STEREO



MUSIC





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Contents

Five reasons to study	3	
Careers information	6	
Where to find us	10	
Get career ready with us	12	
Courses	14	
Supported learning	18	
UCEN Manchester higher education	20	
How to apply	22	
What's next?	23	



Reasons to Study

Music at
The Manchester College



Get career ready from day one

Our courses are designed with employability in mind, giving you real-world skills for roles in music production, sound engineering, live sound and studio recording and more - all linked to Greater Manchester's vibrant music sector.



Learn from industry experts

You'll be taught by experienced tutors who bring real music knowledge into the classroom, helping you understand what employers are looking for right now. Find out more about your tutors on our website: tmc.ac.uk/music.





Experience music in action

Through work placements, employer-led projects, and visits to top employers, you'll build practical experience that looks great on your CV.



Discover what inspires you

Start with a solid music foundation, then specialise in areas that match your goals and interests as you progress – from music production and sound design to mixing, mastering and live performance.



Go beyond the classroom

Take part in enrichment activities, enterprise challenges and networking events that develop your confidence, leadership and problem-solving skills - all key for success in the music sector.









Job figures

There were approx. **3,202** employees working in the music sector in Greater Manchester in 2025. This is predicted to increase by **8.5%** by 2028.



Average earnings

The average wage in Greater Manchester is £28,414 per annum (2024).



Replacement demand

Around **496** of the current workforce will be reaching retirement in the next 10 years, meaning those jobs will need replacing.

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DJ

Film / TV / Game Composer

Live Sound Engineer

Music Journalist

Music Producer

Music Publisher

Press Agent

Recording Artist

Songwriter

Tour Manager

Skills needed

Communication

Creativity

Editing

Management

Marketing

Planning

Post-production

Project management

Social media

Video editing

Examples of GM Employers

AO Arena

BBC

BBC Radio Manchester

BIMM

Brighter Sound

ITV

Manchester International Festival

Sharp Project

The Bridgewater Hall

The Royal Exchange Theatre

Data sourced from Lightcast April 2025.

College introduced me to experienced tutors, lifelong friends, and valuable skills for my dream career. As someone with ADHD, I felt incredibly supported and included.



CallumLevel 3 Music Performance



Where to find us

With excellent transport links, modern classrooms and vibrant social spaces, you can study Music courses in our industry standard facilities at our City Campus Manchester.







- Two state-of-the art band teaching rooms
- Adjoining practice rooms for rehearsal
- A DJ classroom with four booths
- Three control rooms with mixing desks
- Two studio live rooms
- Grab a Starbucks or a slice from the pizza bar choose from hot and cold food options
- Hot-desk study zones
- Library with study areas, laptop loans and space for Careers and Support teams.

Teaching also takes place at our partnership venue Band on the Wall in the heart of the vibrant Northern Quarter, just fifteen minutes' walk from City Campus Manchester.

Get career ready with us

We're here to help you achieve your goals and get career-ready. Our courses are designed with top employers to focus on in-demand skills.

From day one, you'll gain hands-on experience to build confidence. By the end, you'll have the qualifications, knowledge and experience to stand out and take the next step in your career.



Building your employability

To get you career-ready, you'll take part in activities that boost your skills and understanding of the world of work. You'll be supported by a dedicated Employability Coordinator who will support you to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours you'll need to thrive in the workplace.

Real-world experience that counts

As part of your course, you'll complete work experience with an employer. We'll help you find a placement where you can:

- Shadow professionals and see how the job is done day-to-day
- Contribute to real projects that develop your skills and strengthen your CV
- Grow in confidence as you put learning into action.

Many of our students make such a strong impression that they even secure part-time or full-time jobs with their placement provider!

We work with leading employers to deliver our placements, including:









Discover where music can take you

We'll introduce you to a wide range of career options in the music sector through:

- Performances at iconic Manchester venues like The Bridgewater Hall, The Academy and Band on the Wall
- · Visits and Q&As with experts in their field
- Masterclasses from leading employers
- Industry conferences to network with professionals.





This will help you decide which path to take after your course — whether that's progressing to degree-level study with our higher education provider UCEN Manchester, starting an apprenticeship, going straight into employment, or setting up as an independent artist or producer.

Courses

We offer qualifications from Level 1 to Level 3. If you haven't already obtained a Grade 4 GCSE in English or maths, you'll study to work towards achieving this qualification. We also offer courses for those aged over 19 and looking to upskill, retrain or progress.



Music Production – DJ and Live Electronic Music

Level 3 | City Campus Manchester | 2 years | 16-18

In the first year, you'll cover studio production, creating music through production, music technology for live events, and planning a career in the industry. In the second year, you'll focus on a self-directed project such as recording an album or composing music for TV, film or games, and collaborate with your peers to organise a live event, festival or recording project. The programme gives you hands-on experience and practical skills for a future in music.

Music Performance

Level 3 | City Campus Manchester | 2 years | 16-18

In the first year, you'll build core music skills — performing as a band, creating material, exploring styles, learning practical theory and planning a career in the industry. In year two, you'll specialise in an area like performance, songwriting, recording, producing, composing or teaching, completing an individual project such as an album or music for film and TV. You'll also collaborate with peers to plan and deliver a major live event, gaining experience through performances at venues including Manchester's iconic Band on the Wall.

Music Production - Live Sound

Level 3 | City Campus Manchester | 2 years | 16-18

In the first year, you'll build your knowledge of studio production, creating music through production, music technology for live events and planning a career in the industry. In the second year, you'll complete a self-directed project, such as recording an album or creating a portfolio, and collaborate with peers to organise and deliver a live event, festival or gig. You'll also gain hands-on, industry-relevant work experience, ensuring you have the practical skills and experience needed for a career in music.

Music Performance and Production – Blended

Level 2 | City Campus Manchester | 2 years | 16-18

Designed for aspiring musicians and vocalists, this hands-on programme develops both performance and production skills. You'll hone your playing, singing and stage presence, while gaining experience recording, sequencing and mixing in professional studios and Logic Pro Mac suites. Through collaborative and solo projects, you'll create, produce and perform original music, gaining valuable industry insights and exploring careers in music. The course culminates with a final major project and live performance at Manchester's iconic Band on the Wall venue.

Music Performance and Production – Production Pathway

Level 2 | City Campus Manchester | 1 year | 16-18

Perfect for anyone looking to build their skills in music recording, production, DJing or event promotion, this Level 2 programme explores the essentials of music technology and studio practice. You'll gain hands-on experience with industry-standard equipment and software, while developing core transferable skills vital for working in the music industry. From recording and mixing tracks to understanding event production, this course gives you a strong foundation for further study or starting a career in music and live events.

Music Performance and Production – Performance Pathway

Level 2 | City Campus Manchester | 1 year | 16-18

Explore the music industry and build your skills as a musician, focusing on performance with your chosen instrument or voice and gaining experience working as part of a band. You'll learn music theory, composition and how to create original tracks using a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW). The programme also offers opportunities to perform live at a range of venues, including Manchester's iconic Band on the Wall, giving you practical experience and boosting your confidence as an emerging music professional.

Music Technology and Production

Level 2 | City Campus Manchester | 1 year | 19+

Building on the skills developed at Level 1, this course introduces more advanced skills techniques in both recording and sequencing and prepares learners for study at Level 3. The music industry is also explored, including looking at how to make money out of music and promote your music to a wider audience.

Music, Performing and Production Arts (Music Pathway)

Level 1 | City Campus Manchester | 1 year | 16-18

Ideal for anyone new to music technology, this hands-on programme introduces the essentials of professional music production. You'll learn how to record and mix multi-track recordings, create beats and remix tracks using industry-standard software like Logic Pro. You'll also explore the basics of DJ technology with equipment used by music professionals. Performers will also have the opportunity to explore and develop their musical skills through practical sessions and collaborative projects. Alongside gaining technical skills, you'll build key transferable abilities that will support your progression to further study or a future career in the music production industry.

SUPPORTED LEARNING

Promoting independence through accessibility and inclusion.

Have you received learning support in the past? Do you have an Education, Health and Care Plan or an identified Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) need? Our Supported Learning team can help students with SEND to achieve their aspirational career goals.

We provide a highly personalised offer for students to create a supportive learning environment for all. Whatever course you choose to study, our provision is specifically designed to support you on your journey to independence and into further education or employment.

Find out more about how we can help you: tmc.ac.uk/supported-learning







Additional Learning Support Team: specialistsupport@tmc.ac.uk

Transition Team: transitionteam@tmc.ac.uk





DEGREE LEVEL

Delivered by The Arden School of Theatre at UCEN Manchester, this programme aims to train and support creative individuals who aspire to have a career that utilises their creative skills.

Study a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Studies and Performance

You'll cover a range of topics including:

- Contextualising Performance
 - Skills for the Vocalist
 - Solo Singing Techniques
 - General Musicianship.

For more information or to apply visit ucenmanchester.ac.uk





How to apply

Applying to study at The Manchester College is really easy. Just follow these steps and you'll be on your journey to amazing in no time.



What's next?

You've explored what's possible, now it's time to take your next steps.

To discover more about Music, and to start your application, scan the QR code or visit: tmc.ac.uk/music.

Visit us

There's no better way to get a feel for college than visiting in person.

Join us at one of our open events to:

- Learn more about our courses
- Tour our industry-standard facilities
- Meet our expert tutors
- Ask any questions you may have.

Secure your place now: tmc.ac.uk/events





Contact Us

% @TheMcrCollege

Got a question about one of our courses, about The Manchester College or just need to get in touch? Contact us:





03333 222 444

All course information is correct at the time of publication and may be subject to change. For the latest details, please visit tmc.ac.uk.







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The Manchester College is committed to equality of opportunity, non-discriminatory practices and supporting individual learners. This information is also available in a range of formats, such as large print, on request.