

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR COURSE

BSC (HONS) GAME AUDIO

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The future of the audio industry is interactive. Every day new applications and games are released. With millions of users across the globe buying into interactive content for their personal devices and home entertainment systems anyone serious about working in sound simply cannot ignore this exciting and rapidly expanding industry. The UK is a world leader in this field and Futureworks is a world leader in educating for this sector, teaching in the field of game audio since 2009.

Futureworks boasts incredible studios and facilities, all available to you throughout your studies. No matter what style or genre you prefer to work in, we have the right combination to meet your creative and technical needs.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Standard Entry: Applicants are required to have at least a Level 4 or grade 'C' in GCSEs Maths and English Language or equivalent and 104 or above UCAS points (for example B, C, C or above at A2 Level, DMM or above at BTEC Extended Diploma Level, M or above at UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma Level) and a proven interest in the subject area. Qualifications such as Graded Examinations in Music Performance and Arts Award (Gold) can also count towards your UCAS points.

International Entry: Equivalent international qualifications will be considered towards meeting the entry requirements for standard entry. Additionally, international applicants will need to have an English Language qualification at International Level B2 or higher, such as an IELTS of 6.0 or better (with 5.5 in each skill: reading, writing, speaking and listening). Students with equivalent qualifications will also be accepted.

Equivalences include:

- Trinity College London: a pass in test ISEI and a pass in test ISEII
- Language Cert: Academic SELT (from 18 December 2023): 60 or International ESOL SELT: 33/50
- Pearson PTE Academic for UKVI: 59
- PDI Services (UK) Ltd: Pass in Skills for English UKVI

Non-standard Entry: Applications from individuals with non-standard qualifications, relevant work or life experience will be equally considered. These applicants will be required to attend an interview as



part of the application process. Interviews will be in person or online, depending on the location and availability of the applicant.

Accreditation for Prior Learning: UK and International applicants with qualifications or professional experience equivalent to the knowledge and skills developed during years one or two of this programme may be granted Accreditation for Prior Learning (APL), enabling them to join the programme at the start of year two or three.

If an applicant thinks they may be eligible for APL they should contact our Admissions team on admissions@futureworks.ac.uk. Please note that APL will not exempt applicants from the selection process, or, for international students, the IELTS 6.0 (or equivalent) requirement.

Interviews: Interviews will be held as part of the application process. Interviews will be in person or online, depending on the location and availability of the applicant.

MODULES (CREDITS)

YEAR 1

Game Engines (20 credits) – This module provides you with the essential skills to work with game engines, focusing on implementing and managing audio assets. Using professional game engine software, you will develop your ability to create audio content while learning how to integrate it into interactive environments, setting a strong foundation for a future in game audio production.

Game Audio Analysis (20 credits) – This module explores the evolution of audio within a classic video game franchise, examining the impact of technological advancements and changing consumer demands. Through research and analysis, you will gain greater insight into the role of sound in gaming and how it has shaped the work of Game Audio Designers over time.

Sound Recording (40 credits) – This module develops essential studio and location recording skills, equipping you with the knowledge to capture high-quality sound for a range of projects. By exploring analogue and digital recording concepts, industry-standard workflows, and modern studio technologies, you will gain the technical expertise needed to manage a recording project from pre-production to final delivery.

Game Design (20 credits) – This module introduces you to core game design concepts. Through collaboration with your colleagues, you will explore game structure, meaningful play, and the iterative development process, gaining practical experience in designing, building and testing a playable physical game prototype.

Digital Audio Workstations (20 credits) – This module introduces the Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) as the foundation of modern recording, editing, and mixing. You will develop essential skills in



non-linear and non-destructive editing while mastering key techniques for efficient workflow management. Applying theory to practice will enhance your technical proficiency and elevate the standard of your practical work throughout the course.

YEAR 2

Sound Design (40 credits) – This module equips you with the technical and creative skills to craft high-quality game audio assets, to form part of your sound effects library and contribute to designing sound for full cinematic soundscapes. You will learn how to produce immersive sound that can enhance gameplay and promotional content, as well as providing content to promote your skills and creative development through showreels and portfolios.

Engines & Middleware (40 credits) – This module takes your game engine work and scripting to the next level. You will gain practical experience of working with middleware to create dynamic and interactive soundscapes, introducing more advanced sound manipulation and real-time audio control beyond the built-in capabilities of a game engine.

Adaptive Music (20 credits) – Focuses on adaptive music as a way to mirror or drive gameplay. This module explores adaptive music as a key component in video games, developing your composition and arrangement skills to create dynamic soundtracks designed to respond to player interaction. Exposing you to horizontal and vertical scoring concepts, building upon your knowledge of these dedicated, career specific tools and techniques.

Career Research Project (20 credits) – This module promotes an independent, student-led approach to learning, where you'll design and execute a research project on a negotiated topic. You'll enhance your research and academic writing skills, under the guidance and support of your tutors, to produce a final submission that reflects your career interests and strengthens your academic portfolio.

YEAR 3

Creative Sound Design (20 credits) – This module provides you with a platform to test your creativity, inspired by our industry partners. You will be challenged to find interesting and creative media, images and concept art to design sound to, providing alternative versions across different genres and styles. Through experimentation, practice and repetition you will develop strategies to unlock and develop your creativity - attributes in demand by industry.

Technical Sound Design (20 credits) – Expanding your knowledge and experience of alternative middleware applications and design tools, this module lays the foundation for a career as a Technical Audio Designer. Building on existing workflow and techniques by exploring other applications widely used in industry, enhances your adaptability and employability.

Engines & Middleware Integration (20 credits) – This module equips you with the advanced skills needed to integrate middleware with game engines, design dynamic audio systems, and script



interactive events. By blending creative and technical expertise, you will develop comprehensive audio solutions, in preparation for careers in game audio.

Professional Portfolio (20 credits) – Designed to support career growth, this module provides a platform to refine and present your professional portfolio, showcasing work as part of a strategic plan to maximise networking and attract future employment opportunities.

Major Project (40 credits) – This module provides a platform for you to specialise, to showcase your best work focused on your chosen career path, and in turn your readiness for employment or further study. You will engage in tutorial discussions to support you as an individual, in developing content, consolidating skills and knowledge gained throughout the programme.

WHAT ARE CREDITS?

As a guide, 20 credits typically represents around 52 hours of tutor contact time (e.g. lectures/workshops/feedback) and 148 hours of self-study time (usually over the course of a semester). These numbers may increase or decrease depending on the nature, length and level of the module, especially towards the end of the course.

LOCATION OF DELIVERY

Your primary location of study will be at our Riverside Campus, which is located on New Bailey Street in Manchester.

Lectures, workshops, and tutorials take place in our fully equipped labs and studios. Flexible access to studio and practical facilities, allow you to establish, practice and develop your work using professional level hardware and software. Relevant hardware and software training will be provided during studio, workshop, and lecture sessions to support work at all levels.

TEACHING STAFF

We believe it's essential that your teaching team are part of the industry. This ensures the knowledge they pass on is both relevant and current. It also means they have excellent industry contacts that you can tap into for real-world projects. You will have the opportunity to acquire professional credits during your time at Futureworks, while building up an enviable list of your own contacts at the start of a new career.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Throughout the programme you will be assessed primarily on your creative and technical work, with an emphasis on practical submissions accompanied by presentations and written work in the form of supporting documentation, reflective journals and essays.

Practical exercises and studio driving tests during studio or workshop-based sessions will be used as a means for you to monitor your progress along the way to help develop more formal assessment work.



The principal methods of assessment will be:

- Practical Projects
- Documentation, logs and archives
- Practical demonstrations
- Portfolios
- Essays
- Presentations, individual and group
- Viva voce
- Testing
- Online assessment
- Personal Development Tutorials

The centrality of vocational skills throughout the programme results in all assessments being directly or indirectly related to employability and personal development.

Formative assessment supported by tutor feedback will be employed throughout the programme.

COURSE DETAILS

Award to be received on successful completion: BSc (Hons) Game and Interactive Audio

Length of course: 3 YEARS (FULL TIME)

Mode of delivery: In-person, on campus

In-person lessons: Typically between 12 and 14 hours per week

Self-study time: Typically between 35 and 40 hours per week

Regulator: Office for Students ([OfS](#))

Awarding Institution: The Open University

Futureworks is approved by The Open University as an appropriate organisation to offer higher education programmes leading to Open University validated awards.

FEES / COSTS

TUITION FEES

Home Students: £9,790 per year

International Students: £17,000 per year

You may be eligible to apply for a student loan from Student Finance. Please see our [Tuition Fees](#) page for more information.



EQUIPMENT & ACTIVITIES

We have five floors of high specification audio studios, edit suites, dubbing theatres, creative workstations, and computer labs, all equipped with the latest industry standard hardware and software. You may wish to purchase a computer or laptop to use at home.

You may find it beneficial to invest in additional equipment and/or study resources to support your learning. Example costs are:

- External storage around 1TB in size, approx. £100
- Mid-range headphones approx. £50-£300

You may also find it beneficial to invest in arts and crafts materials for one first year module.

