

Careers and Employability Service

What can I do with my degree?

Music

Welcome:

We have developed this recourse pack to help you research specific job sectors which may be of particular interest to Music students. The type of resource you use will depend on the type and style of Music you wish to pursue.

- **Prospects.ac.uk** - Options with Music
The Prospects site includes information and advice covering: Your skills, job options, career areas, further study, what next, case studies, contacts, and job search sites.
- **Indeed** – Search for music related roles in the local area or further afield with indeed.co.uk.
- **Musical Chairs** – A site dedicated to classical music opportunities. Information on classical music jobs, competitions, and instrument sales in 100 different countries.
- **British Record Music Industry** – BPI represents the UK’s recorded music industry, which is one of the most exciting and thriving music sectors in the world. As a trade body BPI champion, the interests of more than 300 independent music companies and the UK’s major record labels.
- **Warner Music Group** – WMG is home to a collection of the best-known record labels in the music industry and one of the world’s leading music publishers. Check out their Jobs & Internships.
- **Berklee College of Music, Careers Resources** – Check out this comprehensive website of information and resources covering careers in composition and song writing to film scoring and electronic production.
- **BBC 1 Xtra, Get Ahead In Music** – Check out this A-Z resource of jobs in the industry with top tips from industry insiders including podcasts, profiles and work experience opportunities.

- **OXJAM** – Get involved in this massive one month music festival in aid of Oxfam and gain vital work experience of performance opportunities as a Gig Maker.

Social Media Advice:

The internet provides songwriters, composers and musicians with an unprecedented number of ways to showcase their creativity to the public, press and industry.

Advances in the way the internet operates mean that even the most non-technical musician can now put together an online presence which will help to gather a fanbase and keep them informed of live events, sell releases and merchandise, provide resources for the press, and even effectively reach the ears of the world's A&R staff.

Whether you decide to launch a fully-fledged artist website, a blog, a Twitter account, a YouTube channel, a Facebook profile or all of them, you will undoubtedly benefit from putting your music online.

SKILLS:

A Music degree gives you a broad base of skills and disciplines that are prized by employers. Those identified by **Prospects** include:

General Skills:

- analytical, critical thinking, research, writing, communication and presentation skills - developed through reading, seminar discussions and writing essays/dissertations.
- IT skills - through the use of standard software packages, the internet and email.

Specific skills and attributes:

- powers of memory, physical dexterity and concentration - developed in practice and performance.
- communication skills - developed through performing and engaging listeners.
- teamwork - through working in bands or orchestras as a player, leader or manager.
- self-management - physical and mental self-discipline achieved through regular practice.
- performing under pressure - overcoming nervousness in order to perform well during exams, concerts and auditions.
- planning - organising and working towards a project/performance.
- commercial awareness - managing salary gained from performance or teaching.

- technical skills - using technology to create and record music
- critical reflection - giving and receiving criticism, learning from mistakes, and striving for improved performance

Other skills and knowledge:

- knowledge of issues and professional ethics in the arts world;
- understanding of different perspectives and cultures - through possible study abroad opportunities, use of music in community projects or the study of world/ethnic traditions;
- technical expertise - i.e. the study of acoustics;
- teaching.

Finding Job Vacancies:

As a graduate from Music you can go into a wide range of occupations, some open to all graduates, and some particularly relevant to your degree. Information and advice about how to find out about employment opportunities can be found on our [Career Planning webpages](#) and on the [Prospects website](#).

When applying for vacancies you may need support in constructing a CV, filling out an Application Form, drafting a Cover Letter or preparing for Interview. We offer support on all of these areas via our [Job Application Resources webpages](#). Careers in Music may require a different type of marketing, including websites, and auditions for jobs in performance are common. Skills in business and a flair for entrepreneurship are often useful as many musicians are self-employed.

Music Related Jobs and Internships:

The information below can be used to find job vacancies that are related to your programme, and/or to build understanding of relevant roles. Quite often Music graduates who wish to enter the a career directly related to the degree programme take on a selection of short term project and contract roles to gain experience and form connections in the industry or seek further study opportunities within a related programme e.g. MMus in Performance, PGCE in Music or MA in Music Therapy. It can take several years to establish yourself in the music industry, but with determination it is possible to make a living from music. Make the most of the opportunities provided by the University to meet and network with alumni from Music at the University of Southampton and learn from their experiences.

- **MU Musicians Union** – a globally-respected organisation which represents over 30,000 musicians working in all sectors of the music business. As well as negotiating on behalf of musicians with all the major employers in the industry, the MU offers a range of services tailored for the self-employed by providing assistance for professional and student musicians of all ages.

- **ISM Incorporated Society of Musicians** - The UK's professional body for musicians. Championing the importance of music and protect the rights of those working within music through a range of services, campaigns, support and practical advice.
- **ABO Association of British Orchestras** - the national body representing the collective interests of professional orchestras, youth ensembles and the wider classical music industry throughout the UK.
- **BAMT British Association of Music Therapists** - the professional body for music therapists and a source of information, support and involvement for the general public.
- **The Ivors Academy** - BASCA exists to support and protect the artistic, professional, commercial and copyright interests of songwriters, lyricists and composers of all genres of music and to celebrate and encourage excellence in British music writing.
- **PRS for Music** - home to in excess of 100,000 songwriter, composer and publisher members. One of the world's most efficient collecting societies and are affiliated to a global network of equivalent member organisations.