

catalyst

2026

BACHELOR OF ARTS / HE CERTIFICATE

Electronic Music Production & Performance

Develop your creative practice as an
electronic music production artist

Table of contents

Overview	2
Where you'll learn	3
Your creative community	5
Our teaching philosophy	8
A future-facing creative toolkit	9
Course structure & learning outcomes	11
Module overview by semester	12
Admissions Guide	21
Application deadlines	23
Visa requirements	25
Contact & resources	25

Teaching Institution: Catalyst – Institute of Creative Arts and Technology

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

Location: Berlin

Mode of study: Full time

Language of instruction: English

Awarding Institution: Plymouth Marjon University

Overview

Electronic sound and music: compose, produce, perform.

The **Electronic Music Production & Performance BA** is a programme for musicians who want to compose, produce, perform and publish their own music. Explore electronic music and sound from foundational principles, and develop work from concept to finished outcome: design original sounds, record and mix in the studio, and create performances using both hardware and software tools. Engage with a wide range of approaches, techniques, and technologies while defining a clear artistic direction and a distinctive sound.

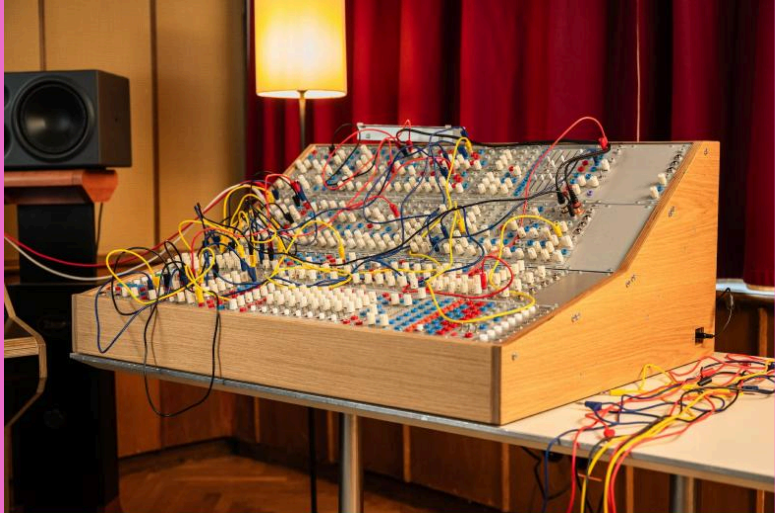
The programme supports technical development, critical and conceptual thinking, and sustained creative growth. As you progress, you develop your artistic voice, learn to collaborate with others, and gain confidence in presenting your work publicly. Through experimentation, practice, reflection, and feedback, you refine your methods, take informed creative risks, and build towards a long-term career.

We start from the position that music is a social phenomenon and a potentially transformative activity. It can change perspectives, and by doing so, change lives. As an aspiring artist, you are encouraged to be aware of the potential influence of your work. This programme treats that seriously.

What you'll gain:

Throughout this programme, you'll develop the creative, conceptual, and technical skills needed to realise musical ideas in both recording and performance. You'll build confidence in your artistic identity and develop a clear basis for decision-making in the studio and on stage.

- Skills in composition, production, performance, and electronic sound design
- A confident knowledge of synthesisers, samplers, DAWs, and related tools, and how to use them creatively
- The ability to design, build, code, or assemble original musical instruments in hardware and software form
- The ability to take a project from initial concept to a finished outcome
- A deep understanding of your artistic identity and working methods
- Real-world experience through collaboration, critique, and public presentations
- The perspective and habits needed to keep developing artistically and professionally over the long term



Where you'll learn - A campus built around how you work

The Electronic Music Production & Performance programme sits within our School of Music & Sound, alongside our Schools for Film & Visual Media, Acting, and Creative Human Development. All four schools share the same facilities: a 5400m² creative campus in central Berlin with every room shaped around the work that happens inside it. Within this creative ecosystem you'll be creating alongside actors rehearsing, filmmakers on set, visual artists rendering, writers workshopping. We also have our very own grassroots student-run radio station: **Etikett Radio**. Endless opportunities to collaborate await.

Our facilities are designed with one thing in mind: maximising hands-on access to the work you came here to do. 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.

Highlights include:

25 music and sound studios — including recording and mastering rooms, production suites, an electronic performance space with spatial sound, a Dolby Atmos system, and a radio studio.

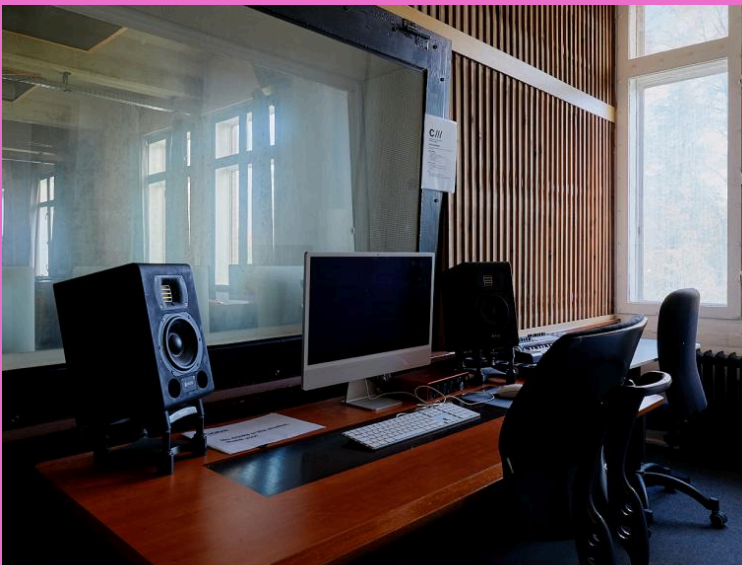
P1 — Electronic music production studio and multi-channel (8-channel) mixing suite, with Neumann KH-310a monitors and KH-810 subwoofer (main room) and HEDD monitoring (multi-channel room).

P1MS — Our large, custom-built Serge-format modular synthesiser in Studio P1. It is one of a kind, designed by our own team for sonic exploration as well as teaching. Aside from its distinctive sound and character, working with it supports close listening, helps you understand signal flow and sound shaping, and encourages experimentation through playing. P1MS sits alongside our digital studios as a different way of thinking and making, focused on touch, attention, and discovery.

“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. [\[Click here to book a visit →\]](#)



Define your musical voice in Berlin

Berlin is one of the world's key cities for contemporary music and sound. Its club culture is part of that identity, with venues such as Berghain and Tresor recognised internationally, but the city's musical ecosystem extends far beyond nightlife into experimental practice, concert culture, technology, film, and the arts.

Alongside major clubs, Berlin hosts festivals and platforms that focus on adventurous work, including CTM, Berlin Atonal, and MaerzMusik. The city also supports dedicated venues for listening and performance such as silent green, Radialsystem, Roter Salon and HAU (Hebbel am Ufer), and spaces for spatial sound and focused listening such as MONOM. Across these contexts you will find communities working in techno and related club forms, as well as noise, electroacoustic practice, contemporary music, improvisation, hip-hop, pop, and many hybrid approaches.

Berlin is also a major centre for music technology. Next to companies such as Ableton, Native Instruments, and Bitwig, there is a dense network of smaller hardware and software developers, supported by specialist shops and meeting points such as SchneidersLaden. For emerging artists, this mix creates many routes to share work and build collaborations, from clubs and small venues to concert spaces, festivals, workshops, and cross-disciplinary projects.

For you, this means Berlin is not just a backdrop for your studies. It is an active part of them. The scenes, networks, and institutions here become resources you learn to navigate, contribute to, and draw from as you develop your practice and build a professional life.

“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



Your creative community

At Catalyst you'll be joining musicians, producers, performers, and sonic artists from more than 70 countries, in a community where collaboration is part of how work is made. Day to day, you share skills, exchange feedback, and develop your practice through joint projects and direct critique.

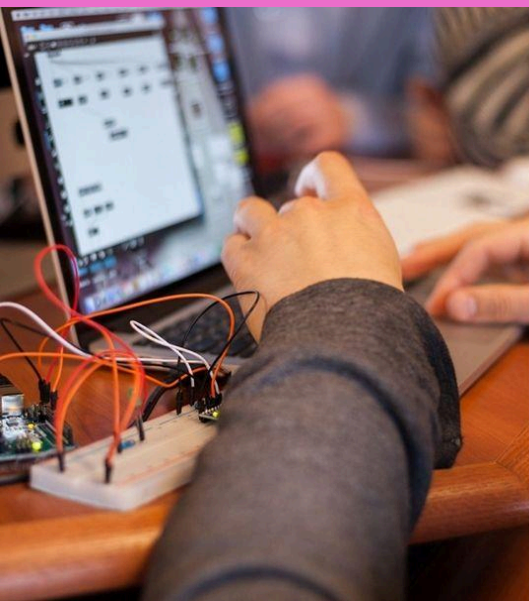
Because all of Catalyst's creative schools share one campus, your collaborators aren't limited to other musicians. Film students need original scores. Actors need soundscapes. Visual media projects need sonic thinking. These crossovers happen naturally and they stretch your practice in directions you wouldn't find working alone.

Outside the studio, the student experience extends into Etikett Radio shows, the T.A.P.E. experimental ensemble, Guest Sessions with visiting artists, listening parties, and Artistry Connect meetups. Berlin's music scene means internationally recognised artists regularly pass through and work with students directly. You'll present your music publicly, receive constructive feedback, and build the confidence to share work on your own terms.

We also encourage you to look beyond what already exists. Finding, building, and fostering your own creative communities is a skill we take seriously. By becoming someone who creates opportunities for others, you become better positioned to receive them yourself, and in Berlin, the pathways to do that are real and accessible.

This programme does not privilege one scene, tradition, or sound over another. We expect students to engage seriously with work that is different from their own and to consider how it might influence their music.

[\[Click here to explore the student experience →\]](#)



Our teaching philosophy

We combine intensive, hands-on training with critical enquiry. EMP brings together applied, industry-facing technical training and research-level artistic practice in one coherent, challenging pedagogy. We take ideas seriously wherever they come from, from club culture and folk traditions to contemporary and experimental music. Through working on multiple projects, we ask students to test their ideas in practice, in context, and in public. Across the programme, students build a portfolio of projects that reflects their own interests, methods, and artistic direction.

This approach has been developed and refined over more than a decade by the people who teach on the programme. It has grown through sustained work with students, tested in real teaching situations, and refined year after year. It is defined by directness and clarity, high standards, and a commitment to what we believe makes a strong education:

Context and enquiry

From “how” to “why”: Technique matters, but so does meaning. We extend the focus from how something is made to why it is made, what it does, and where it sits culturally, within the lineage of ideas that shaped it. Students develop the ability to articulate intention and context, not only outcomes.

Genre-neutral practice

Serious work across diverse traditions: We value many forms of musical activity and do not teach through stylistic gatekeeping. We support students in developing a personal voice through work that grows from their own questions and influences, while experimenting and engaging with different communities, histories, and aesthetics, including club forms, experimental practice, popular music, and beyond.

High aims and critical thinking

Ambition with rigour: We set high expectations for quality, depth, and ambition. Students are challenged to assess information, solve problems creatively, reflect on their process, and develop a habit of critique that strengthens both artistic decisions and technical outcomes.

Technological literacy and musicianship

Technology as instrument: We teach technology through first principles, and support a deep understanding of tools as instruments. Students develop strong intuition for the tools available now, learn to recognise emerging technologies, and engage with the wider conversations around them. Technology is treated as creative material and assessed by what it enables artistically, and how it shapes musical thinking and practice.

Adaptability

A curriculum that evolves with the field: Our curriculum adapts quickly in response to developments in music technology and cultural practice. We review and update content to reflect changes in tools, practices, and contexts. At the same time, we teach principles, methods, and habits that help students stay responsive: learning new tools critically, understanding what they afford, and making informed choices.

Longevity, professionalism, and community

Sustained practice in a shared field: We support students in building sustainable practices and careers, including the organisational and interpersonal skills needed to navigate uncertain cultural and economic landscapes. Professionalism is understood as competence plus attitude: curiosity, mutual respect, and responsibility to collaborators and communities. We also encourage students to participate in existing scenes and to build new communities that create opportunities for others as well as themselves.



An environment for artistic development: teaching, expertise and wellbeing

At Catalyst, you're supported by experienced creative professionals who bring active industry practice into the studio. As musicians, composers, producers, performers, artists and educators, they understand the realities of a creative career. Through structured workshops, open exploration and one-to-one tutorials, they offer direct questions, honest feedback and space for reflection, helping you define your own artistic direction and set meaningful goals.

Our specialist music technicians are an essential part of this support system, ensuring the technical environment is ready for you every day. You can expect:

- Well-maintained studios and equipment for recording, production and performance
- Clear, practical troubleshooting for hardware, software and studio routing
- On-site support during sessions, classes and events
- Guidance on studio gear and signal flow
- Advice on choosing the right tools, from synthesisers to microphones
- Support in setting you up in our studios and production suites for quality sessions

The genre-neutral structure of our programme allows you to shape your own relationship with a wide range of instruments and performance systems, whether commercial or self-built, in hardware or software. Together, tutors and technicians create a responsive, artist-centred environment where you can experiment, evolve and keep moving forward.

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** – confidential sessions with qualified professionals to support emotional wellbeing, anxiety, creative blocks, conflict resolution and life transitions
- **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

A future-facing creative toolkit

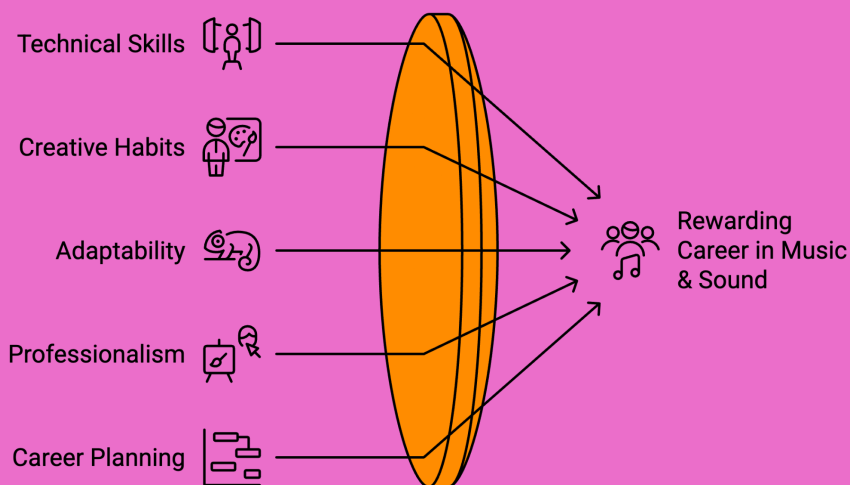
This programme equips you with the practical, industry-relevant skills that enable you to build a strong portfolio and a credible, future-facing CV as a professional in music, sound and sonic arts.

Alongside your technical ability, you'll cultivate the habits that underpin long-term creative practice: self-direction, resilience, reflection and the confidence to give and receive feedback. Through iterative project work, you learn how to refine ideas, adapt to change and define your own artistic direction. These skills are among the most valuable tools you will gain on the programme, and they transfer to any challenge or creative direction you decide to pursue.

As music and technology continue to evolve, the curriculum prioritises adaptability. You strengthen skills in problem-solving, communication and independent learning, preparing you to navigate shifting cultural and professional landscapes. You'll also learn to articulate your ideas clearly, express yourself professionally and develop the organisational and entrepreneurial awareness needed to sustain a musical practice.

The programme also prepares you to think clearly about your own professional life. You'll learn to write about your work and present yourself with confidence, develop entrepreneurial and organisational skills, and build the literacy to pursue further study, curatorial practice, writing, or other inquiry-based work if you choose. At Catalyst, our goal is to train you to sustain an independent practice over the long term and build a rewarding and meaningful career as an artist.

Your ingredients for artistic success



Course structure & learning outcomes

Across the programme, you build a portfolio of projects that reflects your own interests, methods, and artistic direction.

Year 1 focuses on foundations and broad experimentation: composition, production, recording, electronic sound design, mixing, and performance. You begin developing your portfolio and establishing a working identity as a musician, producer, and performer.

Year 2 moves into more focused and rigorous territory, deepening both the complexity of the work and the definition of your own artistic voice. You explore advanced composition, synthesis, and production methods, experiment with instrument and interface design, and engage with methodologies and ideas that reach beyond current practical trends. You work independently as well as collaboratively and present your music publicly.

Year 3 is centred on focus, independence, and confident artistic direction. You lead a substantial self-directed major project from initial concept to public presentation, and develop a professional strategy for bringing your work into the world, whether through performance, publication, or sustained creative practice.



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

Module overview by semester

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

Please note our credit system. Our courses are validated in the UK, meaning we use CATS (Credit Accumulation Transfer System), rather than ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System). Generally, the number is doubled: 20 CATS = 10 ECTS.

Year 1 – HE Certificate

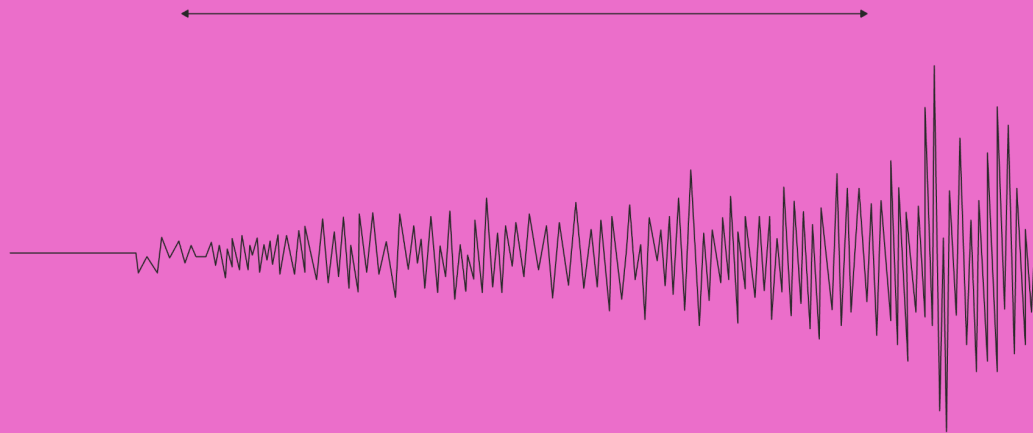
Semester One		Semester Two	
SYNC1: Create (20 CATS) SYNC2: Craft (20 CATS) SYNC3: Explore (20 CATS)		SYNC4: Shape (20 CATS) SYNC5: Form (20 CATS) SYNC6: Locate (20 CATS)	
Development			
Electronic Music Studio Skills		Sound Design I	Mixing Principles
Sequencing, Synthesis and Sampling	Audio Production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

Year 1 Focus

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.

A week in your first semester:



Music and Culture	Sequencer, Synthesizer, Sampler	Electronic Music Studio Practices	Development	Personal projects
Explore how music shapes and is shaped by culture, technology and society (2 hours)	Hands-on with the core tools of electronic music (4 hours)	Recording methods, signal flow and studio techniques (4 hours)	Connect what you're learning in workshops to your own music, artistic direction and professional growth (2 hours)	Your time, your direction — experiment, produce and develop work on your own terms using campus studios and facilities (unlimited)

Year 1 Modules

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

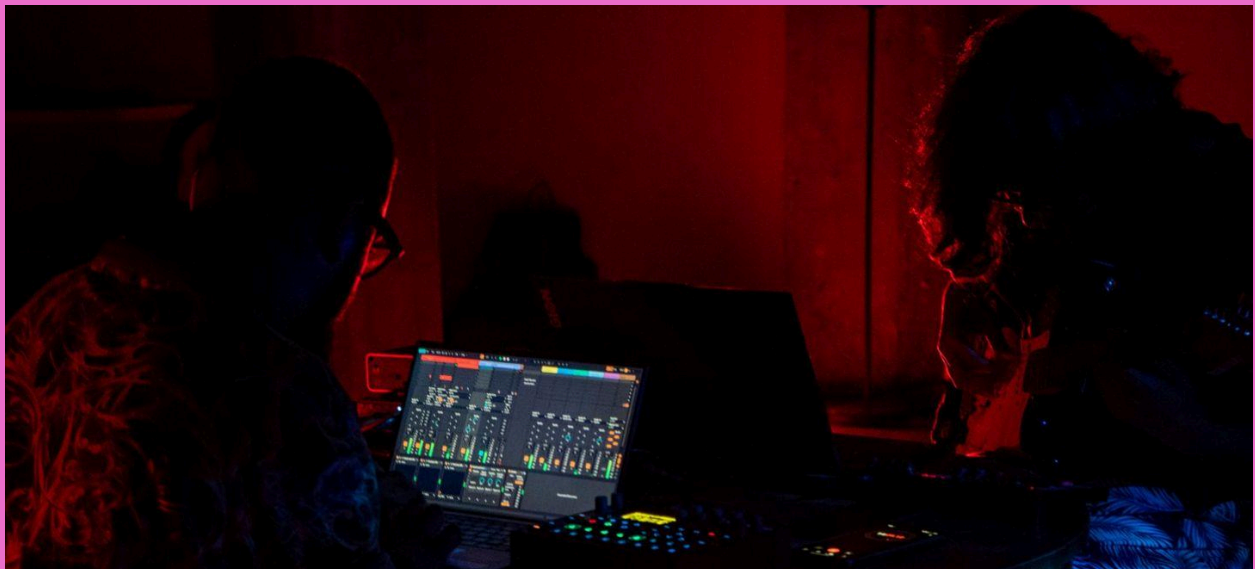
This workshop introduces students to the creative possibilities of Max for Live, a key component of the Ableton ecosystem. Students learn the basics of patching with key Max objects while exploring mapping to Ableton tools. They develop performance-ready patches, connecting modular synthesis concepts 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 CATS) BIND1: Refine (20 CATS)	BIND3: Apply (40 CATS) BIND4: Venture (20 CATS)	
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 Focus

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.

Year 2 Modules

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 (20 CATS) Research and Development	PUSH2: Invent (40 CATS) - Advanced Production	PUSH3: Launch (20 CATS) Project Launch	
Option I - PUSH4: Process (40 CATS)			
Option II - PUSH5: Dissertation (40 CATS)			

Year 3 Focus

- 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.

Year 3 Modules

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)

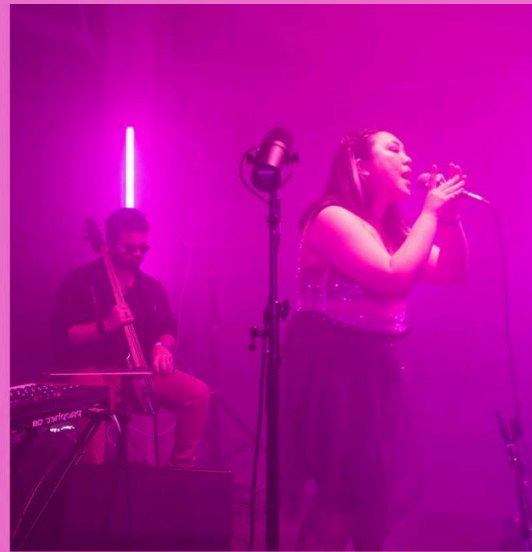
Define, develop and provide a service or skill for an external client or collaborator. Document and reflect on the process in relation to professionalism, communication, self-development, standards and expectations. Engage in real-life collaboration, networking, client acquisition, communication and 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.

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.





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

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.](#)**

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, including personal and educational details, a motivation statement, your portfolio and supporting documents such as transcripts or proof of language ability.
4. **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.
5. **Confirm your place** – once you receive an offer letter, secure it by paying the enrollment fee within 14 days.
6. **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 or book a call [here](#).