



# Electronic Music Production & Performance BA (Hons) / HE Certificate

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**Awarding Institution:** Plymouth Marjon University

**Teaching Institution:** Catalyst – Institute of Creative Arts and Technology

**Location:** Berlin

**Mode of study:** Full time

**Language of instruction:** English

**Final Award Title:** Certificate of Higher Education (1 year) / Bachelor of Arts (Hons) (3 years)

# Overview

## Become a pioneer in the world of electronic music production

The **Electronic Music Production & Performance BA** is a practice-based course for musicians who want to compose, produce, perform and publish their own music. You'll learn how to create full tracks from scratch, design original sounds, record and mix in a studio and perform live using both hardware and software tools. You'll explore a wide range of genres, techniques and technologies – all while shaping your own unique sound.

The course is designed to support both technical skill-building and personal creative growth. As you progress, you'll develop your own artistic voice, learn how to collaborate with others, and gain confidence in presenting your work publically. Studying here won't just get you a certificate. By encouraging you to experiment, reflect and refine your approach – you'll be prepared to take creative risks and build a rewarding career.

**You can study this programme either as a full three-year BA degree or the first year only as a one-year HE Certificate.**

### By the end of the course, you'll have:

- A portfolio of original music, live recordings and collaborative projects.
- Skills in music composition, production, performance and electronic sound design.
- Confidence using synthesisers, DAWs and other electronic music instruments.
- The ability to take a project from concept to final product.
- A deep understanding of your creative identity as a musical artist.
- Real-world experience through collaborative and public performances.
- The mindset to keep developing artistically and professionally.

## Learn in a space designed for creativity

The Electronic Music Production & Performance programme is part of our School of Music & Sound – alongside our School of Film & Visual Media, School of Acting and School of Creative Human Development. Our riverside campus is located at the Funkhaus. Berlin's iconic broadcasting complex from the GDR era now brings together events and creatives from around the globe. Honouring broadcasting heritage of our building and, we also have our very own grassroots student-run radio station: **Etikett Radio**.

Our cutting-edge facilities are built with one thing in mind: maximising 'hands-on' access to doing what you love. Think of it as your very own technological playground. Inside, you'll find over 30 recording and production studios for music, film and visual effects, as well as dedicated performance, acting and communal spaces.

And because all our creative schools share the same building, your next collaborator could be just around the corner or down the hallway. You'll be creating alongside actors rehearsing, filmmakers on set, visual artists rendering, writers workshopping, all under one roof. Your work isn't just shaped by what you do, but also by what's happening around you.

**“The environment has without a doubt impacted my progress. Being surrounded by creatives every day of the week gives motivation and perspective and pushes you to improve.”**

— Olli-Pekka, Electronic Music Production & Performance alumnus

Come see it for yourself. Join a tour, attend an open day or visit our campus during a live showcase.

**[[Click here to book a visit →](#)]**





## Define your artistic voice in Berlin

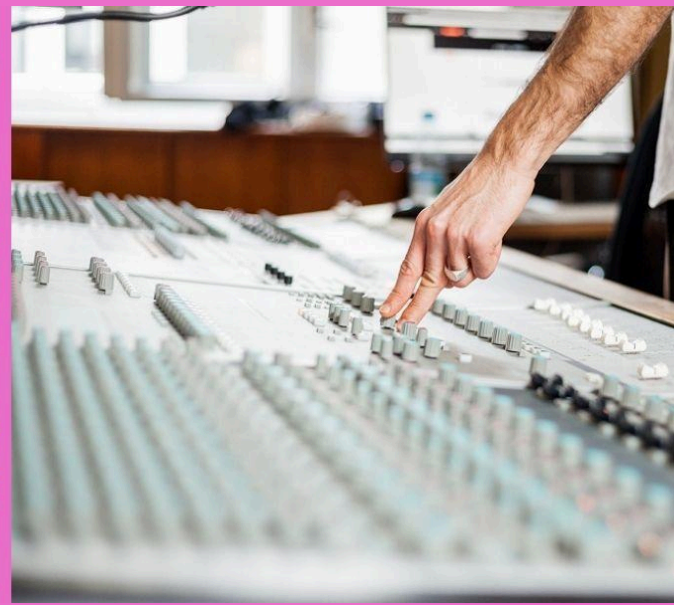
Berlin is one of the most exciting destinations on the planet for musicians. Progressive, gritty, experimental and cutting-edge – there's no better place than Berlin to immerse yourself in creative spirit while celebrating your uniqueness. After the school day ends, the same creative energy transforms the city from dusk until dawn, with a music scene that is dynamic and ever-evolving.

Berlin's music ecosystem occupies a unique space in which it is both legendary and internationally revered, yet accessible for newcomers seeking to carve a space for themselves in it. If you're looking for a specific genre, Berlin's techno scene is so renowned that it recently earned UNESCO cultural heritage status. The Afrohouse, hip-hop and jazz scenes are also treasured here – plus, the city is home to the Berliner Philharmoniker, one of the world's leading orchestras.

While temples of dance music like Berghain or Tresor are part of the fabric, there's a huge range of niche spaces and alternative venues to explore. GRETCHEN won an award in 2023 for its contemporary club music and left field beats. SO36, founded in 1970 in East Berlin, played a crucial role in cultivating punk rock and new wave music, as well as the LGBTQ techno scene. Increasingly, we're seeing programming from venues such as Morphine Raum that reflects the city's multiculturalism and cross-pollinated genres. Importantly for emerging artists, we enjoy an abundance of open-mics and small venues specialising in one type of music.

**“Before I moved to Berlin, I was a somewhat dissonant, young, crazy, nomadic fool... Catalyst provided an environment where I could learn but where I could also be my authentic self. I still study constantly. Catalyst was really just the first big step.”**

— Jon Doig, founder of Kiss Your Ears and School of Music & Sound alumnus



# Learning by doing

## Our learning method and philosophy

### Why we teach this way

We believe the best way to learn music production and performance is by doing it. That's why this course is built around practice based learning. This is a progressive approach to education that replaces off-the-shelf learning with practical work, giving you insight into how the creative industries actually operate.

### Ready to leave outdated learning methods behind?

→ Working on sustained projects helps you retain knowledge, turning it into usable skills. This gives you a deeper understanding of your craft and skills that are applicable to new situations.

### So much more than textbooks

→ Instead of gaining knowledge passively, practice-based learning is an educational model that supports you in making connections through practical real-world tasks. Throughout our programme you'll apply your skills to meaningful work with clear outcomes.

### Worried you won't have the necessary experience to start your career?

→ Practice-based learning allows you to gain professional experience from day one. In every project you'll work with real tools, serious briefs and collaborative workflows.

### Do assignments feel like chores?

→ Our curriculum is based around challenges that give you creative ownership. This approach opens doors, keeping your studies in tune with your personal interests and developing vision.

### Want to learn how to turn creative ideas into action?

→ Practice-based learning continuously pushes you out of your comfort zone, requiring you to take action. Our supported structure for experimenting, testing and refining your ideas, allows you to build confidence in your creative decision-making and practice.

### Need to build a portfolio that speaks for you?

→ Leave with more than just finished work – leave with a body of finished projects that reflect who you are as an artist, how you've grown and where you're going. Your portfolio is your creative fingerprint.

## **We've got you every step of the way**

At Catalyst, you're supported by a team of experienced professionals who bring real-world wisdom into the classroom. As artists, producers, engineers and creatives themselves, they understand the challenges and demands of the creative industry. They'll guide you through a balance of structured learning and open exploration: asking you tough questions, offering honest feedback and helping define your own unique sound. One-to-one tutorials are an important part of your learning journey, giving you a chance to reflect on your progress, set goals that align with your needs and unique vision..

Our specialist music technicians are a key part of your day-to-day experience. They're here to make sure technology never holds you back creatively. They'll help you:

- Design and build live rigs tailored to your performance style
- Set up outboard gear chains and studio configurations
- Choose the right tools and software for your specific goals
- Plan and support live shows
- Troubleshoot tech issues quickly so you can stay in flow

The genre- and brand-agnostic nature of the Electronic Music Production & Performance programme means you'll shape your own relationship with instruments, software and performance tools. Together, our tutors and technicians create a responsive, artist-centred environment that allows you to experiment, evolve and keep moving forward.

## **A future-proof creative toolkit**

Developing your creative practice means more than learning how to produce tracks or perform live. It's about building a set of creative life skills that stay with you, long after you've left the studio. Alongside hands-on experience with synthesisers, drum machines, DAWs and performance setups, we'll help you develop the soft skills and mindset that help you grow sustainably as an artist. That includes self-direction, creative resilience, critical thinking and the ability to learn through iteration and reflection. These soft-skills are some of the most valuable tools you'll gain while with us, and transferable to any challenge or creative direction you decide to pursue.

Seismic technological shifts during this decade have redefined the music industry. That's why our curriculum emphasises future-proof skills like self-motivation, problem-solving, collaboration and communication. This course doesn't just teach you how to make music. It

helps you shape your path, strengthen your identity as an artist and stay creatively agile in a world that keeps changing.

Alongside your academic and creative development, Catalyst offers a range of support services to help you navigate challenges, build confidence and stay creatively focused:

- **One-to-one counselling and coaching** – confidential sessions with qualified professionals to support emotional wellbeing, anxiety, creative blocks, conflict resolution and life transitions
- **Flourishing Fortnights** – immersive two-week workshop series focused on topics like creative collaboration, healthy boundaries, communication and emotional self-awareness
- **Self-Development & Leadership Course** – an optional deep dive into how you perceive yourself, others and your creative role in the world
- **Practical wellbeing support** – help accessing medical resources, therapy referrals, diagnosis pathways and other essential life services
- **Everyday check-ins** – a wellbeing team that's visible, approachable and part of the day-to-day campus life

## Your creative community

You'll join an international, multidisciplinary community of producers, performers and sound artists where collaboration is an essential element of our learning framework. You'll work with your classmates day to day, helping each other learn as well as sharing skills. Our campus is designed to encourage interdisciplinary experimentation. As your production and performance skills grow, students from our School of Film & Visual Media, School of Acting and School of Creative Human Development will all be eager to collaborate with you, too.

On campus, you'll share spaces with students joining from over 70 countries, each bringing different styles, influences and ideas. Whether you're working on a live session, co-producing a track or refining a mix, you'll be part of a creative network that reflects the diversity of today's music industry.

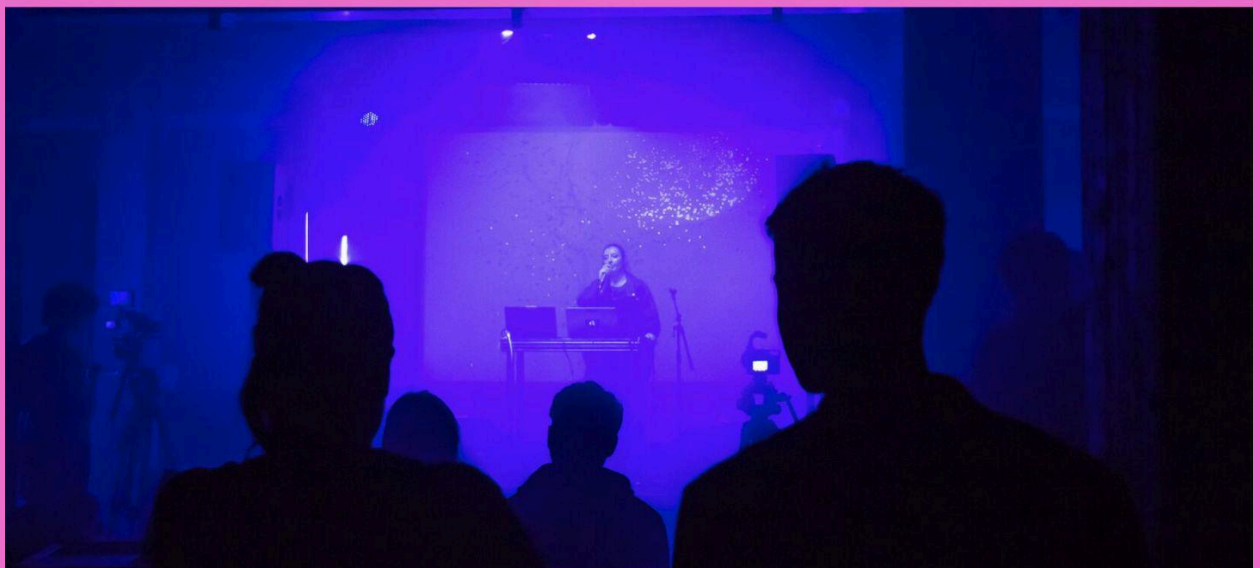
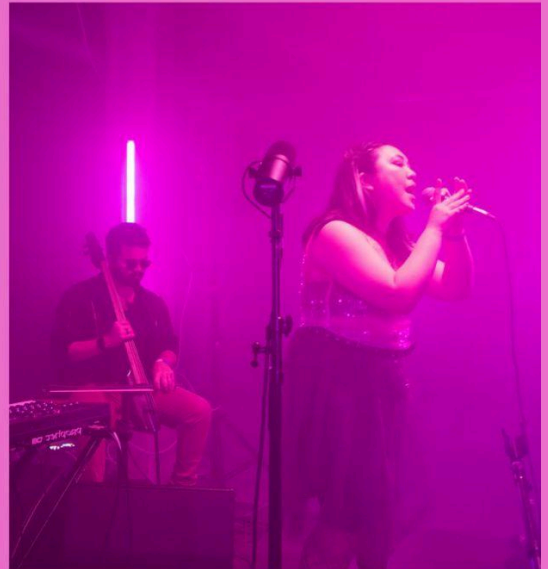
## Core skills for an industry-ready CV

This course is designed to prepare you for real opportunities in the music industry. You'll gain a wide range of practical skills including:

- Electronic music production and composition
- Sound design and synthesis
- Studio recording, mixing and mastering
- Live performance techniques and setup
- Interface design and creative audio programming
- Critical listening and creative direction
- Collaboration and project management

Alongside these career skills, you'll also develop the creative mindset to shape your own artistic path. You'll learn to explore ideas, give and receive feedback, reflect on your work and adapt your approach as you grow – skills that are essential for any creative professional.





## Course structure & learning outcomes

The Electronic Music Production & Performance programme unfolds over three years:

**Year 1** focuses on the foundations and broad experimentation: production, sequencing, synthesis, sound design, mixing, composition and live performance. You'll start building your portfolio and discover your strengths as an artist and producer.

**Year 2** moves into focused exploration of your own artistic voice through advanced sound design, composition, re-thinking instruments and interfaces, mixing, mastering and enhanced focus on performance design. You'll work independently and collaboratively on more complex creative challenges and present them publicly.

**Year 3** is about focus and launch. You'll lead your own major creative project from concept to public release, with full support. You'll also develop a professional strategy to bring your work into the world – whether that means publishing, performing or building a creative business.

**You can study this programme either as a full three-year BA degree or the first year only as a one-year HE Certificate.**

**Please note that the following curriculum is non-binding and subject to change.**

### Year 1 – HE Certificate

Semester One		Semester Two	
SYNC1: Create (20 ECTS) SYNC2: Craft (20 ECTS) SYNC3: Explore (20 ECTS)		SYNC4: Shape (20 ECTS) SYNC5: Form (20 ECTS) SYNC6: Locate (20 ECTS)	
Development			
Electronic Music Studio Skills		Sound Design I	Mixing Principles
Sequencing, Synthesis and Sampling	Audio Production	Introduction to Max4Live	Performance I
Music & Culture	Approaches in Modern Composition I	Music Industry	Building an Artist / Producer Profile

## **Year 1**

The course content in your first year will focus on:

- Developing your unique artistic voice and portfolio.
- Recording, mixing, finalising and performing your own tracks.
- The essentials of recording and studio components.
- Getting comfortable with a variety of analogue and digital electronic music instruments.
- Familiarising you with different hardware and software tools.
- Building a collection of original sounds and sound design hacks.
- Gaining insight into electronic music culture, business and entrepreneurship.

## **Workshops**

### **Audio Production**

The Audio Production workshop focuses on the basic practical skills necessary for electronic music creation and arrangement. We'll dive into the world of digital audio workstations by learning how to compose, arrange, and produce original pieces. Students will also advance their understanding of sound through ear training and developing critical listening skills.

### **Building an Artist/Producer Profile**

The Building an Artist/Producer Profile workshop aims to assist students in understanding their identity and message as an individual. Important industry relationships will be discussed, as well as conceptual tools for refining one's personal message and their ability to connect with a wider audience.

### **Approaches to Modern Composition I**

This workshop introduces students to core strategies for creating and organizing music. Students explore sound parameters, perception, and form while practicing cataloging, editing, transformation, and montage. The focus is on hands-on experimentation, giving students a toolkit to connect traditional theory with contemporary electronic music practice.

### **Music Industry**

The Music Industry workshop is designed to assist students in situating themselves within the many commercial frameworks present in today's musical landscape. Communication and marketing techniques will be covered, as well as copyright and intellectual property rights, in order to empower the students regarding their ability to navigate the current commercial/academic landscape.

### **Mixing Principles**

In the Mixing Principles workshop, students will receive an introduction to current essential

mixing tools and practices. The basics of mixing will be methodically covered from organising mix structures to developing an awareness of spatial and dynamic elements.

### **Music and Culture**

This workshop explores the deep connections between music and culture. Students examine how sound reflects and shapes societies, technologies, and identities through case studies on venues, heritage, noise, and tools. Each session combines readings, listening, and in-class exercises to develop critical thinking, cultural awareness, and analytical skills. Students learn to use a four-pillar framework of Society, Culture, Technology, Music, to understand music as both a creative practice and a cultural force. The goal is to help students become more open, curious, and critical in their own practice.

### **Performance I**

The Performance I offers an insightful overview of the practical aspects of music performance including different roles and responsibilities, technical structures, and the mechanisms involved in organising and executing live performances. Participants will engage in a diverse range of performance-related practices such as instrumental setups, stage setup, equipment connectivity and cabling, live sound management, curation techniques, and stage lighting.

### **Electronic Music Studio Practices**

The Electronic Music Studio Practices workshop is dedicated towards familiarising students with the theoretical concepts and practical techniques for creating original works. We'll survey various methods of production while learning how different techniques are applied. One of the major goals of this workshop is centred around gaining a practical understanding of various recording methods, basic signal flow, and important studio techniques.

### **Sequencer, Synthesizer, and Sampler**

The Sequencer, Synthesizer, and Sampler workshop is based on providing the students with a practical understanding of basic synthesis, sampling, and sequencing tools. Common terminology and important vocabulary will be discussed to demystify some of the crucial features of electronic music making tools. Students will use the skills covered in this workshop to solidify their understanding of the content by producing their own original works.

### **Introduction to Max for Live**

This workshop introduces students to the creative possibilities of Max for Live, a key component of the Ableton ecosystem. Students learn the basics of patching with key Max objects while exploring mapping to Ableton tools. They develop performance-ready patches, connecting modular synthesis concepts to practical applications in electronic music. The focus is on building confidence with Max as a customizable environment.

## Sound Design I

Sound Design I is a workshop designed to provide students with an introduction to the skills necessary for crafting sound using electronic instruments. We'll go over the important historic developments of electronic music in order to better understand how we've arrived at the present. Students will also learn the fundamental technical skills in order to gain independence in developing their own sound.

## Development

The development workshop behaves as an anchor or a link between the general ideas discussed in class and the students' independent musical endeavours. This workshop focuses specifically on student's work and helps students apply the knowledge they gain in other workshops to their own music and professional development.

## Year Two – HE Diploma

Semester One	Semester Two	
BIND1: Develop (40 ECTS) BIND1: Refine (20 ECTS)	BIND3: Apply (40 ECTS) BIND4: Venture (20 ECTS)	
Development		
Creative Programming	Mixing Practice	Critical Listening & Mastering
Sound Design II	Instrument and Interface Design	Performance II
Approaches in Modern Composition		
Post studio	Entrepreneurship and Enterprise	

## Year 2

The course content in your second year will focus on:

- Training in mixing and mastering to finalise your recordings.
- Learning advanced synthesis and electronic sound manipulation techniques.
- Gathering comprehensive knowledge of music production hardware and software.



- Imagining, designing and building your own soft- and hardware instruments.
- Working on tools and approaches for public presentation.
- Developing finely honed listening skills.

## **Workshops**

### **Creative Programming**

The Creative Programming workshop is an introduction to the Max/MSP programming environment as well as its Max4Live variant. Students will go over fundamental principles in programming and how these can be applied creatively within Max/MSP. This workshop draws on previous knowledge. In addition, the Creative Programming workshop is designed to get students comfortable with the process of designing and developing personal software tools for music creation and production.

### **Sound Design II**

Students will take part in a practical and theoretical overview of electronic sound design, synthesis and sampling techniques from the mid-1980s until today as well as a strong hands-on exploration of these techniques. The workshops focus heavily on digital audio design and generation methods. The workshop provides touches on techniques as well as varied repertoire relating to each technique to illustrate how technology and culture develop together in an entangled way, constantly cross-pollinating.

### **Approaches in Modern Composition**

This workshop provides an overview and practical exploration of various prominent 20th century composition and arrangement ideas/methods that are strongly rooted in the electronic music theory- Methods that were developed and often used by celebrated artists and composers and that are clearly inspired or informed by music technology. Work in this workshop is based around the creation of musical pieces, group critique and personal reflection.

### **Post Studio**

This workshop aims to explore the context and framing around musical work, transcending genres and styles, and see how this informs its reception, social and political identity and impact on audiences. By looking at diverse pieces in the repertoire of electronic arts, students learn to make decisions and set the tone and context for their own musical works and how these can be received by audiences

### **Mixing Practice**

Expanding on skills and ideas introduced during the first year's Mixing Principles workshop, Mixing Practice provides a deeper exploration of essential mixing techniques, approaches, tools and strategies including analogue mixing desks, listening practices and advanced signal

paths. Together we will explore how to properly orchestrate our music and bring all of its parts together to convey a clear message and emotional charge.

### **Critical Listening and Mastering**

Critical Listening and Mastering focuses on developing critical and analytical listening skills for musicians, audio engineers and producers, through the technical and creative aspects of mastering audio. Students will be introduced to the tools and techniques used to attain a well balanced finished product, whilst also enforcing self evaluation and emotional response through constant reflection.

### **Entrepreneurship**

The Entrepreneurship workshop is designed to introduce the students to the variety of occupations and professional modes musicians, artists and practitioners often use in order to expand their range of activities and support themselves financially. The workshop intends to push students to embed themselves in various roles in the music community / industry as well as pivot their activities and self definition within the constantly changing industry, according to their particular needs.

### **Performance II**

The Performance II workshop is designed to give students a wide overview of the major tools, issues, and concepts surrounding contemporary electronic music performance. Whereas Performance I focused on understanding of the stage and how to manage it, Performance II shifts the attention to the way performance is understood and received by audiences. Practical as well as conceptual tools will be discussed such as improvisation, collaboration, cross-disciplinary practice, and critique.

### **Instrument and interface design**

In these workshops, students will engage with the idea of the musical instrument, the importance of interface and the necessity in playability. We explore various ways for creative interaction with technology- hardware as well as software, understand what we each need our instruments to do for us as well as work to develop unique custom instruments tailored for our specific needs.

### **Development**

The development workshop behaves as an anchor or a link between the general ideas discussed in class and the students' independent musical endeavours. This workshop focuses specifically on student's work and helps students apply the knowledge they gain in other workshops to their own music and professional development. In the second year the development workshop focuses heavily on finding a clearly defined musical identity and actively pursuing it, by understanding the student's individual contribution to their niche in the music industry / community.

## Year Three - Bachelors Degree

Semester One		Semester Two
PUSH1: Frame (10 ECTS) Research and Development	PUSH2: Invent (20 ECTS) - Advanced Production	PUSH3: Launch (10 ECTS) Project Launch
Option I - PUSH4: Process (20 ECTS)		
Option II - PUSH5: Dissertation (20 ECTS)		

### Year 3

- Managing your own creative projects from conceptualisation to realisation.
- Fine-tuning and defining your focus and approach to your creative work.
- Presenting your work to the public and establish yourself within the industry in Berlin and beyond.
- Providing creative input to others' work (sound design, tracks, composition, etc).
- Discovering and developing new and innovative music production methods.

### Major Project

The module descriptions below provide a starting point for how your major project will look and feel. However, the full picture is entirely reliant on your individual choices, made as a result of your time with us. Your major project is covered by the following modules:

#### PUSH1: Frame

Produce and refine a proposal for your major project. Utilising skills and knowledge you've already acquired, set new challenges you don't yet know how to overcome. Be bold, be ambitious and take risks. Become a specialist in the area you are working in, whilst producing a tangible outcome in a medium you can share with the world.

#### PUSH2: Invent

An intensive production period working on practical and artistic research, exploration, production, refinement and completion of your project. Overcome inevitable roadblocks and issues along the way in order to complete a finished artefact. This module includes weekly critique and feedback sessions to support your journey.

#### PUSH3: Launch

Develop and employ an appropriate strategy for getting your work out into the world. We want

your project to connect with people in a way that is meaningful for you and that sets potential creative and practical foundations for your life after Catalyst.

### **Minor Project**

Alongside your major project, you'll have a choice to make between two minor projects (PUSH4 or PUSH5) which will complete your honours year.

#### **PUSH4: Process (Option A)**

Define, develop and provide a service or skill for an external client or collaborator. Document and reflect on the process in relation to professionalism, communication, self-development, standards and expectations. Engage in real-life collaboration, networking, client acquisition, communication and negotiation to further your own professional growth. Thought of in another way, imagine your work life starts now. What do you need to start out in a profession of your choice as a creative professional?

#### **PUSH5: Dissertation (Option B)**

A large-scale research and investigation project culminating in a 10,000-word (+/-10%) written thesis. Define a topic or area that you're passionate about and explore it with as much depth as possible, demonstrating an ability to understand the ideas of others, form your own ideas and opinions and present them coherently in a long-form essay.

By the end of the course, you'll have a strong creative identity, a wide-ranging skill set and a portfolio of work that showcases your evolution as a music producer and performer.

## A Typical Week: Year 1, Semester B, Week 4

### Development

- Begin your *EP Project*: a collection of tracks or pieces to deliver by the end of the year
- Explore how multiple compositions can work together, through contrast or unity, to convey larger ideas
- Study examples from electronic dance music, experimental music, and more

### Sound Design Workshop

- Learn external signal processing techniques including vocoders, feedback, and creative reverb
- Prepare for working with modular synthesis

### Max for Live Workshop

- Introduction to creative programming inside Ableton
- Build custom audio and video synth plugins with Max for Live

### Music Industry Class

- Explore copyright and royalties: how money is made in music from the past to today
- Understand how social media and the democratization of publishing affect musicians' careers
- Learn strategies for financial stability in your own music practice





# Admissions Guide

Here's everything you need to take the next step in your application:

## Get to know us better

**Virtual Open Days** → Get a virtual overview of what we're all about, held over Zoom.

**In-Person Open Day** → Get a first-hand feel of our school and educational programmes.

**Campus Tours** → Come see our facilities and creative spaces at one of our regular tours.

**Virtual Taster Workshops** → Join a programme-specific info event or masterclass

**Admissions Open Hours** → Book your one-to-one application support on-demand.

## Admissions Guidance

1. **Course fees & payment plans**
2. **Early Enrolment Bonus – save €3,000 off total tuition**
3. **Funding & Scholarships**
4. **Application deadlines & Visa requirements**
5. **How to apply**
6. **Contact us**

## 1. Course fees & payment plans

We believe creative education should be accessible, transparent and free from hidden costs. Our tuition plans are flexible – you decide to pay monthly, per semester, annually or in full with discounts. Extended payment options let you spread costs beyond your programme.

Plan type	Standard fee	With Early Enrolment Bonus	With €6,000 scholarship	Duration	Notes
By semester	€5,528	€5,028	€4,528	3 years / 6 sem.	Annual enrolment fee €895
Annually	€10,723	€9,723	€8,723	3 years	3% discount by paying each year upfront. Annual enrolment fee €895
Total tuition upfront	€30,512	€27,512	€24,512	One-time	8% discount by paying total tuition upfront. Annual enrolment fee €895
12 instalments per year	€1,005	€921	€838	3 years	Annual enrolment fee €895
Extended yearly	€8,791	€8,041	€7,291	4 years	Payments continue 1 year after graduation. No enrolment fee for the fourth year.
Extended instalments	€795	€733	€670	4 years	Payments continue 1 year after graduation. No enrolment fee for the fourth year.

### Enrolment fee

This non-refundable fee of €895 per study year is due before the start of each academic year and secures your place. No enrolment fee is charged in the post-graduation year if you choose an Extended Payment Plan.

### Extended payment plans

In addition to single or installment payment options, we offer Extended Payment Plans. This spreads tuition payments over an additional year, resulting in smaller monthly payments that continue for one year after graduation.

### Enrolment confirmation & billing

- **Enrolment fee:** due within 14 days of receiving your offer.
- **Billing cycle:** tuition installments begin **1 July 2026** and are billed on the first of each month until your chosen plan ends.

## 2. Early enrolment bonus

Apply by our **priority deadline** to secure your place, save €3,000 off your total tuition (€1,000 per study year) and access visa support sooner.

- **Visa-required applicants:** apply by 28 February 2026
- **EU/visa-exempt or post-arrival applicants:** apply by 31 March 2026

### 3. Funding opportunities and Catalyst scholarships

As an accredited higher education provider, our students are eligible for a variety of national and international financial aid schemes. This includes the German state funding stream BAföG, which is open to citizens of Germany, EU countries and some non-EU citizens too. Depending on which country you are a citizen of, this may also open up funding from other programmes supporting further-education. [Read more about the various funding opportunities on our website.](#)

We also offer our own [€6,000 scholarships](#) for eligible Bachelor's students. These reduce tuition by €2,000 per year across three years. Scholarship recipients are embedded into the Catalyst community by taking an active role in collaborative projects and event support.

1. **Cultural sound & heritage scholarship:** For producers and performers using music or sound to explore, reinterpret or preserve cultural traditions, community histories or personal heritage.
2. **Equity in audio & music technology scholarship:** For underrepresented and structurally excluded students aiming to enter electronic music, sound or audio tech.
3. **Experimental & interdisciplinary sound practice scholarship:** For students pushing the boundaries of music and sound through innovative tools, cross-disciplinary approaches or unconventional techniques.
4. **Creative pathways career switchers scholarship:** For students with previous degree or career experience in a different field who are now making a purposeful transition into music, sound or audio-based disciplines.

### 4. Application deadlines

#### Visa-required applicants

- Priority: 28 February 2026 (includes bonus & visa support)
- General: 30 April 2026 (subject to processing time and availability)

#### EU/visa-exempt or post-arrival applicants

- Priority: 31 March 2026 (includes bonus & guaranteed spot on preferred course)
- General: 5 June 2026 (granted on a rolling basis)
- Late: until 28 August 2026 (subject to availability)

## Visa requirements

- **Visa-required:** If you require a visa before entering Germany (e.g. citizens of India, Brazil, Mexico, China, Turkey), you must apply at a German embassy before arrival. Our Visa Support Service (included in the enrolment fee) supports you with paperwork, appointments and timelines. Visa processing can take 3–6 months, so early application is essential.
- **Post-arrival visa:** If you're from a country that allows visa-free entry (e.g. USA, Canada, Japan, South Korea), you can enter Germany without a visa and apply for your student residence permit after arrival.
- **Visa-exempt (EU/EEA/Switzerland):** If you're a citizen of the EU, EEA or Switzerland, you don't need a visa or residence permit to study in Germany.

## 5. How to apply

Our application process is straightforward – just follow these seven steps:

1. **Check deadlines** – especially if you need a visa to enter Germany or financial support.
2. **Prepare your portfolio** – requirements vary by course, check our “How to apply” page.
3. **Submit your application** at [catalyst-berlin.com/apply](https://catalyst-berlin.com/apply), including personal and educational details, a motivation statement, your portfolio and supporting documents such as transcripts or proof of language ability.
4. **Apply for a scholarship** (if eligible) – by completing the additional Scholarship Form, which requires an additional motivation letter and background information.
5. **Wait for our response** – we'll be in touch within around two weeks. Sometimes we'll ask for follow-up information or invite you for an interview. Keep an eye on your inbox.
6. **Confirm your place** – once you receive an offer letter, secure it by paying the enrollment fee within 14 days.
7. **Get ready for Berlin** – once your enrolment fee is paid, you're officially enrolled. Next you'll set up your payment plan, receive your welcome package and access preparation materials for your studies. We recommend finding accommodation as soon as you're sure that you're studying with us, and arriving one month before your classes begin.

## Contact & resources

Reach out to our Admissions team by email at [admissions@catalyst-berlin.com](mailto:admissions@catalyst-berlin.com) or book a call [here](#).