



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Syllabus

Reg. no. 2024/1319

Bachelor Programme in Music Production

Programme code:	HGMPK
Programme title:	Bachelor Programme in Music Production <i>Musikproduktionsprogrammet</i>
Credits:	180
Programme approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 31 October 2024, effective from the autumn semester of 2025.
Language of instruction:	Swedish, but some components may be taught in English.
Education cycle:	First (Bachelor's level)
Degree type:	Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts
Entry requirements	General eligibility as well as passing the entrance exam.

General information

The Bachelor Programme in Music Production at Karlstad University is a fine arts programme for students seeking a solid and broad foundation in music production and music creation. It also offers opportunities to specialise and adopt a profile in preparation of a professional career. The aim of the programme is for graduates to be able to work as music producers and songwriters in today's music industry.

The programme seeks to both meet and challenge the modern music business. Students are prepared for a professional career in a contemporary and established music market. Students are also given the opportunity to challenge preconceived notions and develop innovative ideas about music production and music creation as well as 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 continue their studies and pursue a master's degree in the fine arts.

Programme outcomes

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

National outcomes for a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts

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 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 is to challenge the norm and explore the unknown, as well as establish a close dialogue with both the private and public sectors. This approach permeates the aim of the degree programme. The objective is to apply artistic perspectives to explore and challenge different aspects of music production and songwriting with a close connection and relevance to the music business and today's music industry.

Excellent technical and artistic musical skills

For a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts, the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and the ability to reflect on, solve, document and carry out artistic and creative challenges and tasks required to work independently as a music producer and songwriter, as well as in other professions with ties to the field.

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

For a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts, the student shall

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

Creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship

For a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts, the student 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 curriculum

In addition to artistic courses in music production and songwriting (142.5 credits), including an independent project for 15 credits, the programme comprises courses in entrepreneurship and the music business (37.5 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	Scope 60	Courses in music production and songwriting (142.5 credits)	Courses in entrepreneurship and the music business (37.5 credits)	Courses in the main field of study (105 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
	Practical instrument and genre knowledge	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	Artistic project	7.5	x		x
	Music production 4	7.5	x		x
	Launching a music project 3	7.5		x	
	Composition for an 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 in music production	15	x		x

Through the artistic courses, students develop their knowledge of music production, music creation and songwriting. These courses primarily cover styles within popular music, but also related genres to provide a broad musical understanding. Great emphasis is placed on the creative process 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 in different genres, sound and recording engineering, editing and mixing using music 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 focus on 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 business.

Instruction primarily consists of 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 of 15 credits.

In many of the courses throughout the programme, gender equality issues are explored from various perspectives and in diverse ways. Within a historically male-dominated field, the programme seeks to reach a wider representation in the industry. The programme also raises questions about sustainable development in the music industry in different ways.

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

Semester 1

Music production 1: 7.5 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 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 credits

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

Songwriting 1: 7.5 credits

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

Semester 2

Music production 2: 7.5 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 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 credits

Students hone their ear training skills and knowledge of music theory with a particular focus on arrangement. The course comprises decoding music notations, harmony and arrangement techniques with a particular focus on in popular music as well understanding of various ensemble types.

Songwriting 2: 7.5 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 credits

The course seeks to offer a broader understanding and knowledge of music production and looks at 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 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 different musical contexts and to write and produce with these in mind.

Practical instrument and genre knowledge: 7.5 credits

The course aims to provide an understanding of the most common instruments in popular music through practical application. Through practical performance of various musical styles, the course also aims to provide knowledge of musical differences between genres, as well as an understanding of arrangements and ear training.

Launching a music project 1: 7.5 credits

The course looks at 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 credits*

In this course, students create an artistic music production individually or in groups, according to the market conditions and within a determined time frame. 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 credits

The course focuses on 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 credits

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

Launching a music project 2: 7.5 credits

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

Semester 5*Artistic project: 7.5 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 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 credits

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

Composition for an acoustic ensemble: 7.5 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 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 credits (elective)

The course focuses on technological and artistic aspects of stage productions. It also 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 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 credits

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

Independent project in music production: 15 credits

The aim of the independent project is to develop the 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.

Degree title

Upon programme completion, graduates are awarded the following degree:

Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts

Main field of study: Music

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.

A previous version of the programme syllabus has been approved:

6 May 2021, Reg.no HS 2021/253, valid from the autumn semester of 2022