



## Bachelor of **Popular Music**

Popular Music spans the globe and is one of the most powerful ways we express ourselves and connect with other people. It takes multiple forms and is an essential force in shaping contemporary culture.

The Tohu Paetahi Pao o te Marea—Bachelor of Popular Music (BPM) gives you a platform to acquire, develop, and enhance skills essential to popular music, from creative expression to technological production to critical and communication abilities.

This exciting new undergraduate degree is highly flexible, making it possible for you to combine creative practice and critical study, as well as explore other subject areas for which you have a passion. The degree is open to students from a range of backgrounds and does not require prior musical training.

The BPM includes majors in Audio Production and Recording, Electronic Music, Popular Music Studies, and Songwriting. These majors build on the many strengths of the New Zealand School of Music—Te Kōkī (NZSM) and Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences staff, who are nationally and internationally recognised for their work as artists, music technologists, industry experts, and researchers.

As a BPM student, you will have opportunities to collaborate with peers, engage with musicians from across the NZSM, utilise our studios and recording facilities, and explore the latest approaches to making, understanding, and learning about popular music. Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington provides a thriving musical and creative environment for involving yourself in popular music.

### **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

A BPM can lead to many careers, including working as a musical artist, producer, or audio engineer, independently and in industry, or as an artist manager, publicist, talent scout, or venue and event organiser. There are a range of additional areas in which BPM graduates can work, including education, journalism (broadcast, digital, and print), museums and other cultural institutions, and policy and government, as well as research.

**i** [wgtn.ac.nz/careers](http://wgtn.ac.nz/careers)

### **POSTGRADUATE STUDY**

Graduates of the BPM can go on to postgraduate study in Honours, Master's, diploma, and doctoral programmes. You may also apply for the Master of Fine Arts (Creative Practice), an industry-focused programme, or the Master of Music Therapy, a two-year full-time programme that trains graduates to become professional music therapists.

**i** [wgtn.ac.nz/nzsm-postgraduate](http://wgtn.ac.nz/nzsm-postgraduate)

### **SCHOOL SUBJECTS**

Some prior experience in music is good to have, but not essential. No formal training in music is required. A broad selection of school subjects provides preparation for BPM study. This can include subjects such as English, Design and Visual Communication, Digital Technologies, History, Practical Arts, as well as Mathematics and sciences.

### **PROGRAMME INFORMATION**

Entry is open to most majors in the BPM. The Songwriting major requires a portfolio of three to four songs, in the form of recordings (which can be made on a phone).

**i** [wgtn.ac.nz/nzsm-audition](http://wgtn.ac.nz/nzsm-audition)

## MAJORS

### Audio Production and Recording (AUPR)

Learn to produce, mix, and master popular music.

### Electronic Music (EMUS)

Explore the creative approaches, technologies, and production techniques crucial to electronic music.

### Popular Music Studies (POPS)

Focus on musical genres and scenes, the music industry, and a critical understanding of music's role in society.

### Songwriting (SONG)

Engage with all facets of creating songs, from writing and producing to lyrical expression to shaping performance and artistic identity.

## MINOR

Any major in the BPM can be taken as a minor.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Three years of full-time study.

A total of 360 points is required:

- ▶ a maximum of 180 points can be from 100-level courses
- ▶ at least 180 points from 200- and 300-level courses
- ▶ at least 75 points must be from courses at 300 level
- ▶ the requirements for at least one major (from the list above) must be satisfied (courses at 300 level may be counted towards only one major).

You must complete sufficient elective courses to meet the minimum requirement of 360 points for the BPM.

In addition to your major courses, throughout your three years you will take BPM core courses to help develop your critical and creative music skills:

- ▶ CMPO 186 Audio Production and Music Technology Foundations
- ▶ MUSC 120 Popular Music: An Introduction
- ▶ POPM 101 Popular Music: Creativity, Identity, Innovation
- ▶ MDIA 205 Popular Music Studies
- ▶ MUSC 349 Approaches to Popular Music
- ▶ POPM 301 Popular Music Projects.

## MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended that you apply for admission as soon as possible (see page 28 for details).

The requirements listed below are the requirements to complete a major; degree regulations are listed in the University's *Calendar*.

The courses listed in the major requirements on this page are what you need to take in your first year. To find out details of what a particular course is about and when it is taught, look in the subjects and courses pages (from page 167).

### Audio Production and Recording (AUPR)

- CMPO 185, CMPO 186, MUSC 120.
- CMPO 286; either CMPO 210 or CMPO 285; MDIA 205; and either MUSC 247 or MUSC 269.
- CMPO 386, CMPO 387.

### Electronic Music (EMUS)

- CMPO 185, CMPO 186, MUSC 120.
- CMPO 210, CMPO 285, MDIA 205, MUSC 269.
- CMPO 310, CMPO 385.

### Popular Music Studies (POPS)

- CMPO 186, MUSC 120, MDIA 101.
- MDIA 205 and 60 points from MUSC 202, MUSC 229, MUSC 247, MUSC 248, MUSC 249, MUSC 250, or MUSC 269.
- MUSC 349 and 40 points from MDIA 305, MUSC 302, MUSC 329, MUSC 343, MUSC 351, or POLS 320.

### Songwriting (SONG)

- CMPO 103, CMPO 186, LCCM 172.
- CMPO 203; either CMPO 210 or CMPO 286; MDIA 205; and one course from MUSC 229, MUSC 248, MUSC 249.
- CMPO 303, and one of CMPO 310 or CMPO 387.

## MINOR REQUIREMENTS

### Audio Production and Recording (AUPR)

Complete the following courses: CMPO 286; either MUSC 247 or MUSC 269; and at least 35 further points from CMPO 210, CMPO 285, CMPO 386, or CMPO 387, including at least 15 points at 300 level.

### Electronic Music (EMUS)

Complete the following courses: CMPO 210, CMPO 285, MUSC 269, and one course from CMPO 310 or CMPO 385.

### Popular Music Studies (POPS)

Complete at least 60 points from MDIA 205, MDIA 305, MUSC 202, MUSC 247, MUSC 248, MUSC 249, MUSC 343, MUSC 349, including at least 15 points at 300 level.

### Songwriting (SONG)

Complete the following courses: CMPO 203; either CMPO 210 or CMPO 286; CMPO 303; and either CMPO 310 or CMPO 387.



## FIND OUT MORE

✉ [info@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:info@vuw.ac.nz)

📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/bpm](http://wgtn.ac.nz/bpm)

📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/nzsm](http://wgtn.ac.nz/nzsm)

## DEGREE EXAMPLES

### BPM majoring in Electronic Music

YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
1/3	2/3	1/3	2/3	1/3	2/3
<b>CMPO 186</b> 15 points	<b>MUSC 120</b> 20 points	<b>MDIA 205</b> 20 points	<b>CMPO 210</b> 15 points	<b>MUSC 349</b> 20 points	<b>POPM 301</b> 20 points
<b>POPM 101</b> 20 points	<b>CMPO 185</b> 15 points	<b>CMPO 285</b> 15 points	<b>MUSC 269</b> 20 points	<b>CMPO 310</b> 15 points	<b>CMPO 385</b> 15 points
<b>ELECTIVE</b> 20 points	<b>ELECTIVE</b> 15 points	<b>ELECTIVE</b> 15 points	<b>ELECTIVE</b> 15 points	<b>ELECTIVE</b> 20 points	<b>ELECTIVE</b> 15 points
	<b>ELECTIVE</b> 15 points	<b>ELECTIVE</b> 15 points	<b>ELECTIVE</b> 15 points		<b>ELECTIVE</b> 15 points
<b>55 POINTS</b>	<b>65 POINTS</b>	<b>65 POINTS</b>	<b>65 POINTS</b>	<b>55 POINTS</b>	<b>65 POINTS</b>
<b>120 POINTS</b>		<b>130 POINTS</b>		<b>120 POINTS</b>	

Total points required: 360  
Total points completed: 370

KEY: CORE MAJOR ELECTIVE







"There are a few different paths to take in Music at VUW. Some of the people I have met have been on a very different path of learning to me, be it through their performance studies or the development of new musical technologies. Yet all these people have shared the same love and passion for music that has driven and inspired me throughout my studies."

**Callum**

Student, Bachelor of Arts in Music and Media Studies