University's exceptional facilities for all they're worth, and to meet and chat to people. The whole industry is based on community, and by getting to know people, it opens up your employment options.

Play a pivotal role in the UK's biggest music festivals

Over the last 12 years we have developed special relationships with a wide range of festivals including Glastonbury, Boardmasters and Teddy Rocks. Do you want to perform at one of these events, through street theatre or stage? To get experience behind the scenes in the management, media and production areas? Work hard and we'll help you get in.

Our students are performing, blogging and film-making. They're working fast and furious in music journalism, artist liaison, production management, sound and street theatre.

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They're hitting the ground running – and getting unrivalled experience for graduate jobs.

"It's important to be different in what you do - that's a universal truth. Be fresh, don't copy other people, and be yourself!"

Rob da Bank, music broadcaster, taste-maker and Solent University Honorary Doctor of Business

Dominika Uhrakova

Publisher Relationship Manager at PRS for Music BA (Hons) Music Business, 2018

Tell us about your current role.

In my current role, I act as the point of contact between PRS and Sony Music Publishing. They contact me about anything and everything they may need. I don't think there is such a thing as a typical day – it sounds a little clichéd, but it's true. I deal with anything from simple copyright and policy questions to more complicated issues such as missing royalties. The best thing about this role is also its biggest challenge – you can never know everything. I've talked to people who have worked at PRS for over 40 years, and they still come across questions they don't know how to answer. I love learning something new every day, but it can also get really stressful, and you can get lost in the amount of information you have to take in. Another great thing is building relationships with publishers. Everyone I've come across is genuinely so lovely and it's been great working with them. "... knowing about the various paths I could take certainly opened a lot of doors for me and I felt encouraged to apply for positions I wouldn't otherwise consider."

What was the best thing about your course at Solent?

I didn't know what part of the industry I would go into when I graduated, but knowing about the various paths I could take certainly opened a lot of doors for me and I felt encouraged to apply for positions I wouldn't otherwise consider. When I started at PRS, I felt like I had a bit of a head start compared to my other colleagues without the same university experience. Since I was already familiar with the company's work, I was able to build on that knowledge fairly quickly.

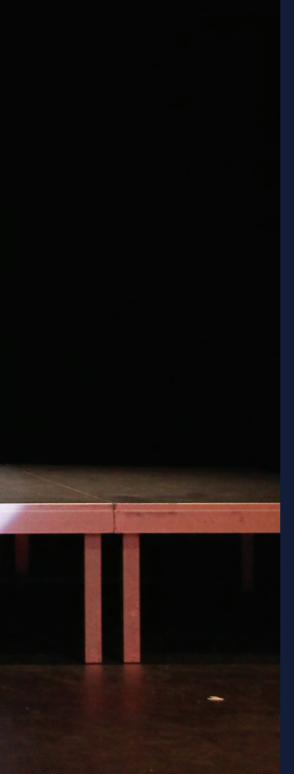
What advice would you give to other students?

Looking for a music industry job after graduating can be very daunting. Sometimes, the job descriptions are so specific that you don't understand half of it and you start to think it's not even worth applying. That's not true – companies generally value hard work and dedication over years of experience or even knowledge. They can teach you skills, but they can't teach you how to be passionate about your work. So take on any opportunities that you can during university, even if it's just helping a musician friend organise a few gigs, because these are the things that show your passion and will help you move forward.



Our performing arts courses

Have you got a passion for acting and performance? Do you dream of treading the boards in the West End or starring on the Hollywood big screen? Our performing arts courses combine practical skills with theoretical study, supporting you to develop the techniques and knowledge to help you launch your performance career.







Our performing arts facilities include:

- a variety of rehearsal spaces including rehearsal rooms and a dance studio with sprung floor, as well as an additional 200-seat flexi-form space on campus which can be used for live performances
- access to HD cameras, radio suites and multi-camera television studios.

Visit individual course pages at **www.solent.ac.uk/courses** for the specific facilities available for your chosen degree.

Troy Chessman

Professional actor BA (Hons) Acting and Performance, 2018

When and where did you start your professional career as a performer? It was 2018, and my final project at Solent was at The Nuffield Southampton Theatre, in a production of *Bonnie and Clyde* by Adam Peck. During the performance, I received a message from a producer who had seen me in the show. He asked if I would audition for a new, all-male adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* which was going to be performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and I was offered the part of Romeo!

After my London/Southampton showcase, I was approached by a director who was about to tour a play about the First World War, funded by Arts Council England and the British Legion. He invited me to audition, I got the part and had two professional jobs lined up before I graduated!

What have you been up to since graduating?

I performed Romeo to a sell-out audience in Edinburgh. While there, I was approached by a director who was casting a new puppetry play that would be going on tour. This was an amazing experience as I got to build and refine my puppetry skills and learn more about Southampton's history, as the play was based on a real soldier from Southampton who fought in the First World War. I was also cast in *Out Of Control* which toured around schools and colleges and told the real stories of young people in abusive and coercive relationships.

In 2019 I reprised my role as Romeo for a UK tour, before returning to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. At the same time, I worked on a puppetry show called *Looking Down on Me* which focused on teaching children about grief and bereavement. This was an incredible experience and was the second show that took me to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

I was also awarded a start-up fund to develop a play I have been writing called *Won't Fade Away*, which tells the real-life story of a couple and their experience with dementia.

Currently, I'm in rehearsal for an adaptation of A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens in Hong Kong.

What has been your career highlight to date?

Performing in *Blighty One*. I played a soldier called Bernie who begins suffering from PTSD. There is a beautiful monologue in which Bernie mutters "I just want to go home ..." seconds before he is shot dead. A few weeks after the show I bumped into one of the teachers, who told me that over two thirds of her class had written about me and my performance for an assignment – it made me realise how lucky I am to inspire people of all ages.

How did Solent help prepare you for a career as a performer?

I got to try new things, escape my comfort zone and make errors. It allowed me to put together a wealth of skills to take into the industry. I was gifted a vast bank of knowledge from lecturers. I also learnt how to conduct myself in rehearsals, and left with a work ethic that gets me back into the audition room time and again.

As a performer, who is your biggest inspiration and why?

My biggest inspirations are friends in the industry – people you wouldn't have heard of; actors who work hard every day in small-scale shows. I have a friend who lost her dad while performing in the West End – she showed a kind of bravery that inspired me. I am inspired by the people who tirelessly work and commit to creating magic every night.

What advice would you give to others wanting to follow in your footsteps?

Believe in yourself. Your career starts on day one of your training, so take it seriously, because it will prepare you for the real world.

What's next for you?

I will be in Hong Kong performing in *A Tale of Two Cities*, and then there are a few potential shows happening, but I can't talk about them ... yet.



Francessca Rusling

BA (Hons) Performance*, 2017

*Our BA (Hons) Performance has been divided into BA (Hons) Musical Theatre and BA (Hons) Acting and Performance.

How has Solent prepared you for your career?

Solent's performance degree immersed me in a varied and exciting course of study. I explored a variety of performance techniques including body and voice skills, musical theatre and approaches to stage and screen acting.

I was given the opportunity to gain a vast amount of experience through various recorded and live performance projects, as well as industry working experience teaching at a variety of local infant and primary schools, and working professionally on the feature film *The Pugilist*.

Favourite Solent memory?

During my second year I was cast as Sally Durant-Plummer in the musical *Follies*. It was my first time being cast as a lead in a musical, and from the casting, throughout the rehearsal stages and finally the performance week, *Follies* was one of the most educational and rewarding experiences I have taken part in throughout my training.

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What is performance?

Performance is different forms of creative activity that are created and performed for the purpose of an audience – this includes varieties of dance, film and theatre.

What is next for you?

I am about to start working in an administrative role for a local college while studying for my PTLLS (Preparing to teach in the lifelong learning sector), with the end goal of becoming a lecturer of performance at the college. I am also attending casting workshops, applying for a variety of stage and screen roles and auditioning for local pantomimes. At the same time I am working on setting up my own performance academy that will offer a variety of classes to children and adults.

What top tips would you give to other students wanting a career in your area?

- Be prepared to be judged, to accept criticism and to work long and varied hours – but if you have the passion and drive, you will get to where you want to be.
- Believe in yourself if you don't believe in yourself, you can't expect industry professionals to either.
- Keep training never stop learning.
- Get as much experience as you can, whether it be attending local workshops, appearing in performances at local events or theatres, or being cast in student films – the more people you know in the industry, the more it will open up opportunities.
- Sign up to casting websites.
- Do what you love, but don't be afraid to try new things.



Every year final-year students from BA (Hons) Acting and Performance and BA (Hons) Musical Theatre have the fantastic opportunity to perform in a graduate showcase.

The showcase, held in Southampton, gives our students invaluable experience and exposure. It's an exhilarating way to express the hard work that goes into our degree programme and the ability of our students to carve out a career in this competitive sector.

In addition to the showcase, students will receive a five-minute edited piece of their performance to add to their showreel and share with industry professionals.







Amelia Hall

Performer, Spain BA (Hons) Performance*, 2017

*Our BA (Hons) Performance has been divided into BA (Hons) Musical Theatre and BA (Hons) Acting and Performance.

How did university help prepare you for your career?

We were given ample information from day one about what the acting industry is like and how we go about networking and making a name for ourselves. We were given help with branding and marketing our strengths in the best way possible to succeed. Being taught about the production side of the industry also made it easier, when entering the acting world, to relate to the person behind the camera or backstage.

Favourite Solent memory?

The day that I performed my final major project after an entire year working on it!

Tell us a little about your career story so far. Since leaving Solent I've been very lucky to have had the opportunity to work with a theatre company based in Spain where I performed in five different stage shows to audiences around the country. Through connections I made there I've been able to spend a summer in Italy working with children to create short stage shows as part of an English learning camp.

Tell us about what you are doing now and what it involves.

I'm currently working with a theatre company in Barcelona. If I have a performance at 10am, then I'll meet the rest of the team at 8.30am for a quick breakfast in a cafe before making our way in the van to the performance space.

"This course is for you if you're interested in discovering how all sides of the industry work."

Upon arrival, we make contact with the stage manager and unload the van, ready to set up the show for that day. Sometimes we perform up to three different shows in a day, so it's always good to set up as much as we can for the other shows, so we get to have a little rest between performances. Once show preparation is ready, the audience arrives, and out we go onto the stage to give the performance of our lives every time!

Afterwards we'll have a short Q&A with the audience, and then take down the set or reset for another performance. A good thing about Spain is the two-hour lunches, often spent in a restaurant where we can recharge before the afternoon performance. Once that's over, it's time to reload the van and get ready to do it all over again the next day. I wouldn't change a thing! What's been your career highlight so far? The places that it's given me the chance to see, and the people it's allowed me to meet.

What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in your industry?

Don't give up! This industry isn't easy but the rewards are endless. There's work out there for everyone – you just have to be willing to make the effort to get it. Networking is key – of the things I've done since leaving Solent, the majority were sent in my direction by people I met along the way.



Olivia Squires

BA (Hons) Performance*, 2017

*Our BA (Hons) Performance has been divided into BA (Hons) Musical Theatre and BA (Hons) Acting and Performance.

How do you feel Solent helped prepare you for your career?

I feel that university was an eyeopener for me. I'd always wanted to perform on stage but university made me think about so many different pathways that I could consider. I'd still love to perform, but I'm enjoying doing different things at the moment.

Favourite Solent memory?

I do have two favourite memories, both from the second year: one is being able to act on screen for the first time, and the other is performing in our stage project, *Alice in Wonderland*. There was a lot of work involved for both projects, but I learnt so much about acting styles.

Tell us about your current role.

I'm now a drama intern at The Point Theatre and work closely with The Point and Berry Youth Theatre groups, assisting with productions and weekly workshops. My internship at The Point involves administration and practical work. A typical working day would be office work during the day – replying to youth theatre enquiries, for example – and then assisting with a youth theatre workshop in the evening. Sometimes it can be different – for example, when we're working towards a youth production, rehearsals become a big part of the week.

What is your career highlight so far?

My career highlight so far is being able to assistant direct The Point Youth Theatre's production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* – it was an amazing experience. As well as learning about directing, I found out about everything that goes on behind the scenes of the production. Music, costume, set design, marketing, stage management – there is a lot you have to manage and think about.

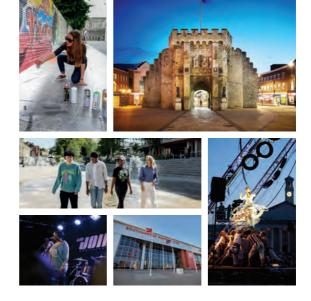
What advice would you give to those wanting to follow in your footsteps?

I'd say, always go for what you're drawn to, whatever it may be! Sometimes you may want to do a number of things because there's so much within performance that you'd like to experience: directing, performing, running workshops, voice work, teaching – the list goes on. It may take time to figure out what you really want to do, but that's a time to explore pathways, so enjoy it!

"This course is for you if you want to explore performance on stage and screen, both practically and theoretically. As well as solo work, you do a lot of group work within your modules and assessments. You learn to push yourself, all the while discovering what areas of performance you're not keen on and which ones you love."







Our great city

With a population of almost 250,000 - including 46,000 students – Southampton is a thriving city that has recently had a £1.6 billion injection of investment.

It enjoys Premier League football, international and county cricket and world-class sailing. Calshot Activity Centre hosts watersports, snowsports, rock climbing and the south's only indoor velodrome. The neighbouring New Forest is a major draw for cycling, running and riding. Solent University enjoys partnerships with many sports organisations, including the Southampton Sports Centre and Gleneagles Equestrian Centre.

Southampton is a city of live music. Renowned venue The Joiners has launched many bands, stadium acts come to the Ageas Bowl, the O2 Guildhall hosts the mainstream, and festivals and street music thrive. Solent also works closely with music venue The 1865, putting on live performances with students across music degrees.

The city has great shopping, and independent and state-of-the-art cinemas and theatres.

Course list

Course	UCAS tariff points	Work placement opportunity	Foundation Year available
BA (Hons) Acting and Performance	104–120	-	Y
BA (Hons) Digital Music	104–120	-	Y
BA (Hons) Music Business	104–120	Y	-
BA (Hons) Musical Theatre	104–120	-	Y
BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance	104–120	Y	Y
BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance and Production	104–120	Y	Y
BSc (Hons) Popular Music Production	104–120	Y	Y
Foundation Year in Popular Music	48	-	-



52 things to do

Prepare for university in less than an hour each week with our tips, guides and quizzes. www.solent.ac.uk/52-things

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