

BA (Hons) Sound Arts & Design



Hannah Young

Level: Undergraduate
Study mode: Full-time
Duration: Three years.
Start date: October
Application: Through UCAS (www.ucas.com)
UCAS code: P390

For more information
please contact:
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London College of
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Elephant & Castle
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www.lcc.arts.ac.uk

www.soundarts.co.uk

Course description

Our team of practising sound artists, composers and musicians of national and global repute deliver this course. You will also benefit from a programme of visiting performers and speakers from all areas of contemporary sound practice from wildlife recording to plunderphonics.

Past students are working in a variety of areas including film sound, theatre sound design and solo performance work. Some are pursuing careers as independent sound artists; others have set up their own companies or gone on to study at postgraduate level. Students' work is regularly played and performed at venues in London and on the radio.

You will be offered a broad-based approach to sound arts and produce a body of work that reflects your interests in this field. You will gain technical, creative and theoretical knowledge and apply it to pieces of sound work in a wide variety of formats and for a range of contexts.

The work produced will include the following: sound design for film and animation; multi-channel sound installations; interactive work; web-based pieces; musical concert works; and soundscapes.

You will produce this work within a context of the history, practices and concerns of the sonic arts and of the major theoretical, philosophical and aesthetic issues in the media arts. Some lectures will be shared with other students in the School of Media and over the course of the degree you will have opportunities to produce work in collaboration with these students and others within University of the Arts London and other colleges and universities.

Course structure

Year 1

- Sound Creation & Manipulation
- Sound Capture
- Sound Collaboration
- Sound Culture: Perception and Communication 1
- Sound Practitioners 1
- Personal & Professional Development 1

Year 1 provides a creative and intellectual framework to support you in your creative development and academic career and introduce you to the intellectual, practical, technical and transferable skills necessary for producing original creative work with sound.

You will attend workshops, lectures, seminars and tutorials, produce pieces of creative work according to a given brief, present your work to your fellow students and the course team, write critical analyses about your creative work, research and write essays and presentations.

The course units will introduce you to a broad range of sound practice and begin to develop your awareness of the aesthetic, historical and contemporary context of the sound arts and well as allowing you to develop your practical, technical, creative and transferable skills through the production of pieces of original sound work.

Year 2

- Applied Sound Design
- Compositional Strategies
- Sound Arts Project
- Sound Culture: Perception and Communication 2
- Sound Practitioners 2
- General Elective
- Personal and Professional Development 2

Year two provides you with a structure in which you can generate ideas, develop your creative practice and develop the skills and opportunities necessary for producing original creative work with sound in conjunction with other media and in collaboration with practitioners from other areas. Level 2 will provide a framework in which you will extend your awareness of a broad range of sound practice and begin to critically evaluate the technical, theoretical and collaborative aspects of your work within the aesthetic, historical and contemporary context of sound in the arts and media.

The course units will introduce you to the specific aesthetic considerations, technical background, practical skills and design strategies needed in order to produce original sound design work for a range of time-based media and multimedia applications. You will also have the opportunity to choose areas of specialism.

Year 3

- Major Project Pilot
- Major Project Portfolio
- Futures
- Dissertation
- Personal and Professional Development 3

Year 3 will provide you with a stimulating and supportive environment in which to consolidate your studies and produce a portfolio of creative sound design work. You will also produce a substantial piece of written work on an agreed topic which integrates the techniques, practice, aesthetic and contextual background provided by the other modules of the course. In this year, you will continue to develop and refine the range of independent practical skills and critical awareness necessary for the professional environment and/or postgraduate study. There will be some lectures and workshops, but much of the teaching time will be in small group seminars and tutorials. The core units will provide the support and additional skills needed to produce the portfolio and the dissertation.

FAQs

How do I apply?

Home/EU students applying for first year entry should do so through the University and College Admissions Service (UCAS). Further information can be found at www.ucas.ac.uk

International students should apply directly to the College. Further information and application forms can be found at:
www.lcc.arts.ac.uk/lcc_international_application.htm

Is there a deadline for applications?

Please see www.ucas.com for details.

What are the standard admission requirements?

Applicants with some, or all, of the following achievements will be considered for admission to the programme:

- two or more A-Level/AVCE passes with at least five GCSE passes (A-C);
- an Edexcel GNVQ at advanced level (or equivalent) at merit level;
- an Access Certificate recognised by the National Open College Network; or
- through accreditation of previous experience employment.

All students must have some experience of producing original sound, music or media work and should be able to demonstrate a maturity of attitude to their work. Students will be admitted only after interview, though in exceptional circumstances a student may be admitted on the basis of qualifications and references if a personal interview is not possible.

NB: Mature students who do not possess these formal qualifications but who have relevant experience will be considered and are encouraged to apply.

Do I need to produce a portfolio? If so, what should it contain?

Candidates whose UCAS forms show the potential to succeed on the course will be called for interview and advised on examples of work for submission.

Will I need to attend an interview?

Yes, see above.

I am an international student. Are the requirements different for international students and EU students from outside the UK?

Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate their competence in English to IELTS Level, normally to level 6, or demonstrate an equivalent level of achievement.

Students from overseas should contact Vicky Gavulic in the International Office.
Tel: ++ (0)207 514 8138. Email: v.gavulic@lcc.arts.ac.uk

How long is the course?

Three years.

When does the course start and finish? When are the vacation periods?

Early October. The vacation periods are in December/January (Christmas) and March/April (Easter).

How much time would I be expected to spend in college?

About three to four days a week.

Where is the course taught?

At LCC, Elephant and Castle.

What kind of projects does the course involve?

The work produced could include any of the following: sound design for film and animation; multi-channel sound installations; interactive work; web-based pieces; electro-acoustic compositions; soundscapes; or improvisation and performance work

What kind of project is suitable for the major project?

The majority of time in Year 3 is spent in the production of a substantial portfolio of creative practical sound design work. The work, some of which may be of a collaborative nature, is to be accompanied by an in-depth critical appraisal and should be reflective of the individual student's interests and specialisms within the broad area of sound arts and design. You are encouraged to get this work heard or seen outside of the College.

How will the work be assessed?

You are required to produce creative work according to specific briefs, present your work to fellow students and the course team and carry out research for essays and presentations.

What are the facilities like?

Check out the departmental tour at: <http://www.soundarts.co.uk>. The LCC Faculty of Media building was purpose built, opening in 2003. The LCC campus is well equipped with a large library and information centre with open access computer facilities, DVDs and videos. There is also an advice and information centre, exhibition galleries, lecture theatres, teaching areas, a shop, refectory, coffee bar and student bar. The Enterprise Centre for Creative Arts provides information, events and advice on becoming self-employed in the creative industries.

What equipment would I be expected to have?

There is structured individual access to the facilities to enable students to complete all assessed work in college. In addition there is a range of equipment that may be taken out on loan. Many students do buy and set up computer based digital audio workstations at home as they progress through the course.

Would I be expected to have any prior knowledge of particular software or any other technical skills?

It is assumed that you will be familiar with computers in terms of word processing and email. Many students are familiar with audio software packages prior to enrolment, but this is not a requirement of entry.

What kind of people should I expect to meet on the course?

Students who are highly motivated towards developing a career within a broad range of Sound Arts and Design.

Who teaches on the course?

See <http://www.soundarts.co.uk/> for a full list of our staff, their achievements and research interests.

What are the distinctive features of the course?

A broad based approach to Sound Arts and Design which encourages you to focus on your creative and academic development through the production of both practical and written work. All teaching staff are active creative practitioners and there is an exciting programme of visiting events, speakers and performers.

What do students do when they leave?

Sound Arts and Design is relatively new as a discipline in its own right. The field is diverse and growing and the career prospects for graduating students are good. Some recent graduates have gone on to postgraduate study; others have found work in music studios or as sound designers and composers for television. Some become freelance sound designers; others work as sound specialists on professional film and video projects. Some have pursued careers in sound art and installation; others are pursuing performance-based opportunities.

What do former students say about the course?

Luca Robba aka Mescalinaeden is a composer and drummer from Italy based in London. Having been into experimental music for a long time, he enjoyed discovering new artists and ideas from all over the world at LCC, where he specialised in phonography, electro-acoustic composition and field recordings. Being a mature student, his biggest achievement was getting a degree at the age of 34. He says: "My favourite project was called 'A Sense of Place'. I had to describe through sound a place and the meaning of the place. I recorded the Underground in London as it was, giving a cinematic sense to sound and then putting it together with my music. You can use the knowledge and skills attained in this course in various areas, such as music production and sound design for TV, theatres and cinema, or in your own music. I'm an electro-acoustic composer, I've produced a few singles and I collaborate with many artists. At present I want to sound different, I want to experiment with myself in order to develop new fresh sounds. And yes, this course helped me to find new inspirations and ideas in my life." Luca is currently involved in two music projects — one in London with LCC's Laptop Orchestra and another playing drums and electronics for Italian band Petrolio. www.mescalinaeden.com
www.myspace.com/mescalinaeden

How much does it cost? Are there any additional fees?

For information about fees visit the LCC website at www.lcc.arts.ac.uk or call the Admissions office on +44 (0) 20 7514 6400.

Where can I get more information?

For academic queries contact the Course Director, Chris Petter.
Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7514 6822. Email: c.petter@lcc.arts.ac.uk.

For administrative and enrollment matters, please contact the Information Centre on +44 (0) 20 7514 6569.