



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Study Plan

Music Production Programme

Programme Code:	HGMPR
Programme Title:	Music Production Programme Musikproduktionsprogrammet
ECTS Credits:	120
Programme Approval:	The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 7 September 2017, and is effective from the autumn semester of 2018.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish, but some components may be taught in English
Degree Level:	Bachelor
Degree Type:	Fine, applied and performing arts
Prerequisites:	General entry requirements and satisfactory entrance test in accordance with decision C 2017/810 of the Swedish Council for Higher Education, UHR.

General Information

The Music Production Programme at Karlstad University is an artistic programme designed for students who want to acquire a solid foundation for working as music producers and songwriters in the music industry (and specifically the commercial market) upon completion of the programme.

The Music Production Programme wants to meet and challenge the current music industry. Students are professionally prepared for the relevant, established music market. Students are further given opportunities to dare to rethink habitual notions and to develop innovative ideas in the areas of entrepreneurship, launching and communication with actors in and consumers

of the music industry. The programme prepares students well for a complex, innovative and changing profession.

Programme Aims

The learning outcomes of the programme comprise the national outcomes for a higher education diploma in the fine, applied and performing arts, as well as local outcomes for the Music Production Programme at Karlstad University.

National outcomes

The national outcomes for a higher education diploma in the fine, applied and performing arts are stipulated in the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100) as follows:

Knowledge and understanding

For a higher education diploma in the fine, applied and performing arts, students should

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study (music) of the programme, including awareness of the practical and disciplinary foundation of the field and knowledge and experience of some methods and processes in the field.

Competence and skills

For a higher education diploma in the fine, applied and performing arts, students should

- demonstrate the ability to describe, analyse and interpret design, techniques and content in the main field of study,
- demonstrate the ability in the main field of study to create, realise and express their own artistic ideas and undertake artistic tasks within predetermined time frames,
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss their knowledge with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the competence and knowledge required to work independently in a professional capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a higher education diploma in the fine, applied and performing arts, students should

- demonstrate the ability to reflect on artistic, social and ethical issues within the main field of study.

Independent project

A requirement for the award of a Higher Education Diploma in the fine, applied and performing arts is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) in the main field of study.

Local outcomes for the Music Production Programme at Karlstad University

Karlstad University's vision of challenging the established and exploring the unknown and of establishing close links with the private and public sectors permeate and correspond with the programme aims to explore and challenge various aspects of music production and songwriting from an artistic perspective in close relation and with relevance to the current music industry.

Excellent technical and artistic musical skills

Upon completion of the programme, students should demonstrate

- the knowledge and ability required to reflect on, solve, document and implement the artistic rendition problems and assignments at the level required of an independent music producer and songwriter.

Cooperation within and between different cultural contexts

Upon completion of the programme, students should demonstrate

– the ability to cooperate and negotiate with different actors and to meet the demands of the market.

Creativity innovation and entrepreneurship

Upon completion of the programme, students should demonstrate

– the ability to compose and produce music in given artistic frames, to develop projects and launch these in cooperation with different actors.

Programme Structure and Curriculum

The programme consists of two parts: an artistic part comprising courses in music production and songwriting (82.5 ECTS cr.), and courses in the area of entrepreneurship and the music industry (37.5 ECTS cr.).

Please note that the titles and order of the courses comprising the programme may differ from that in the programme structure below.

	Course	Extent in ECTS credits	Courses in music production and songwriting (82.5 ECTS cr.)	Courses in entrepreneurship and the music industry (37.5 ECTS cr.)	Courses in the main field of study (60 ECTS cr.)
Termin 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
Termin 2	Music production 2	7.5	x		x
	Entrepreneurship	7.5		x	
	Music theory and ear training 2	7.5	x		
	Songwriting 2	7.5	x		x
Termin 3	Songwriting project 1	7.5	x		x
	Instrument and pitch recognition	7.5	x		
	Launching musical projects 1	7.5		x	
	Communication and branding	7.5		x	
Termin 4	Songwriting project 2	7.5	x		x
	Launching musical projects 2	7.5		x	
	Independent project	15	x		x

Through the artistic courses, students develop their knowledge of music production and songwriting, mainly in pop music styles. 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 technology, 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 actors, financial flows relevant for music producers and songwriters, business and marketing planning, and communication with different actors in the music industry.

The programme is primarily taught through workshops, lectures, seminars, artistic production, project-based music productions and text studies and theoretical and practical components are interspersed. During the last semester, an independent project of 15 ECTS credits is completed.

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

Semester 1

Music production 1 (7.5 ECTS cr.)

The course comprises a foundation in acoustics and listening conditions, recording techniques, sound technology and computer-assisted studio music production. Students practise different elements of music production with digital aids.

The music industry and its actors (7.5 ECTS cr.)

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 cr.)

The course comprises foundational music theory, focusing specifically on ear training and music theory, as well as concepts and tools used in songwriting and music production.

Songwriting 1 (7.5 ECTS cr.)

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 cr.)

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.

Entrepreneurship (7.5 ECTS cr.)

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 actors in the music industry.

Music theory and ear training 2 (7.5 ECTS cr.)

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

Songwriting 2 (7.5 ECTS cr.)

Students attain specialised knowledge in particularly co-writing, a common working method in the commercial music industry. Project-based assignments are central in the course.

Semester 3

Songwriting project 1 (7.5 ECTS cr.)

The course is based on an artistic project in which students write and produce a song in accordance with current market conditions.

Instrument and pitch recognition (7.5 ECTS cr.)

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 covered in the course.

Launching musical projects 1 (7.5 ECTS cr.)

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

Communication and branding (7.5 ECTS cr.)

The course treats the concepts and working methods used in communications and marketing in the music industry. Students learn to work strategically to reach out through various media formats and to formulate a branding strategy.

Semester 4

Songwriting project 2 (7.5 ECTS cr.)

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

Launching musical projects 2 (7.5 ECTS cr.)

The course involves launching an original musical production and marketing it in different media formats. Students develop plans and strategies for deciding on song material, music production and style, as well as material and intangible assets.

Independent project (15 ECTS cr.)

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.

Degree Awarded

Upon completion of the programme, a university diploma is awarded in the fine, applied and performing arts with music as the main field of study.

Higher Education Diploma of Fine Arts

Major: Music

Transfer of Credits

As per Ch. 6 §§ 6–8 of the Higher Education Ordinance students have the right to transfer credits from previously completed university courses, subject to approval.

Additional Information

Attendance is mandatory at some programme components, as stipulated in the course syllabi. Entry requirements for courses are also stipulated in the course syllabi.

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