

**SOLENT**  
UNIVERSITY  
SOUTHAMPTON

[www.solent.ac.uk](http://www.solent.ac.uk)

20  
24

# Music and performing arts

2024 undergraduate courses



# Gold-standard teaching and opportunities

Our focus on practical knowledge and employment opportunities is just one of the reasons we're rated gold in the latest Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) review from the UK government Office for Students.

TEF recognises excellence in teaching, learning and achieving positive outcomes for students - with gold status awarded only to universities offering outstanding student experience and career outcomes.



Teaching Excellence Framework

# You're passionate about a career in the performance industry.

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 career options in this sector - and our graduates prove it.

Are you an aspiring musician, performing artist, content creator or business executive looking for a sustainable career in the creative industries? We can help you to develop your skills, whether it's performing, recording, broadcasting, managing or promoting in this ever-evolving sector.

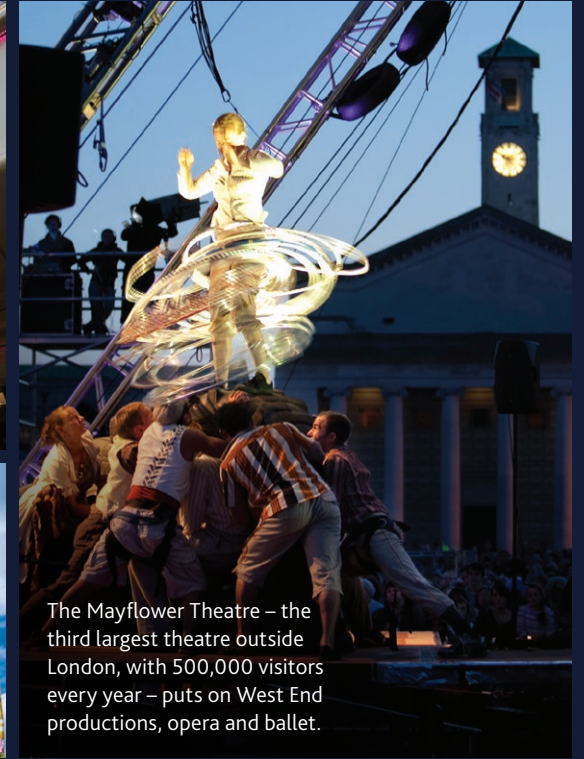
## Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Our great city                                     | 2  |
| Performing arts courses                            | 4  |
| BA (Hons) Acting and Performance                   | 6  |
| BA (Hons) Musical Theatre                          | 8  |
| Performance showcase                               | 10 |
| Music courses                                      | 12 |
| Music facilities                                   | 14 |
| BA (Hons) Digital Music                            | 16 |
| Virtual DJ assessments                             | 18 |
| BA (Hons) Music Business                           | 20 |
| Music festivals                                    | 22 |
| BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance              | 24 |
| BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance and Production | 26 |
| Abbey Road   | 28 |
| BSc (Hons) Popular Music Production                | 30 |
| Course list  | 32 |

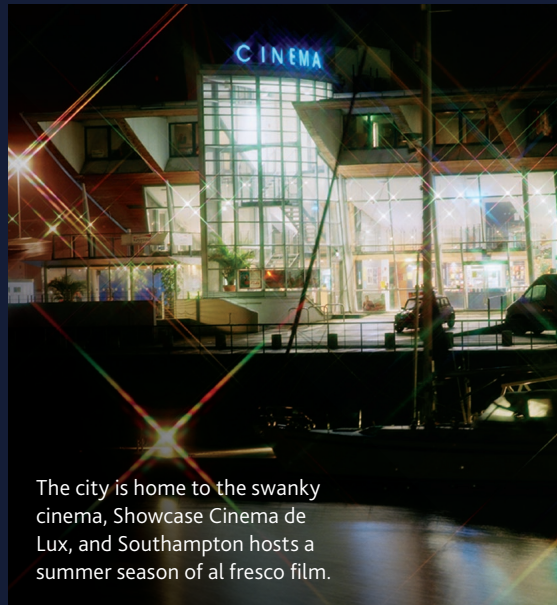
# Our great city



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.



The city is home to the swanky cinema, Showcase Cinema de Lux, and Southampton hosts a summer season of al fresco film.



Renowned artists perform at the Ageas Bowl and St. Mary's Stadium, while the the O2 Guildhall hosts mainstream pop and rock legends. Festivals and street music thrive in the city, also attracting top artists.



# Our performing arts courses

Have you got a passion for acting and performance? Whether it's treading the boards, or taking your mark in front of a camera, our performance degrees give you the freedom to follow your dream, with real-world experience in the industry.

## Why Solent?

- Spotlight, the leading casting platform, and Equity, the performers' union, worked together to create guidelines for drama school and university courses. Our performing arts courses have been recognised as fulfilling these guidelines, allowing our third-year students to both become Spotlight graduate members and obtain Equity's full membership.
- A creative, multidisciplinary environment for world-leading research in media, culture and the arts – you will learn from experts in their field.
- You'll have access to a wide range of resources to support your learning including professional HD cameras, radio suites, multi-camera studios and professional theatre venues.
- Access to a range of facilities including rehearsal rooms and a 64-seat theatre on campus.



## Performing arts facilities

- A variety of rehearsal spaces including rehearsal rooms and a dance studio with sprung floor, as well as an additional 64-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](http://www.solent.ac.uk/courses) for the specific facilities available for your chosen degree.



BA (Hons)

## Acting and Performance

UCAS tariff: 104–120

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/WW47](http://www.solent.ac.uk/WW47)

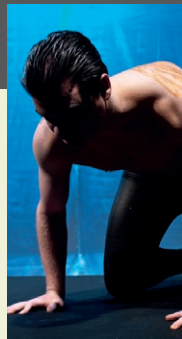
- Perform in two live public shows in your second year and be part of a season of new plays at a professional venue in your final year.
- A creative, multidisciplinary environment for world-leading research in media, culture and the arts – you will learn from experts in their field.
- You'll have access to a wide range of resources to support your learning including professional HD cameras, radio suites, multi-camera studios and professional theatre venues.
- Access to a range of facilities including rehearsal rooms and a 64-seat theatre on campus.
- Perform in film projects and theatre productions in public venues, and learn from an experienced, welcoming and helpful teaching team who have been professionally engaged in stage and screen acting and directing.

This exciting course gives you the chance to develop professional acting skills and techniques for both stage and screen. The course is 70% practical (with no formal exams) whilst also developing your theoretical understanding of the industry and its practices.

Spotlight, the leading casting platform, and Equity the actor's union, worked together to create guidelines for drama school and university courses. Our course has been recognised as fulfilling these guidelines allowing our third-year students to become both Spotlight Graduate members and obtain Equity's full membership.

### Our graduates now work as:

professional actors for both stage and screen  
children's entertainers  
cruise ship entertainers  
teachers, and more



## 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.

### 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.

BA (Hons)

# Musical Theatre

UCAS tariff: 104–120

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/WW31](http://www.solent.ac.uk/WW31)



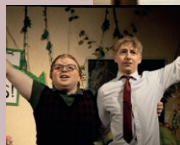
- Perform two live public musical theatre shows in your second year and be part of a season of musicals at a local theatre in your final year.
- Get access to rehearsal spaces as well as an additional 64-seat flexi-form space on campus, which can be used for live performances.
- Hear from top industry professionals. Recent guest speakers include: West End lead Earl Carpenter (Valjean in *Les Miserables*, Phantom in *Phantom of the Opera*); Will Holyhead (associate director of *The King and I*, *Curtains*); representatives from Equity, Spotlight and MAST and The Mayflower Theatre.
- Collaborative study and work with students from our film, television, make-up, animation, fashion and photography programmes.

With a key focus on employability and developing your creative skills, you will receive training in up-to-date acting techniques, vocal coaching based on contemporary vocal techniques, and a range of dance techniques. You will also have the opportunity to develop your skills in related areas, such as directing, theatre in education and stage combat.

Spotlight, the leading casting platform, and Equity the actor's union, worked together to create guidelines for drama school and university courses. Our course has been recognised as fulfilling these guidelines allowing our third-year students to become both Spotlight Graduate members and obtain Equity's full membership.

## Our graduates now work as:

theatre, and/or screen actors,  
cruise ship entertainers  
children's entertainers  
teachers, and more



## Katie Leeming

BA (Hons) Musical Theatre, student

### Why did you decide to study at Solent?

I picked Solent because the open day really impressed me and stood out among other universities because of how informative it was. You could tell they had put a lot of effort into it (other universities used a very boring PowerPoint as their virtual open day, which did not appeal at all!), and the course suited me the best with what I intend to work in after university – being close to cruise ship lines.

### What's the best thing about the lecturers on your course?

The best thing about my course lecturers is how fun they make every single lesson – I am never sitting down bored! I trust my lecturers' knowledge from their own experience in the industry, and they are so friendly that I am never afraid to ask questions. The performance industry can be very daunting, but they share their own audition and training experiences with us to help – as well as organising frequent trips and guest speakers to extend our connections and understanding of our course.

“ I am learning how to succeed in all three disciplines because of how many contact hours we receive, and we are very lucky to have so many.”

### How are your studies helping you prepare for your future career?

Each of the modules we do has different aspects that are useful and necessary for the industry. For example, to name just a couple, this year we have Performance Techniques which focuses on specific dance and singing techniques needed for auditions and shows, plus another module called Live Brief in which we devise our own 30-minute show for children aged 9 to 12; then next semester we have our big show. I feel that, through each module, I am learning how to succeed in all three disciplines because of how many contact hours we receive, and we are very lucky to have so many.

### How is life as a student in Southampton?

I like living in Southampton because it is a very student-orientated city – everything is so close by. It has every shop and restaurant/cafe you could possibly need, as well as fun aspects such as the cinema and bowling alley – not to mention several dessert places open late in the evening! In general the city is a great space to be in because of its combination of busy shops and green parks. The nightlife is also another reason why I chose Solent!

# SHOWCASE

Every year, students from BA (Hons) Acting and Performance and BA (Hons) Musical Theatre have the opportunity to participate in an industry-standard performance showcase in London. Providing the perfect opportunity to present yourself to the industry and develop professional networks that will help launch your career in the performing arts. This showcase is listed on the Spotlight Performance Calendar making it visible to casting directors and agents.





# 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.



## Why Solent?

Guest lectures are a regular fixture, with students benefiting from industry expertise. Recent speakers have included staff from The Roundhouse, TikTok, PRS for Music, Domino Records and BMG.

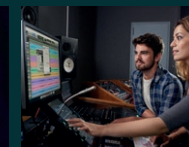
Students can experience mixing in Dolby Atmos, the leading immersive audio format. Solent is also an academic partner of the Dolby Institute, meaning students have the opportunity to showcase their Dolby Atmos mixing work on the Dolby website, and access Dolby training materials.

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 have excellent links to Southampton's vibrant local music scene and work with the city's best music venues including The 1865, The Joiners and Heartbreakers.

Our in-house media centre Solent Productions offers the opportunity to work at well-known summer festivals.



## 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, music, magazines, podcasts and videos – software includes Native Instruments Komplete, Ableton Live, Adobe CC Suite and plug-ins by Sonnox, McDSP and Celemony
- the opportunity to use Solent's outside broadcasting facilities at live events.

Visit individual course pages at [www.solent.ac.uk/courses](http://www.solent.ac.uk/courses) for the specific facilities available for your chosen degree.



BA (Hons)

## Digital Music

UCAS tariff: 104–120

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/DM01](http://www.solent.ac.uk/DM01)

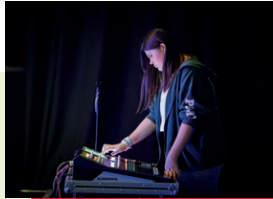
- Learn from a team of professional producers, composers, musicians, sound engineers and DJs with a wealth of international industry experience.
- Solent is home to industry-standard facilities, including multiple recording studios and a fully accredited Dolby Atmos cinema.
- Great guest speakers – in the past these have included Craig David, Ana Matronic, Annie Nightingale, Fabio, Trevor Horn and Rob da Bank, among many others.
- Our graduates now work for organisations such as Ministry of Sound, BBC Radio 1, Sony Music, Warner Music Group, T in the Park, EMI and Ibiza Rocks.

Under the guidance of practising producers, composers, musicians and DJs you'll study areas including music production/composition, audio engineering, live performance and entrepreneurship. The course caters for a wide variety of contemporary musical styles including various dance music genres – for example, drum & bass, house, hip-hop, grime, EDM and techno.

The course also encourages you to widen your skillset, and supports you to expand upon the knowledge and proficiencies necessary to succeed within the competitive world of commercial music and sound, bridging the gap between the aspiring music producer and professional digital artist.

### Our graduates now work as:

releasing artists  
producers  
sound engineers  
DJ's and more.



## Robert Franklin

Freelance musician

BA (Hons) Digital Music, 2017

### 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.

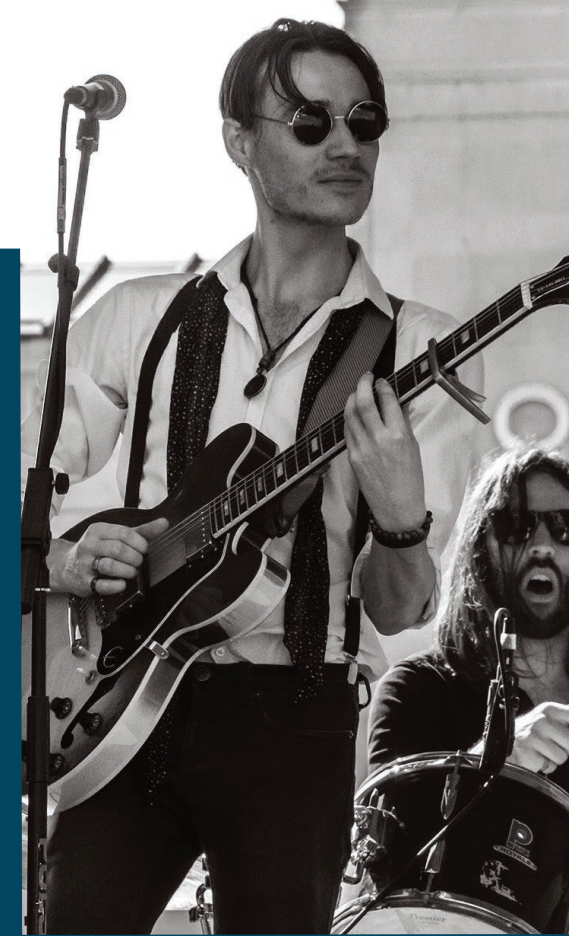
### Tell us about what you are doing now and what it involves – a typical working day.

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!

“ 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.”

### 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.



# Virtual DJ assessments

Final-year students on BA (Hons) Digital Music recently had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a totally unique end-of-year DJ assessment.

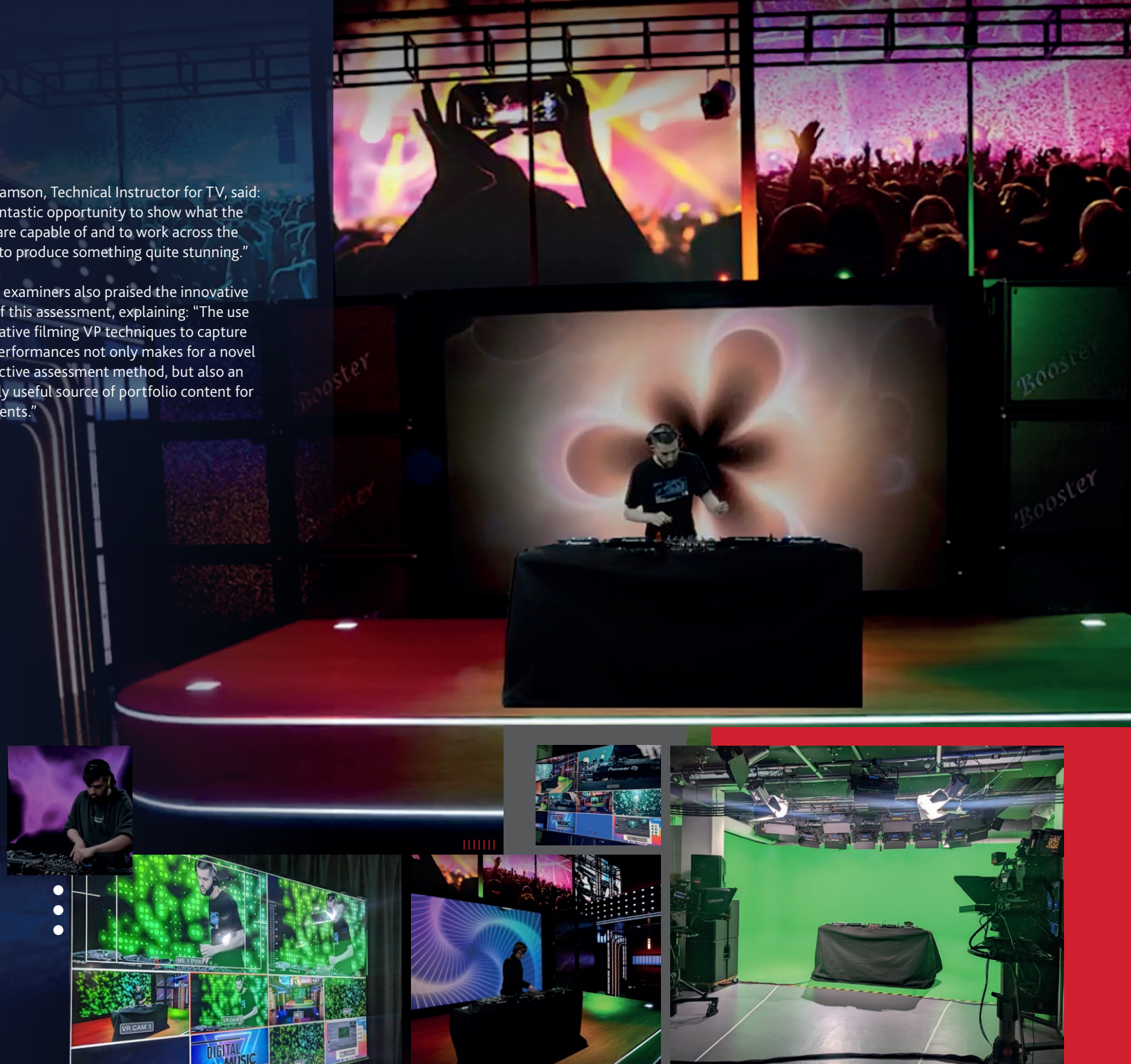
Instead of handing in the traditional audio mix-tape project, students entered into a 'virtual' world, using a TV studio kitted out with a Mo-Sys camera tracking system which enabled tracking of the camera movements, with Unreal engine custom backgrounds – the kind of thing regularly seen on BBC News and the Olympic Games.

Supported by staff and students from television degrees, the team filmed the DJs in a green-screen area in real time and projected them into a virtual space. Students then received a video file of themselves performing in the virtual world, which could then be used for their own promotion after completing their studies.

Steve Middleton, Technical Instructor for Audio and Music, said: "This unique opportunity enabled students to showcase their skills in an end-of-year assessment that was like nothing else we've done before. Being a DJ myself for many years, I feel this innovative project would give students confidence outside of their comfort zones, working in a multi disciplinary TV studio environment. We're really excited to continue building on this in future years."

Ian Williamson, Technical Instructor for TV, said: "It's a fantastic opportunity to show what the studios are capable of and to work across the courses to produce something quite stunning."

External examiners also praised the innovative nature of this assessment, explaining: "The use of innovative filming VP techniques to capture the DJ performances not only makes for a novel and effective assessment method, but also an incredibly useful source of portfolio content for the students."



BA (Hons)

## Music Business

UCAS tariff: 104–120

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/MB01](http://www.solent.ac.uk/MB01)

- Some of our graduates have gone on to work at record companies, artist management companies, music publishers, streaming services and festivals.
- You will learn from a team of leading music industry academics and practitioners who have excellent music business links, offering guest lectures, conference events and work experience opportunities.
- Southampton is a hub for music and arts – we have excellent links to Southampton's vibrant local music scene and work with the city's best music venues including The Joiners, 1865, O2 Guildhall, Heartbreakers and many more.

Our innovative music business degree will provide you with a thorough understanding of the industry, covering artist development, live events, festivals, project management, finance, marketing, legal contracts and copyright. We will support you to develop the personal entrepreneurial skills to succeed in this exciting industry, and also provide essential digital training on podcasting, web development, social media and video production. Our graduates have given excellent feedback on their experience at Solent, with the 2021 National Student Survey showing 100 per cent overall satisfaction.

### Our graduates have worked at:

Sony  
 Universal  
 Warner  
 BMG  
 Live Nation  
 Spotify  
 The O2  
 PRS for Music  
 Dirty Hit and more.



## Solent Music...

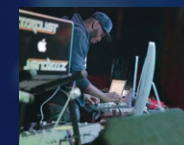
...gets your talents out and brings in giants from across the music industry at a wide range of conferences and events.

**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 Palmerston Park.



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

Music festivals generate over 6,500 work experience hours each summer for our students.

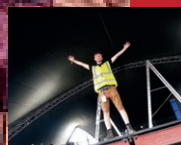
For over a decade Solent has had working relationships with a wide range of festivals including Glastonbury, Boardmasters, Camp Bestival Dorset, Camp Bestival Shropshire, NASS, Southampton Pride and Victorious. Do you want to perform at one of these events, through street theatre or stage, or get experience 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.

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, festival organiser and Solent University Honorary Doctor of Business**



## Natasha Hurford

Regional Marketing Executive,  
Academy Music Group

BA (Hons) Music Management, 2021  
– now known as BA (Hons) Music Business

### Tell us a bit about your role and what a typical day looks like for you.

I look after the marketing activities for O2 Academy Bristol, O2 Academy Bournemouth and O2 Guildhall Southampton. Day-to-day I liaise with promoters on marketing plans and budgets, and action activities across both social media and classic marketing areas.

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

I love that I get to work with artists that I love and be a small part of putting the show on, and also that every day can be different, whether it be a venue/show day or an admin day of budgets. One challenge I have found is that our venues are not just music – they also cater for comedy and live podcast shows, to name a few. Therefore I have been learning lots about how different live events are promoted and the different audiences.

### What's been your career highlight so far?

I've had a couple: in my old role at The Joiners we had Wolf Alice play and they are one of my all-time favourite bands – it was a very 'Wow, I'm actually doing this as my job now' moment. In this role – on a nostalgic note – my first ever gig was McFly when I was 11, and now I have just sold out three of their shows on the upcoming tour.



### How do you feel your studies at Solent helped prepare you for your career?

I think Solent helped me gain the confidence to put myself forward for things. When I started back in 2018 I never believed I would make it to where I am now, and a lot of that growth comes down to the wonderful support from the course team.

### Favourite memory from your time at Solent?

On our course we had lots of opportunities to meet people from different sectors of the industry. I always loved guest talks, especially about the live and festival sector as that was my goal. In particular, I enjoyed visiting local venue The Joiners (where I ended up working after graduation) to see first-hand how the team runs events.

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

Talk to everyone and make sure you get involved in things where you can! I remember in our first week someone saying 'the people around you will be your future colleagues', and it's so true. I know that it can be scary, but when it comes to confidence, fake it till you make it! Also, speak to the course team about any concerns you have – they offer great support!

BMus (Hons)

## Popular Music Performance

UCAS tariff: 104–120

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/PMP1](http://www.solent.ac.uk/PMP1)



- Learn from an enthusiastic and dedicated team of professional producers, composers, musicians, sound engineers and DJs with a wealth of international industry experience.
- Amazing guests and masterclasses. Recent visits have included: John Brough, producer/engineer for U2, Queen and the Rolling Stones; Imogen Heap, singer/songwriter for Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande and Deadmau5; and Trevor Horn, producer of Robbie Williams.
- Solent is home to industry-standard facilities, including multiple recording studios and a fully accredited Dolby Atmos cinema.
- Access an extensive collection of musical instruments, high-end microphones, Pro Tools and Logic digital editing workstations, analogue processing, synthesisers and live sound mixers including Allen and Heath.
- Plus a new contemporary brass and saxophone programme.

### Our graduates now work in:

professional performance  
songwriting  
artist development  
live sound  
teaching  
technical support.



Throughout the course you'll be supported to develop a wide range of musical skills alongside academic, research and critical-thinking proficiencies that are relevant to many different careers. The course features extensive study of the music industry including copyright, contract law and career pathways.

The curriculum is taught by a highly experienced course team, many of whom are active industry experts with professional experience in performance, studio and live sound, electronic sound design, and the business and culture of music production. The team's industry links also enable a handpicked selection of students to record at the world-renowned Abbey Road Studios.

## Anthems

Solent University music students have the fantastic opportunity to collaborate and take to the stage at the annual Anthems night, featuring a celebration of the greatest songs of all time performed by students and staff.

The event is open to the public and includes performances by students and staff from across the Popular Music Performance, Popular Music Production and Popular Music Performance and Production courses, with the Live Events Society running sound, staging and lights, supported by make-up and hair design, and the media courses.

"The Anthems gig is a highlight of the academic calendar and showcases the wealth and diversity of talent we have amongst the music students at Solent," explains Senior Lecturer Esther Keappock.



BA (Hons)

## Popular Music Performance and Production

UCAS tariff: 104–120

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/MPP1](http://www.solent.ac.uk/MPP1)

- Solent is one of the largest Pro Tools 101 training locations in the UK.
- Learn from a team of professional producers, composers, musicians, sound engineers and DJs with a wealth of international industry experience.
- Solent is home to industry-standard facilities, including multiple recording studios and a fully accredited Dolby Atmos cinema.
- Access an extensive collection of musical instruments, high-end microphones, Pro Tools and Logic digital editing workstations, analogue processing, synthesisers and live sound mixers including Allen and Heath.

This course offers a broad range of creative and technical learning in music and production, carefully balanced with the acquisition of academic skills involving research and critical thinking. Students will gain experience both specific to the music industry and relevant to other careers.

Student learning is aided by access to our industry-standard facilities. These include nine recording studios (networked with Pro Tools HD and Logic Pro), a range of mixing workstations and a production lab with 24 Apple workstations (with Pro Tools, Logic Pro and Sibelius). You'll also have access to large rehearsal rooms fully equipped with backline and PAs.

### Our graduates now work in:

professional performance  
songwriting  
artist development  
live sound  
teaching  
technical support.



## Pietro Silke Balerna

BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance and Production, student

### Why did you choose Solent?

I chose Solent because from the beginning I received very fast and kind replies to my questions, I was welcomed with a lot of professionalism and I found the course description on the website very interesting. The campus is very modern and the whole structure seemed very well equipped.

### What's the best thing about your course lecturers?

The best thing about my lecturers is how involved they are with students' growth and professional paths. I know I can count on each and every single one of my lecturers if I need help.

### How are the facilities on your course?

On my course we are lucky to use many professionally equipped music studios. We can use a variety of musical instruments, microphones, headphones, speakers, pads and so on. The best thing is Studio 1 which is an absolutely great music studio equipped with a very big mixing desk.

“Southampton is a living and breathing city where there are always things happening!

There are always gigs, concerts, festivals, events and so on... It is literally impossible to get bored in Southampton. Thanks to this I was able to get involved with musicians outside of university too and to network much more.”



### How are your studies at Solent helping you prepare for your future career?

My studies have pushed me to achieve my best work, explore my musical knowledge and skills, and improve them. Since I started the course I have written, recorded and produced many tracks, collaborated with amazing musicians, created a website and promoted myself as a musician.

### What do you like best about living and studying in Southampton?

The best thing about Southampton is that it is a living and breathing city where there are always things happening! There are always gigs, concerts, festivals, events and so on... It is literally impossible to get bored in Southampton. Thanks to this I was able to get involved with musicians outside of university too and to network much more.



# Abbey Road

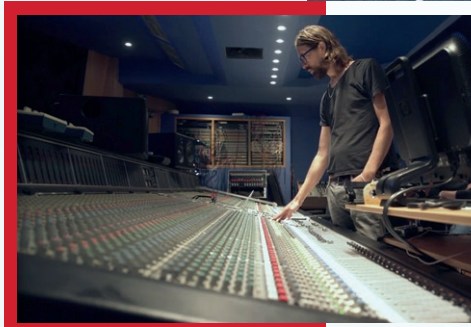
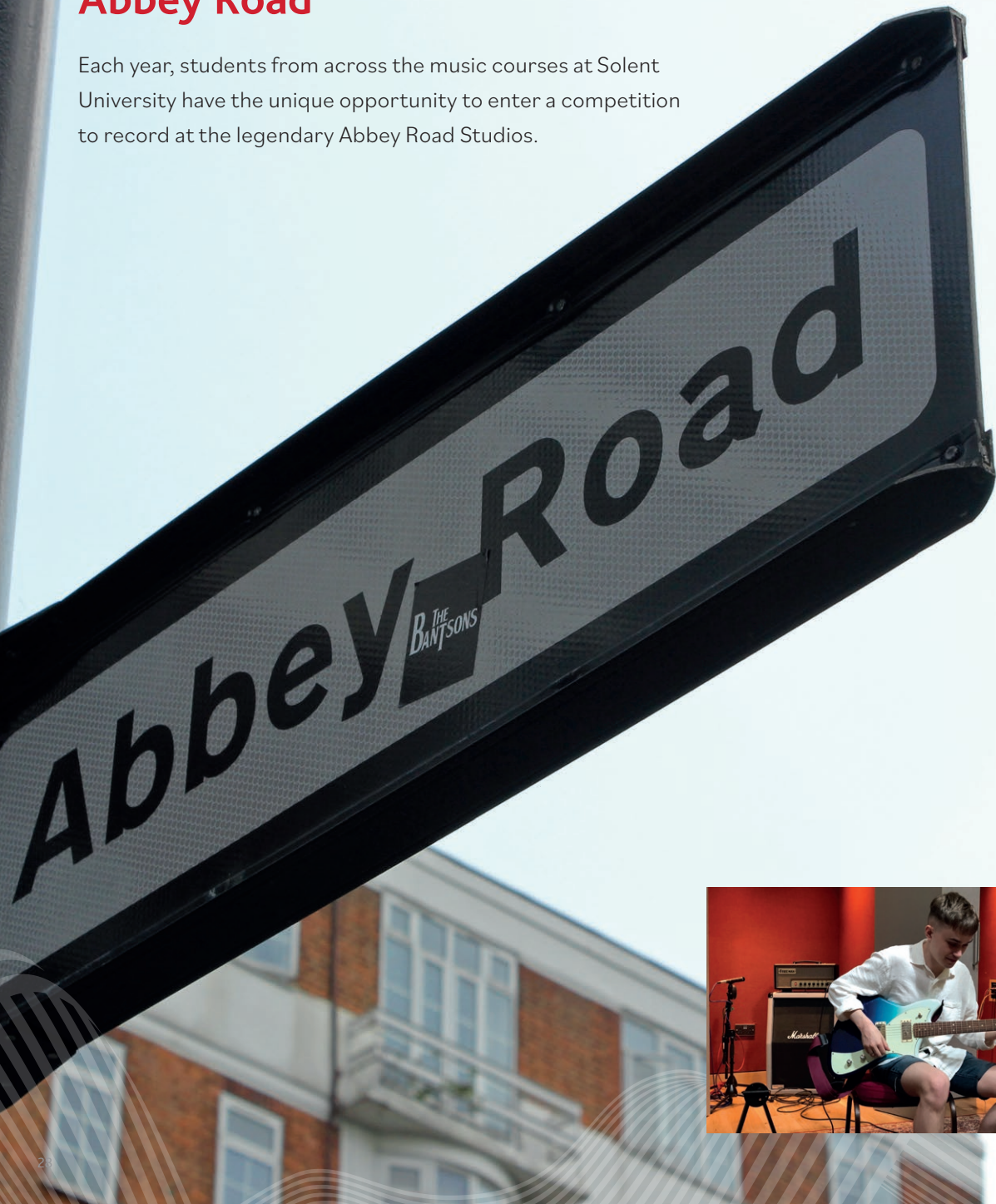
Each year, students from across the music courses at Solent University have the unique opportunity to enter a competition to record at the legendary Abbey Road Studios.

Abbey Road Studios – made famous by its namesake, the Beatles' *Abbey Road* album – has an unparalleled history of recording, and is still the facility of choice for many of the world's most celebrated artists, producers, composers and orchestras. It remains one of the most technically advanced recording and mixing facilities in the world, with wonderful acoustic spaces and a unique blend of vintage equipment and today's leading technology.

Students studying music are given the chance to visit and record at Abbey Road Studios as part of their degree course. Musicians then compete in front of a panel of judges for a chance to work in Studio 3 for a full day, supported by top in-house Abbey Road engineers.

BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance alumna, Courtney Gray, who recently won the competition and recorded with her band Djuno, said of the experience: "The whole experience was really surreal. Being somewhere that so many influential people have been before and being lucky enough to be added to the list of people that have recorded there is amazing too."

Course Leader Toni Diaz adds: "The Abbey Road prize is a highlight of the year. Our students perform and record music in the most famous recording studio in the world. It is inspiring to see how the students elevate their work in such a prestigious environment."



“ Our students perform and record music in the most famous recording studio in the world. It is inspiring to see how the students elevate their work in such a prestigious environment.”



BSc (Hons)

# Popular Music Production

UCAS tariff: 104–120

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/MP01](http://www.solent.ac.uk/MP01)

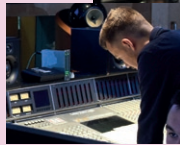
- Solent is one of the largest Pro Tools training locations in the UK. You'll have the opportunity to gain additional training in Pro Tools software.
- Learn from an enthusiastic and dedicated team of professional producers, composers, musicians, sound engineers and DJs with a wealth of international industry experience.
- Prestigious guest speakers have included: Andrew Scheps, sound engineer (Adele and Metallica); Colin Lester, manager (signed Arctic Monkeys); Katie Holmes-Smith, vocalist (Adele world tour); John Brough, engineer (U2, Queen); Imogen Heap (Deadmau5, Taylor Swift); Craig David; Creeper; Julian Hepple (Prince, One Direction, BBC Concert Orchestra).

The course explores three main areas of study: technical and musical foundations; music and sound production in studio and live settings; and employability in the music industry. These varied subjects enable you to gain a broad understanding of the industry, so when you graduate you'll be equipped with the right skills and knowledge to kickstart your career.

Throughout the course you will have the opportunity to use a range of facilities including our specialist recording studios, each with top-of-the-range software.

## Our graduates now work at:

Bang Post-Production  
Sony Music  
Envy Post-Production  
Global Documentary  
Columbia Records  
Metropolis Studios  
EMI Music Licensing, and more.



## Liam Gunning

Head Studio Engineer, Subfrantic Studios

BSc (Hons) Popular Music Production, 2020

### Tell us a bit about your role and what a typical day looks like for you.

As head studio engineer I don't really have a typical day – it changes from day to day. I might be tracking artists, mixing or mastering, or fixing gear and maintaining the studios. It really varies, depending on what we have going on – which is why I love the job so much. The company I work for is also a live events production company, so I sometimes head out to gigs as an audio engineer or a drum tech.

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


What I enjoy most about my job is also its biggest challenge. Two days are very rarely the same. What two different artists want in a recording or mix will differ hugely, so every day tests your knowledge and skills, keeping you on your toes and always ready for the next curveball to be thrown. Luckily for me, I love learning new techniques and ways of approaching a problem. I'm also lucky enough to meet lots of new people in my job, which is something I enjoy a lot.

### What's been your career highlight so far?

Most recently, recording the live tracks for Cat Burns' most recent tour with Sam Smith would definitely be a highlight. Having my recordings played at the O2 is incredible. Another huge highlight for me would be going on tour with Dave as a drum tech, working on his 2022 summer festival tour. Standing on the main stage at a headline performance at Reading Festival will be an experience I will never forget, as well as touring round the world to places such as Canada and Sweden.

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

Probably the biggest thing I've learnt is to take every opportunity you can get, and go above and beyond what is expected. Create a reputation for yourself by being helpful and keen – only good things can come from that. Work hard, stay positive and don't let anyone get you down! Finally, one of my biggest life lessons was given to me by the legendary Neil Kennedy: "Know when to be quiet and when to speak up!"

 **Having my recordings played at the O2 is incredible."**

# Course list

| Course   | UCAS tariff points | Foundation Year available | URL and UCAS code  |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------|--|
| BA (Hons) Acting and Performance                   | 104–120            | -                         | <a href="http://www.solent.ac.uk/WW47">www.solent.ac.uk/WW47</a> |
| BA (Hons) Digital Music                            | 104–120            | Y                         | <a href="http://www.solent.ac.uk/DM01">www.solent.ac.uk/DM01</a> |
| BA (Hons) Music Business                           | 104–120            | -                         | <a href="http://www.solent.ac.uk/MB01">www.solent.ac.uk/MB01</a> |
| BA (Hons) Musical Theatre                          | 104–120            | -                         | <a href="http://www.solent.ac.uk/WW31">www.solent.ac.uk/WW31</a> |
| BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance              | 104–120            | -                         | <a href="http://www.solent.ac.uk/PMP1">www.solent.ac.uk/PMP1</a> |
| BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance and Production | 104–120            | Y                         | <a href="http://www.solent.ac.uk/MPP1">www.solent.ac.uk/MPP1</a> |
| BSc (Hons) Popular Music Production                | 104–120            | Y                         | <a href="http://www.solent.ac.uk/MP01">www.solent.ac.uk/MP01</a> |
| Popular Music Foundation Year                      | 48                 | -                         | <a href="http://www.solent.ac.uk/PMF">www.solent.ac.uk/PMF</a>   |

# How to apply

Solent University code name: **SOLNT**  
Solent University UCAS code: **S30**



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**Email:** [admissions@solent.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@solent.ac.uk)

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