

Music Production

TRIMESTER 1

Bachelor & Diploma units

MIXING FOUNDATIONS

Record and Mix

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This subject explores the fundamental processes of mixing within a Digital Audio Workstation using materials from a broad range of genres and styles. Students gain an introductory understanding of developing their mixing skills in their DAW by exploring gain staging, digital signal processing, automation, and editing processes. They then apply these skills to a final mix for their assessment.

COMPOSING & SEQUENCING

Compose and Produce

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Composing and sequencing demystifies the process of writing a piece of original music using music production software. Students learn the fundamental concepts behind composition and a digital audio workstation and utilise these to craft an original and engaging piece of music in line with their own tastes.

MUSIC PRODUCTION FOUNDATIONS

Devise & Develop

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Students develop an understanding of music theory concepts, including the fundamentals of music notation, scales and chords, as well as how these concepts relate to the piano roll in a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW). The unit establishes foundational aural skills essential for music production and broader principles of music composition. The subject also covers identifying the fundamental principles of sound and audio for application in music production. The unit covers technical knowledge of sound and perceptual understanding of psychoacoustics.

CREATIVE FOUNDATIONS

Creative Foundations

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Creativity is more than just inspiration; it is a skill, a discipline, and an essential tool for navigating the complexities of the modern world. In this unit, you will explore creativity's role across diverse disciplines and communities, gaining valuable insight into the ethical and cultural values that shape creative practice. You will develop critical skills to evaluate information, articulate ideas, and confidently reflect on creative work. By engaging with a dynamic community of students from across Collarts, you will have the opportunity to explore your creative potential and establish a strong foundation for your studies and future career in the creative industries.

Music Production

TRIMESTER 2

Bachelor & Diploma units

RECORDING FOUNDATIONS

Record and Mix

UNIT DESCRIPTION

In this subject, students plan and execute a recording project that includes microphone selection and placement, with an emphasis on recording and overdubbing, signal flow, and audio processing tools. Students utilise effective management strategies in this recording project including planning, communication, scheduling and resource management.

TECHNOLOGY IN PERFORMANCE 1

Devise & Develop

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit introduces students to the integration of music production technology in a collaborative environment. Students reinterpret existing compositions through the lens of music technology, utilising electronic hardware devices alongside DAWs to control and manipulate sound. Through this process, students develop a practical understanding of MIDI and audio signal flow while enhancing their creative skills, musicianship, and studio technical proficiency.

CREATIVE SOFTWARE PRACTICE

Compose and Produce

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Synthesis gives us a language with which we can describe and recreate sound. In Creative Software Practice, students learn how sound is generated by commonly used methods of synthesis and the various elements found within most commercial synths. This knowledge is used to create bespoke instruments unique to the student that are applied to the process of sound design and composition.

INDUSTRY FOUNDATIONS

Creative Foundations

UNIT DESCRIPTION

In this unit, you will immerse yourself in the world of the creative industries and explore the many pathways to transforming your passion into a profession. Through insights from industry professionals and hands-on creative activities, you will develop a deeper understanding of how your industry operates while reflecting on your career aspirations and creative potential. From generating ideas to bringing them to life, you will experiment with flexible approaches to creative collaboration, working on cross-disciplinary projects that mirror real-world creative environments. By gaining a clearer perspective on the industry landscape, you will be better equipped to carve out your place as a creative professional and make confident, informed career choices.

Music Production

TRIMESTER 3

Bachelor units only

COLLABORATIVE RECORDING

Record and Mix

UNIT DESCRIPTION

In this subject, students engage in a collaborative recording project, applying digital signal processing and routing techniques. They gain experience in both creative and technical collaboration through a series of group activities and recording tasks, with a focus on effective project planning and execution, communication, and time management.

SONGWRITER PRODUCER

Devise & Develop

UNIT DESCRIPTION

In this unit, students produce original music in collaboration using composition processes, songwriting elements, music arrangement and sonic presentation. Students will develop an understanding of the nuances of collaborating and contributing within a group and apply their skill and creative approach to original arrangements and compositions.

SOUND STUDIES

Creative Foundations

UNIT DESCRIPTION

In this unit, students will advance their knowledge of sound by exploring production elements and the nature of sound. Producers must constantly evaluate music, sound, noise, and silence, and how these have changed throughout history within different societies. Students will develop the ability to listen critically and make informed judgments within their productions.

MUSIC FOR THE MOVING IMAGE

Compose and Produce

UNIT DESCRIPTION

As students move into the later stages of the degree, we begin to introduce more specific briefs and scenarios within the composition and technology stream. This is the first of these units and introduces students to the process of composing and producing for visual media. Students analyse existing works for TV, film, and game and create their own works to accompany visual media. The unit also covers important topics such as creating a showreel and how to charge for your work.

Music Production

TRIMESTER 4

Bachelor units only

MASTERING

Record and Mix

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit expands on studio recording techniques to examine mastering – the final step in a recording project. Topics such as micro-dynamics, macro-dynamics, equalization, noise reduction, best practice in metering, monitoring and contemporary levelling practices will be explored and applied to mastering projects. The techniques learned here extend beyond just mastering.

TECHNOLOGY IN PERFORMANCE 2

Devise & Develop

UNIT DESCRIPTION

In this subject, students collaborate and apply creative knowledge and composition techniques by integrating technology into a proposed multimedia project. The unit combines production techniques and multimedia arrangement, demonstrating an understanding of sound design. Students effectively explore and develop concept building, grant applications, and project execution within a multimedia context. They implement compositional techniques using DAWs and hardware devices, focusing on effective experimentation and real-world multimedia applications.

REMIXING & ARRANGING

Compose and Produce

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Copy, transform, and combine. These steps of the creative process are explored through the art of the remix as students discover the history of remixing. Throughout the unit, students analyse and codify their personal aesthetic through self and peer-analysis exercises. They utilise this understanding to craft remixes of existing works that combine their aesthetic with that of the artist.

CONTENT CREATION

Creative Foundations

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Content allows music makers to showcase their unique identity and connect with their audience. This unit prepares students to be content creators and applies their knowledge of creative strategy through content creation. Students develop foundational creative skills, such as copywriting and design, to create simple marketing assets like images, videos, brand documents, and digital content. The unit examines the relationship between content marketing, channel strategy, and media creation to explore the role of business and communication strategy in content campaigning.

Music Production

TRIMESTER 5

Bachelor units only

CONTEMPORARY PRODUCTION

Record and Mix

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit requires students to complete a large-scale project recording multiple instruments and apply advanced production techniques in the creation of a complex final mix. While free to choose any type of music in this unit, students are encouraged to select contemporary pieces allowing for greater complexity in audio production and management. Students will further apply advanced recording and production techniques including multitrack quantising, advanced editing and routing, pitch correction, programming techniques, using multiple DAWs and advanced patching methods.

PRODUCING STYLES AND GENRES

Compose and Produce

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Theft is wrong... unless you steal like an artist. Students explore how to use analysis and emulation to their advantage in the creation of original works in this unit. With an understanding of the composition and production tropes associated with specific genres and artistic styles, students harness these signifiers to fulfil briefs that require them to capture the essence of a song, a producer, or a genre.

CAPSTONE DEVELOPMENT: MENTORSHIP

Compose and Produce

UNIT DESCRIPTION

In this unit, students work one-on-one with a mentor to develop the technical, musical, and conceptual elements of their capstone project. Through individual mentoring sessions, students refine their composition and production skills, evaluate the influences that shape their aesthetic and discuss the professional pathways best suited for their production style.

ELECTIVE

Creative Foundations

UNIT DESCRIPTION

For this unit students will choose one of the nominated units from another degree programs at Collarts. Students ultimately have dozens of units to choose from at this stage in their degree. Audio students could choose units from Entertainment Management, Photography and much more to broaden their knowledge in the creative arts and work with students from other parts of the college.

Music Production

TRIMESTER 6

Bachelor units only

MUSIC PRODUCTION CAPSTONE PROJECT

Record and Mix, Compose and Produce

UNIT DESCRIPTION

In this unit, students collaborate on a major music production project to demonstrate their creative aesthetic, planning and management skills, problem-solving abilities, and collaborative process with artists. This self-directed project allows students to progress from the initial concept to a final, completed project, showcasing the culmination of the creative, technical, and project management skills acquired throughout the degree.

PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO

Creative Foundations

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit provides an opportunity to complete your degree with a professional portfolio that highlights your skills, creativity, and artistic vision. You will explore the art of portfolio development and its importance within your creative field. By analysing a range of professional examples, you will gain valuable insights into industry standards, covering everything from formatting and presentation to the overall quality of your creative assets. Whether your aim is to impress potential employers or attract new audiences, this unit will support you in crafting a portfolio that authentically represents you as an emerging creative professional and serves as a powerful tool for advancing your career in the creative industries.

CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Devise and Develop

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Blending artistic talent with business strategies is essential for building a sustainable career in the music industry. It requires music makers to think beyond just creating music. This unit provides students with the knowledge and skills to identify management challenges related to establishing and sustaining a small business. It covers key steps in setting up a business, including registering and protecting a brand, purchasing, licensing, franchising, and forming partnerships.

INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

Creative Foundations

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit offers the opportunity to move beyond the classroom and into the workplace, allowing you to apply your skills, explore your strengths, and identify areas for growth as you gain real-world experience in your chosen industry. In a supervised role, you will engage with daily operations, refining your abilities through observation, analysis, and hands-on work. This placement enables you to align your experience with your career goals and build confidence in a professional setting. While securing a placement is your responsibility, academic mentors and career advisors are available to support you in finding the right opportunities. This invaluable experience will help you prepare for the next step in your creative career.