Definitive Programme Document

MA SONGWRITING

(Campus-Based and Distance Learning)

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	College of Liberal Arts
Department	Bath School of Music and Performance
Main campus	Corsham Court
Other sites of delivery	Newton Park
Other Schools involved in delivery	NA
Name of award(s)	Songwriting
Qualification (final award)	MA
Intermediate awards available	PG Cert & PG Dip
Routes available	None
Duration of award	1 year full-time 2 years part-time
Sandwich period	NA
Modes of delivery offered	campus-based or distance-learning
Regulatory Scheme	Taught Postgraduate Framework
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	NA
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	NA
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	NA
UCAS code	NA
Route code (SITS)	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	There is no relevant Masters benchmark statement, but the BA honours Subject Benchmark Statement for Music (2016) has provided some context.
Date of most recent approval	
Date specification last updated	

Programme Overview

MA Songwriting offers two modes of delivery: campus based (F2F) and distance-learning (DL).

Our approach maximises teaching and learning strategies whilst also facilitating networked, social aspects of the masters experience. Songwriting is increasingly an internationalised, multi-modal and mediated ecology utilising a range of resources and online platforms. Songwriters within professional, semi-professional, portfolio or academic careers, engage within a pedagogical shell structure which supports learning and content largely determined by the student.

Research into skills, technique, cultural and professional contexts seek to inform the production of industry-ready songs. The course has facilitated publishing deals, recording contracts, as well as a range of international academic and educational posts. Songwriting is a profession and a craft that enjoys the advantage of a broad range of viable career outcomes, from commercialised performance projects through primary and secondary school teaching to therapeutic and community applications. You will engage with research and practice of subjects, topics and approaches specific to your own career direction.

Songwriting is increasingly a networked, internationalised profession involving collaborations at all different stages of the craft. Bath Spa's internationalist outlook brings students onto campus from all over the world, and our Distance Learning and on-campus cohorts integrate your experiences within networked and interdisciplinary contexts. Both delivery modes enjoy excellent feedback from graduates and alumni, and we enjoy a rich network of interconnected BSU songwriters in the field.

As with all of the Music and Performance Masters, this programme places you within a creative and vibrant artistic community dedicated to all aspects of music and the performing arts. Your programme therefore sits within a dynamic environment where we actively encourage you to work with other practitioners and scholars from other disciplines. You will also work with professional practitioners from a similar range of backgrounds who will bring differing perspectives to your work.

As well as teaching, you how to write songs, the programme also prepares you for a range of career opportunities in the arts. Including, but not limited community music, commercial work, teaching, music agency, music production and doctoral study.

Programme Aims
Throughout the course, the curriculum aims to:

1. Extend and deepen songwriting practice
2. Develop an understanding of cultural and industrial contexts appropriate to career aspirations
3. Develop postgraduate research skills sufficient to prepare for potential PhD outcomes
4. Develop student ability to identify and accommodate potential audiences through songs and the discourses within which they communicate
5. Enhance critical faculties and self-evaluative skills, both as a music listener and songwriter.
6. Develop the ability to manage a long-range process of artistic production

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)
These ILOs reflect the level 7 descriptors of the FHEQ

A Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge
A1　Industry-ready creative skills as both lyricist and composer
A2　Industry-ready technical skills as producer and performer
A3　In depth knowledge of cultural and industrial contexts appropriate to their writing
A4　Sophisticated strategies for performance arrangements of their songs
A5　Focused research to that enables, informs and consolidates career choices
A6　Significant experiential understanding of song promotion and marketing
A7　Fluency with literary and musicological vocabulary

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills
B1　Critical and analytical commentary on songwriting in both oral and written contexts
B2　Interpret, analyse and develop appropriate responses to peer, professional and tutorial criticism
B3　Show a heightened awareness of technical points in songwriting by identifying and solving relevant problems
B4　Make and discuss strategic choices with reference to your creative, cultural and professional aims as a songwriter

C Skills for Life and Work
C1　Autonomous learning (including time management) that demonstrates the exercise of initiative, personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development
C2　Team working skills necessary to succeed in the global workplace, with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively, as well as the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
C3　Communication skills that show the ability to communicate clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences' knowledge at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice, and the conclusions drawn from dealing with complex issues systematically
C4　IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the ability to develop new skills to a high level and to approach complex issues systematically and creatively

Intermediate awards

PGCert Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A2, A4, A6, A7, B2, B4, C1, C3, C4

PGDip Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A2, A3, A4, A6, A7, B1, B2, B4, C1, C3, C4

Programme content
This programme comprises the following modules

Key:
Core = C
Compulsory = R (i.e. 'required')
Optional = O

MA SONGWRITING (Campus-Based and Distance Learning)				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	PM7004	Songwriting Skills	30	C	
7	PM7012	Song, Culture and Identity	30	C	
7	PM7001	Research Methodologies & Context	30	C	
7	PM7031	Professional Collaboration	30	O	
7	PM7032	Workstation Song Production	30	O	
7	PM7070	Major Project	60	C	

PGCert SONGWRITING (Campus-Based and Distance Learning)				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	PM7004	Songwriting Skills	30	C	
7	PM7012	Song, Culture and Identity	30	C	

PGDip SONGWRITING (Campus-Based and Distance Learning)				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	PM7004	Songwriting Skills	30	C	
7	PM7012	Song, Culture and Identity	30	C	
7	PM7001	Research Methodologies & Context	30	C	
7	PM7031	Professional Collaboration	30	O	
7	PM7032	Workstation Song Production	30	O	

Assessment methods
A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which

tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities
Throughout the MA students produce work within professional songwriting contexts. While it is not an assessment criterion, there is an expectation that students will seek external opportunities to have their work performed and programmed, either at music venues, open-mic events or festivals,. The programme equips students with professional skills, such as formulating projects, and understanding marketing, rights, royalties, and publishing.

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

	Bath Spa Graduates:	In Songwriting, this means graduates will be:
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	In possession of creative craft and professional attributes sufficient to write songs capable of engaging and inspiring audience, industry and performers.
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	Experienced in managing long-arc projects adapting across range of modes and environments
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	Embraces the multi-modal nature of songwriting and is able to extend song talent with the ability to incorporate other creatives into practice and community.
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	Continues to embrace the technological approaches that underwrite contemporary learning programmes.
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	Part of an internationalised community, reflecting the global nature of the song.
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	In-practice researchers upskilling, refining then producing and marketing songs with an enhanced sense of cultural and professional context.
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	Enabled by a deeper technical vocabulary, and an enhanced knowledge of culture and context, the songwriting graduate has bridged artistic skill into academic abilities
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	Aware of intellectual property, copyright and attribution. Prepared to observe industrial protocols and commercial considerations. Aware of the capacity for harm or offence within the artistic statement and deferring to the less-harm principle.

Modifications
Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

PROGRAMME LEVEL MODIFICATIONS

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 3
PM7001 - RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES AND CONTEXT CORE · 30 CREDITS	**PM7012 – SONG, IDENTITY AND CULTURE** CORE · 30 CREDITS	**PM7070 - MAJOR PROJECT**
PM7004 – SONGWRITING SKILLS CORE · 30 CREDITS	**PM7031 – PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION** OPTIONAL · 30 CREDITS OR **PM7032 – WORKSTATION SONG PRODUCTION** OPTIONAL · 30 CREDITS	CORE · 60 CREDITS

FULL-TIME PROGRAMME MAP – MA SONGWRITING (Campus-based)

YEAR 1

TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 3
PM7004 – SONGWRITING SKILLS CORE 30 CREDITS	**PM7012 – SONG, IDENTITY AND CULTURE** CORE 30 CREDITS	

YEAR 2

TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 3
PM7001 - RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES AND CONTEXT CORE 30 CREDITS	**PM7031 – PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION** OPTIONAL 30 CREDITS OR **PM7032 – WORKSTATION SONG PRODUCTION** OPTIONAL 30 CREDITS	**PM7070 - MAJOR PROJECT** CORE 60 CREDITS

PART-TIME PROGRAMME MAP – MA SONGWRITING (Campus-based)

TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 3
PM7012 – SONG, IDENTITY AND CULTURE CORE 30 CREDITS	**PM7001 - RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES AND CONTEXT** CORE 30 CREDITS	**PM7070 - MAJOR PROJECT** CORE 60 CREDITS
PM7004 – SONGWRITING SKILLS CORE 30 CREDITS	**PM7031 – PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION** OPTIONAL 30 CREDITS OR **PM7032 – WORKSTATION SONG PRODUCTION** OPTIONAL 30 CREDITS	

FULL-TIME PROGRAMME MAP – MA SONGWRITING (Distance Learning)

YEAR 1

TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 3
PM7004 – SONGWRITING SKILLS CORE　　　　　30 CREDITS	**PM7001 - RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES AND CONTEXT** CORE　　　　　30 CREDITS	

YEAR 2

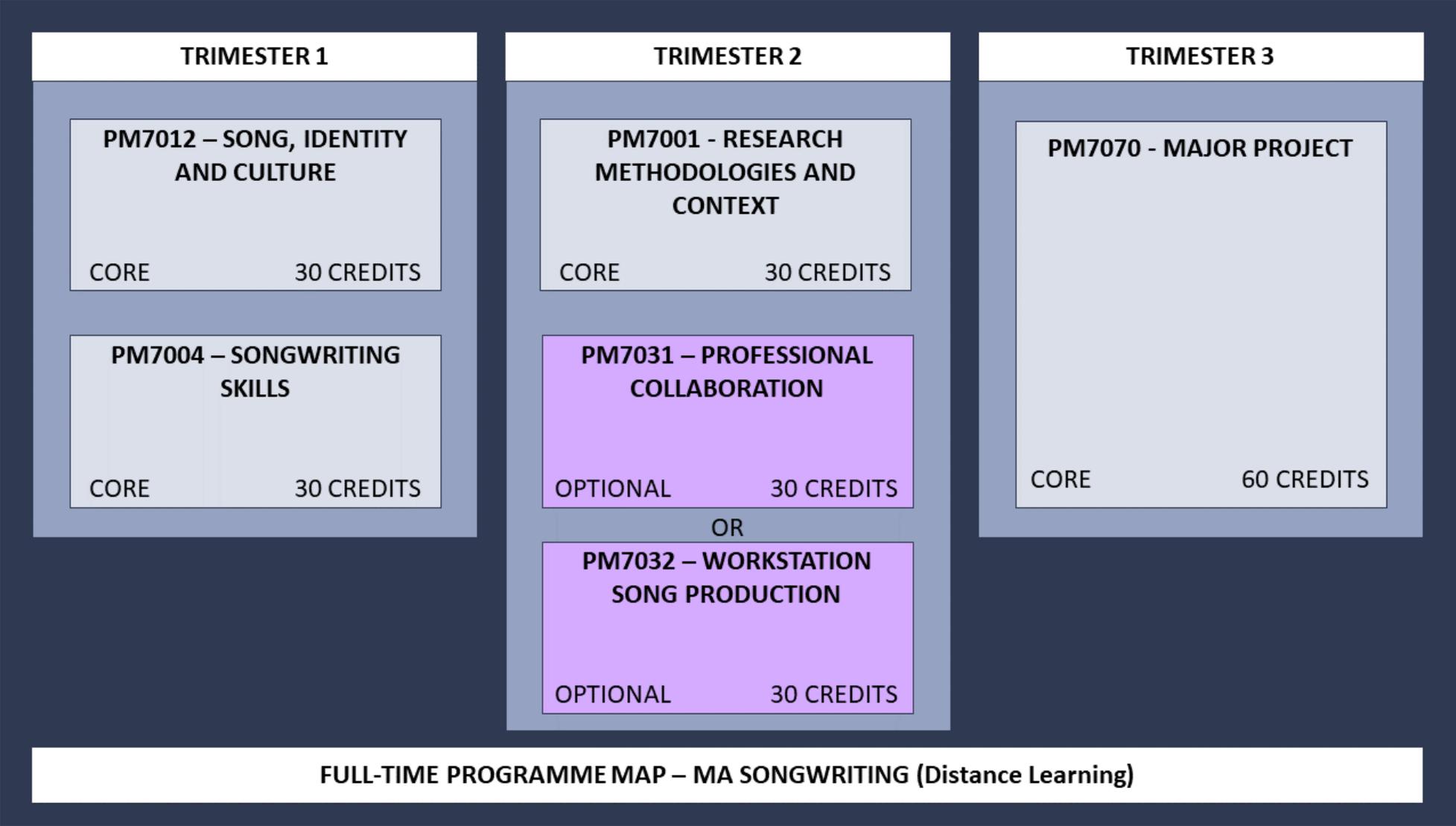| TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 3
PM7012 – SONG, IDENTITY AND CULTURE CORE　　　　　30 CREDITS	**PM7031 – PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION** OPTIONAL　　　30 CREDITS OR **PM7032 – WORKSTATION SONG PRODUCTION** OPTIONAL　　　30 CREDITS	**PM7070 - MAJOR PROJECT** CORE　　　　　60 CREDITS

PART-TIME PROGRAMME MAP – MA SONGWRITING (Distance Learning)

Map of Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) against modules

MA SONGWRITING

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O)	Intended Learning Outcomes														
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge							Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work			
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4
7	PM7001	Research Methodologies & Context	C	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
7	PM7004	Songwriting Skills	C	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
7	PM7012	Song, Culture and Identity	C			✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
7	PM7031	Professional Collaboration	O			✓	✓			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	
7	PM7032	Workstation Song Production	O	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
7	PM7070	Major Project	C	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Map of summative assessment tasks by module

MA SONGWRITING (Campus Delivery and Distance Learning versions)

Most word counts below are indicative, they often combine practical and written elements. There are no examinations in any Music and Performance MAs

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O)	Assessment method										
				Coursework							Practical			
				Composition Portfolio	Research Project	Journal / Blog	Portfolio	Evaluation commentary	Essay		Performance Recital	Practical Project	Presentation	Skills Projects
7	PM7001	Research Methodologies and Context	C		7,500 words									
7	PM7004	Songwriting Skills	C	5 songs										
7	PM7012	Song, Culture and Identity	C						3,000 words				15-20 minutes	
7	PM7031	Professional Collaboration	O									1 portfolio		
7	PM7032	Workstation Song Production	O	5 Songs										
7	PM7070	Major Project	C		Between 35 and 40 minutes of songs.									