Module description

This module is an introduction to the principles of music, in which students will learn how music ‘works’. At the beginning of the module, we examine the fundamental elements of Western music and compare them with examples drawn from other musical cultures (such as Indian). In later units students will develop a more detailed understanding of rhythm, melody, harmony, polyphony, instrumentation, structure and form. To test out and use this understanding, they will learn how to compose a song and – by the end of the module – will have written a complete song with piano accompaniment, using Sibelius music notation software.

Person specification

The person specification for this module should be read in conjunction with the generic person specification for an associate lecturer at The Open University.

As well as meeting all the requirements set out in the generic person specification, you should have:

- an honours (undergraduate) degree in music or with a strong musical component
- experience of teaching music students at undergraduate level
- experience in using music notation software
- knowledge of a broad range of western and non-western musical styles and the ability and enthusiasm to engage with and teach across a broad range of musical styles and genres
- recent academic engagement with music (either through teaching or study or performance)
- ability to support students in developing skills in writing about music and composing
- the ability to encourage students to engage with scholarship and independent study (including awareness of resources)
- the ability to grade assignments and provide constructive feedback to students

It would be an advantage to have:

- a 2:1 or above undergraduate degree classification
- a postgraduate qualification in music
- a teaching qualification in post-compulsory education or HEA accreditation
- experience of teaching music composition and of using Sibelius.

Additional information

- Some of the tuition is carried out online using Elluminate, assignments are submitted, marked and returned electronically.

Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website

| Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module: | 60 |
| Number of assignments submitted by the student: | 6 |
| Method of submission for assignments: | 2 |
| Level of ICT requirements: | 2 |
| Number of students likely to be in a standard group: | 20 |
| Salary band: | 7 |
| Estimated number of hours per teaching week: | 6 |