



The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Syllabus

Reg.no. 2021/253

Bachelor Programme in Music Production

Programme Code:	HGMPK
Programme Title:	Bachelor Programme in Music Production Musikproduktionsprogrammet
Credits:	180 ECTS
Programme Approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Science on 6 May 2021 and applies as of the autumn semester of 2022.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish, but some components may be taught in English
Education Cycle:	First cycle
Degree Type:	Qualification in the fine, applied and performing arts
Entry Requirements	General entry requirements and satisfactory entrance test

General Information

The Karlstad University Bachelor Programme in Music Production is a fine arts programme for students seeking a solid and broad foundation with the possibility to specialise and adopt a profile in preparation of a professional career as a music producer and songwriter in the modern music industry, specifically on the commercial market.

The programme seeks to both meet and challenge the modern music industry. Students are prepared for a professional career in a contemporary and established musical market. Students are also given the opportunity to challenge preconceived notions and develop innovative ideas about entrepreneurship, releases, and communication with the stakeholders and consumers of the music industry. The programme equips students to navigate a professional life that will be complex, innovative, and ever-changing.

Graduates also have the option to pursue second-cycle studies in the fine arts.

Programme Outcomes

For programme completion, students must meet the national requirements for a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts as well as the specific local outcomes for the Karlstad University Bachelor Programme in Music Production.

National Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts outcomes

The national outcomes for a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts are stipulated in the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100) as follows:

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the principal field (music), including knowledge of the practical and theoretical foundation of the field, knowledge and experience of methods and processes in the field as well as specialised study within the field.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to describe, analyse and interpret design, techniques and content as well as to reflect critically on his or her artistic approach and that of others in the main field of study,
- demonstrate the ability in the main field of study to create, realise and express his or her own ideas, identify, formulate and solve artistic and creative problems autonomously and to undertake artistic tasks within predetermined time frames,
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss his or her works and artistic issues in speech, writing or in other ways and in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the competence and knowledge required to work autonomously in a professional capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant artistic, social and ethical issues,
- demonstrate insight into the role of art in society, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and ongoing learning.

Independent project (degree project)

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 15 credits in the main field of study.

Local outcomes

Karlstad University's local profile for courses and programmes with an artistic basis is to challenge the known and explore the unknown as well as to establish a close dialogue with the private and public sectors. This vision permeates the purpose of the study programme —to use artistic perspectives to explore and challenge different aspects of music production and songwriting with close relations and relevance to the music business and modern music industry.

Excellent technical and artistic musical skills

Upon completion of the programme, students shall demonstrate

- the knowledge and ability needed to reflect on, solve, document, and execute such artistic rendition problems required in an independent career as a music producer, songwriter, or another profession with ties to the field.

Interaction and cooperation within and between different constellations of music industry stakeholders

Upon completion of the programme, students shall demonstrate

- the ability to collaborate and negotiate with various stakeholders and to meet the market demand.

Creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship

Upon completion of the programme, students shall demonstrate

- the ability to compose and produce music within set artistic boundaries, to develop and launch projects in cooperation with other stakeholders, and to show musical and artistic innovation in the field.

Programme Structure and Contents

In addition to artistic courses in music production and songwriting (142.5 ECTS credits), including an independent project for 15 ECTS credits, the programme comprises courses in entrepreneurship and the music business (37.5 ECTS credits).

Below is an overview of the programme structure. Note that the programme courses can have other titles and be offered in a different order than listed below.

	Course	Number of ECTS credits	Courses in Music Production and Songwriting (142.5 ECTS credits)	Courses in Entrepreneurship and The Music Business (37.5 ECTS credits)	Courses in the Main Field of Study (105 ECTS credits)
Semester 1	Music Production 1	7.5	x		x
	The Music Industry and Its Actors	7.5		x	
	Music Theory and Ear Training 1	7.5	x		
	Songwriting 1	7.5	x		x
Semester 2	Music Production 2	7.5	x		x
	Electronic Music Production	7.5	x		x
	Music Theory and Ear Training 2	7.5	x		
	Songwriting 2	7.5	x		x
Semester 3	Music Production 3	7.5	x		x
	Songwriting Project 1	7.5	x		x
	Instrument and Practical Ear Training	7.5	x		
	Launching a Music Project 1	7.5		x	
Semester 4	Songwriting Project 2	7.5	x		x
	Film and Video Game Scoring	7.5	x		x
	Entrepreneurship in the Music Business	7.5		x	

	Launching a Music Project 2	7.5		x	
Semester 5	Artist Project	7.5	x		x
	Music Production 4	7.5	x		x
	Launching a Music Project 3	7.5		x	
	Composition for Acoustic Ensemble (elective)	7.5	x		
	Technological and Electronic Creativity (elective)	7.5	x		
Semester 6	Live Production (elective)	7.5	x		
	Artistic Performance (elective)	7.5	x		
	Specialisation in Music Production	7.5	x		x
	Independent project	15	x		x

Through the artistic courses, students develop their knowledge of music production, music creation, and songwriting. While the focus is on pop music styles, adjacent genres are included to provide a broader understanding of music. Great emphasis is placed on creation and turning a musical idea into a finished music production. Courses comprise basic music theory and ear training, writing methods for text and melodies, arrangement techniques, sound and recording engineering, editing and mixing using software, computer-assisted music production, and different project-based components.

The other courses aim to give students knowledge and skills of entrepreneurship and the music industry so that they can work independently as music producers and songwriters in different contexts. The courses treat the music industry and its stakeholders, financial flows relevant for music producers and songwriters, business and marketing planning, and communication with different stakeholders in the music industry.

The programme is primarily taught through workshops, lectures, seminars, artistic production, component-specific assignments, project-based music productions, and text studies. Theoretical and practical components are interspersed throughout the programme. During the final semester, students complete an independent project for 15 ECTS credits.

A brief description of the courses included in the programme can be found below.

Semester 1

Music Production 1: 7.5 ECTS credits

The course comprises a foundation in acoustics and listening conditions, recording techniques, sound engineering, and computer-assisted studio music production. Students practise different elements of music production with a view to creating a solid foundation and understanding of the process and tools.

The Music Industry and Its Actors: 7.5 ECTS credits

The course focuses on financial flows in the music industry and the roles played by different industry actors in relation to music producers and songwriters.

Music Theory and Ear Training 1: 7.5 ECTS credits

The course comprises fundamental music theory, focusing specifically on ear training and music theory. The featured elements include basic chord analysis, harmonics, terminology, and music theory in pop music.

Songwriting 1: 7.5 ECTS credits

The course focuses on the foundations and methods for writing melodies and texts in groups and individually, particularly in pop music styles.

Semester 2*Music Production 2: 7.5 ECTS credits*

Students attain specialised knowledge in the area of music production and studio recording techniques, as well as in arrangement, recording, editing, and mixing music using software and analogue tools. The course also includes acoustics and listening conditions.

Electronic Music Production: 7.5 ECTS credits

The course treats electronic music genres and the use of technical tools commonly associated with those genres. Students practise the creative use of technological possibilities to facilitate artistic expression.

Music Theory and Ear Training 2: 7.5 ECTS credits

Students hone their ear training skills and knowledge of music theory. The course comprises decoding music notations, harmonics, chord analysis, and arrangement techniques, particularly in pop music.

Songwriting 2: 7.5 ECTS credits

Students attain specialised knowledge in individual songwriting and co-writing. The course focuses on completing songwriting assignments within specific situations and musical boundaries to broaden the student's understanding of music.

Semester 3*Music Production 3: 7.5 ECTS credits*

The course seeks to offer a broader understanding and knowledge of music production and includes different types of technical equipment, approaches, and musical genres. The course also includes acoustic ear training and production analysis as tools for further individual development.

Songwriting Project 1: 7.5 ECTS credits

The course is based on a project in which students write and produce music following set guidelines and in accordance with current market conditions. Students practise their ability to analyse and discuss musical contexts and to write and produce with these in mind.

Instrument and Practical Ear Training: 7.5 ECTS credits

The course mainly comprises practical ear training and practical knowledge of chord, bass, and rhythm instruments. The course further includes proficiency training in different types of backing, with the aim of understanding, transcribing, and describing the traits of different pop music grooves.

Launching a Music Project 1: 7.5 ECTS credits

The course treats different types of digital launches, the financial conditions and flows of streaming services, and the methods used by different stakeholders to distribute their content. Students launch a music project and create minor productions for media distribution.

Semester 4*Songwriting Project 2: 7.5 ECTS credits*

In this course, students create an artistic music production individually or in groups, according to the market conditions and within a determined timeframe. Students hone their ability to analyse musical trends and musical cultures as well as to write and produce based on the conclusions they draw.

Film and Video Game Scoring: 7.5 ECTS credits

The course treats the composition and production of music in symbiosis with other media. Students practise the performance and enhancement of stories and emotional experiences through instrumental music.

Entrepreneurship in the Music Business: 7.5 ECTS credits

The course is focused on entrepreneurship and running a business. Theoretical and practical components are included to give students an understanding of entrepreneurship and running a business, drawing up a business and marketing plan, and communicating with different stakeholders in the music industry.

Launching a Music Project 2: 7.5 ECTS credits

The course involves launching an original musical production and marketing it in different media formats. The course also treats concepts and approaches that characterise communication and marketing in the music industry.

Semester 5

ArtistProject: 7.5 ECTS credits

Students develop and create an artistic project with a partner of their choosing. Students will work in partnership with the intended performer to shape a musical identity and write and produce a repertoire informed by that identity. Students consult with performers and are responsible for the entire process, start to finish.

Music Production 4: 7.5 ECTS credits

The purpose of the course is to provide students with specialised knowledge, skill, and understanding in terms of the more advanced areas and tools in music production. The course also includes technological developments and research in music production technology.

Launching a Music Project 3: 7.5 ECTS credits

The course involves launching an original musical production and distributing it through different platforms and media. Students develop plans and strategies for deciding on song material, music production, and style, as well as material and intangible assets. The course also deals with contracts and legal aspects of the music industry.

Composition for Acoustic Ensemble: 7.5 ECTS credits (elective)

Students write and arrange for acoustic ensembles using different instrumentations in order to gain a deeper understanding and ability for expression. The course also includes recording and producing the written material.

Technological and Electronic Creativity: 7.5 ECTS credits (elective)

The course aims to provide fundamental knowledge of technology and electronics through their creative use in musical and artistic ventures. Students hone their creative ability to imagine and implement artistic and musical ideas.

Semester 6

Live Production 7.5 ECTS credits (elective)

The course focuses on technological and artistic aspects of stage productions. It includes uses for and synchronisation of technology for visual and audio experiences, the creation and adjustment of music production for live purposes, and the planning and execution of a stage production.

Artistic Performance: 7.5 ECTS credits (elective)

In this course, students practise performance and expression on stage and on film. The course includes performance, vocal training, expression, and interpretation. Physical performance and choreography are also included.

Specialisation in Music Production: 7.5 ECTS credits

The course aims to improve the ability of students to acquire deeper knowledge of their chosen field through practical work, individual study, and cooperation. Another element included is the written and spoken formulation and discussion of the students' own knowledge and abilities.

Independent project: 15 ECTS credits

The aim of the independent project is to develop students' basic knowledge of artistic research and development work. The project should be relevant for their future professional songwriting and music production work. Students formulate, plan, and implement an independent project in which they also reflect on their own artistic process.

Title of Qualification

Upon programme completion, graduates are awarded a Degree of Bachelor in Music.

Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts

Major: Music

Konstnärlig kandidatexamen

Huvudområde: Musik

Credit Transfer

According to the Higher Education Ordinance Ch. 6 Sec. 6–8 students have the right to transfer credits and have prior learning recognised upon approval.

Additional Information

The local regulations for first and second cycle education at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

Attendance is mandatory at some programme components, as stipulated in the course syllabuses.