

# Welcome to Music at Brunel

A dark blue circular logo with the text "Discover Brunel" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Discover  
Brunel

## Congratulations on securing your place at Brunel

We're looking forward to meeting you - either in person or online - and introducing you to life at Brunel.

To help us get started, we've put together a short activity and some further information to help you prepare for your course - including a snapshot of the topics you'll cover and useful resources.

If you have any questions please email [cbass-tpo-gask@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:cbass-tpo-gask@brunel.ac.uk).

## Pre-arrival activity

We'd like you to complete a short activity before you join us. We can discuss your answers in one of your first personal tutor sessions. Your work will not be officially assessed however it will allow your tutor to get to know you better.

**Please give some thought to the questions and tasks below, which relate to the modules you will be taking in the first year.**

### Materials of music

- How would you define consonance and dissonance?
- What is voice leading?

### Ways of hearing

- Select a favourite piece of music.
- Identify something unique or compelling in relation to the style/construction of the piece (how it works) – perhaps something about the harmony, the rhythmic style, the overall form.
- Identify something about the music which defines the context and culture from which it came.

### Composing

- What is a mode?
- In what ways might studying composition be useful to someone who doesn't plan to become a composer?

### Ensemble

- What characterises a great performer?
- Choose two performers that inspire you (from any genre) and describe how they relate to the characteristics you chose.

## Studio production

- Define in simple terms the harmonic series
- Name up to five microphone types and their typical uses

## Professional development

- What are your strengths and weaknesses as a musician?
- What are you most passionate about?
- What are you most looking forward to exploring in your three years at University?

## Sample lecture topics

As you progress through your degree, these are the types of questions you'll be able to answer with confidence:

1. What do you understand by the term 'counterpoint' and how does it relate to music?
2. What sort of musician do you want to be and how might a study of performers from various genres help you in this goal?
3. Describe two different types of microphone and their typical uses.

## Reading list

- Winterson, J. (2014) Music Theory: The Essential Guide. London: Faber
- Klickstein, G. (2009) The Musician's Way: A Guide to Practice, Performance, and Wellness. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Heil, B. (2012). [It All Starts With The Microphone: Things You Were Never Told](#)

We look forward to meeting you in Welcome Week (Monday 21 – Friday 25 September).

*Music Team*



Find out more about Welcome Week  
[brunel.ac.uk/welcome-week](https://brunel.ac.uk/welcome-week)

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