



Secondary

Careers Information Pack



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Tom Kiehl
Chief Executive,
UK Music

Music is a huge and exciting part of the creative industries. It creates over 200,000 jobs in the UK alone and allows communities and culture to flow and flourish. Music is a means of expression and storytelling, one which brings people together. It's important that, as a society, we continue to protect and contribute towards music.

There are many different careers in, as well as many different ways into, this exciting industry. You can earn while you learn as an apprentice, study for a degree or get paid while you work as an intern. The music business needs a lot of different skills and a diverse range of people. If you use the support offered in this pack, and consider the new routes currently available, you may find your dream job. UK Music is committed to helping you find it.

Want to work in the music industry? Below you'll find more details about some of the variety of roles available within the music industry.

Play an Instrument or sing?

Artist
Session Musician
Instrumental Teacher
Orchestra Musician

Enjoy Writing or Making Music?

Songwriter
Composer for Video Games
Media Music Composer
Music Producer

Like Working with Tech?

Studio Maintenance Engineer
Music Recording / Mixing Engineer
Mastering Engineer
Assistant Recording Technician

Interested in Live Events?

Live Event Technician
DJ
Festival Coordinator
Event Manager
Artist Liaison

Enjoy Working with People?

Music Manager
A&R Assistant
Sync Assistant
Project Co-ordinator
Member Services Representative

Like Working with Data?

Research Officer
Music Data Administrator
Royalties Assistant
Copyright Assistant
Metadata Coordinator
Accountant

Creative Writer or Designer?

Digital Marketing Manager
Press Assistant

Thinking About Further Study?

If you would like to explore music in more depth then further study - either at college or university - would be a great option.

A full list of music courses across the business and creative avenues can be found in the Music Education Directory (www.jamesonline.org.uk/jamesresources/med_2024/) and UK Music work directly with many through our Music Academic Partnership (MAP).

Music Academic Partnership

UK Music's Music Academic

Partnership (MAP) is a collaboration between a select group of educational institutions and the membership of UK Music. MAP is designed to maximise the employability of students enrolled in these institutions and ensure that they have the right mix of experience and skills most needed by the industry.

For more information, and to see a full list of our current MAP partners, please visit: www.ukmusic.org/skills-academy/music-academicpartnership/

MAP Tour

The Music Academic Partnership Tour sees a range of music professionals visiting the MAP institutions to meet and inspire students; through live panels, networking, and workshops.

Live panels cover many current industry topics, as well as looking into music industry professionals' careers. It's a great way to learn more about the industry, and network with artists, managers, composers, and other individuals.

Ola Kowalska



"I'm incredibly grateful to be nominated for the OMGs. As someone who came to the UK to chase a dream, the support I received at BNU—from Paul and the wider faculty—was truly life-changing. It went far beyond the classroom: they championed real-world experience, celebrated individuality, helped me find my voice and create a network in a new environment."

Ola (Aleksandra) Kowalska
Buckinghamshire New University



Outstanding MAP Graduate Awards (OMGs)

Every year the OMGs celebrate the best of former UK Music MAP member students who are either progressing to further study or have entered the industry. We celebrate fantastic individuals who have graduated with degrees, those who have studied level 3 or entry level courses, the amazing tutors, and those organisations / individuals whose work engages communities / individuals through music.



The nominations are judged by UK Music's Education Committee and the UK Music Futures Board and look at their educational experience, their career following graduation and potential to make an impact in the future.

The music industry holds lots of cool awards every year. Maybe one day, if you work hard, you'll be nominated for an OMG or another industry award.

See here for previous nominees for the UK Music MAP OMG Awards: www.ukmusic.org/graduate-awards/outstanding-map-graduate-awards-2025/

Emily Pugh



"I'm really honoured to be recognised for the OMGs as it gives me a chance to reflect on how far I have come since graduating in 2021 and what I have been able to achieve in my career so far."

Emily Pugh
OMG Winner 2024

Corinne Stewart



"Being nominated for an OMG feels incredibly special, and I'm proud to be recognised alongside so many talented alumni—it's a real full-circle moment."

Corinne Stewart
OMG Winner 2025

Digital Music Making

There are lots of free and easy ways to make music - below is one cool example:

www.digitmusic.co.uk/swipe

Digit Music: Your Gateway to Music Creation

Digit Music is an innovative audio company creating hardware, software, and audio content for music creators.

Whether you're a beginner or an aspiring musician, our tools help you make and perform music with ease. We offer samples, loops, and sounds from various genres like cinematic music, Pop, and Drill, used by composers, songwriters, and producers worldwide. Our clients include Universal Music, Google, BBC, and Netflix.

Want to try one of our instruments? CMPSR | Swipe turns your iPhone or iPad into an intuitive musical instrument played by swiping, tapping, or blinking. It's free to download, so you can form a band and jam with your friends anytime!

For Teachers

Introduce your students to the world of music creation with CMPSR | Swipe. It's a fantastic tool for music lessons, allowing students to experiment and create music together.



Discover! Creative Careers

DISCOVER!

creative careers

UK Music is proud to be partnering on Discover! Creative Careers, a programme that helps young people explore the huge variety of creative jobs available. Discover! introduces careers you may not have heard of and highlights the skills and experience that can help you kick start your career.

The music industry is creative by nature and full of exciting opportunities. Whether you're into producing tracks, putting on gigs, designing graphics, or promoting artists, there's a role for every talent and passion. Discover! can help you see what's out there and take your first step towards a career in music.

Check out the website to search for careers that match your interest, skills, and passions and watch inspirational films from industry professionals.

Discover! aims to reach 100,000 young people a year making creative and music careers easier to explore and accessible for everyone. So what you waiting for... get involved!

www.discovercreative.careers/about

iOS



Android



Students take part in Discover! Creative Careers Week 2024 at Longfield Academy Darlington with Radical Forge, a locally based game making company.

Creators Guide

There are plenty of organisations that are there to help you ensure you are paid for your music, whether it's being played live or on the radio, or provide advice.

AIM

AIM is the not-for-profit trade body exclusively representing the UK's independent music sector, which makes up a quarter of the recorded music market.
www.aim.org.uk

BBC Introducing

BBC Music Introducing provides up-and-coming artists with broadcast opportunities on television and online, as well as the chance to perform at major festivals and showcases.
www.bbc.co.uk/introducing

BPI

British Phonographic Industry is the British recorded music industry's Trade association. It runs the BRIT Awards; is home to the Mercury Prize; co-owns the Official Charts Company with the Entertainment Retailers Association; and awards UK music sales through the BRIT Certified Awards.
www.bpi.co.uk

FAC

The Featured Artists Coalition (FAC) is the UK trade body representing the specific rights and interests of music artists.
www.thefac.org/what-is-the-fac

The Ivors Academy

The Ivors Academy is the leading organisation for songwriters and composers. They empower music creators with knowledge and opportunities, campaign for a fair music industry, and celebrate the highest achievements in songwriting and composing. Over-18s anywhere in the world can join for free as a Discovery member and subscribe for full benefits.

The Ivors Academy also has a useful Knowledge Toolkit on their website:
www.ivorsacademy.com/knowledge

LIVE

LIVE (Live music Industry Venues & Entertainment) represents the full breadth of the UK's live music business.
www.livemusic.biz

MPA

The MPA represents and supports the UK's dynamic and diverse music publishing community.
www.mpaonline.org.uk

Music Managers Forum

Since its inception in 1992, the MMF has worked hard to educate, inform and represent UK managers as well as offering a network through which managers can share experiences, opportunities and information.

The MMF engages, advises and lobbies industry associates and the wider industry on issues that are relevant to managers. They continue to recruit members and grow their network, so they are truly representative of the wider management community.
www.themmf.net

Music Producer's Guild

The MPG is a non-profit organisation that represents professional Record Producers, Recording Engineers, Mixers and Mastering Engineers from all backgrounds as well as Recording Studios to make sure that their voice is being heard within the music industry.
www.mpg.org.uk

Musicians' Union

A community of over 35,000 musicians working to protect their members' rights and campaign for a fairer music industry.
www.musiciansunion.org.uk

PPL - Music Licensing

PPL is the UK's music licensing company for performers and recording rights-holders. They have been licensing the use of recorded music in the UK since 1934.
www.ppluk.com/licensing

PRS for Music

PRS pay royalties to their members when their works are: broadcast on TV or radio performed or played in public, whether live or through a recording streamed or downloaded.

Mechanical-Copyright Protection

Society pay royalties to their members when their music is: copied as physical products, such as CDs and DVDs streamed or downloaded used in TV, film or radio.
www.prsformusic.com

Across the UK there are amazing organisations working to support the music industry and develop talent. A great place to start is with the **PRS Foundation's Talent Development Partners** www.prsfoundation.com/talent-development-network-organisations-2025-2

Case Study: Leeds
Information about Leeds Music Local
 Music Local supports and develops place-based music support systems and infrastructures, tailored to the needs of individual music communities. They work with local government and organisations to support, develop, promote and represent local music groups. "Launchpad", part of Music Local, is an emerging talent development program that offers opportunities and support for emerging artists, musicians, producers, bands, composers and music professionals in the Yorkshire region. www.musiclocal.co.uk

Leeds-based band English Teacher win the 2024 Mercury Prize, with their album "This Could Be Texas"
 The band's debut album "This Could Be Texas" has members Lily Fontaine, Douglas Frost, Lewis Whiting and Nicholas Eden's bring us some tracks written during their time at UK Music's MAP member Leeds Conservatoire. The band won the Mercury Prize in 2024 with this album and went on to win the 2025 Youth Music Grassroots Hero Award. www.mercuryprize.com/news/english-teacher-announced-as-overall-winner-of-2024-mercury-prize-for-album-of-the-year

Lucky Iris
 Made in Leeds, Jasper and Maeve of Lucky Iris have had an array of big career moments, including being played on Love Island, performing at South by South West Festival, and being played on the radio, including BBC Radio 1, BBC 6 Music, and BBC Introducing. Lucky Iris have also been involved with UK Music MAP Tour events and Launchpad. www.luckyirisband.bandcamp.com

Other Great Examples
Music Futures
 MusicFutures engages 21 national and regional music sector partners to deliver a range of research, development and intellectual property initiatives and skills and training programmes that will drive music sector growth and employment and establish the Liverpool City Region as the UK's hub for innovation in music. www.musicalfutures.org

Generator
 Generator is the North's leading music development agency. Since 1991, they've been breaking barriers, building careers, and pushing boundaries. They give talent, creative entrepreneurs and industry professionals the tools, connections and platforms they need to grow and thrive. Whether it's developing artists, backing startups or opening doors to global opportunities, Generator turns ambition into action. www.generator.org.uk

Lesson Plans
UK Music x Discover Creative Careers Lesson Plan
www.ukmusic.org/education-skills/music-careers-lesson-plan
UK Music x Speakers For Schools
www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration
UK Music Education Directory
www.ukmusic.org/education-skills/music-education-directory

Globalbridge Videos
Being Authentic in Today's Market | ShaoDow
www.bit.ly/49WO8cC
The Power of Music for Wellbeing
www.bit.ly/4o2cDcO
A Career in Music Composition | David Lowe
www.bit.ly/4nXqWOR
How I Became an Award-Winning Music Graduate
www.bit.ly/4oPoawq

BBC Bitesize—Secondary School Resources
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/secondary
Platform One – Wight Noize
www.platformone.org/wight-noize
Rock Steady
www.rocksteadymusicschool.com

Discover Creative Careers
 Discover Creative Careers is an industry-led programme that is working to ensure there is a larger and more diverse intake of talent via a broader range of routes into the creative industries. It is funded by DCMS, with additional support from Arts Council England. www.discovercreativecareers

Music Video Resources
www.discovercreativecareers/video-programme/music

Speakers For Schools - Work Experience
 Speakers For Schools have opportunities for young people aged 14-19 years old. It's the perfect place to start your career, and learn valuable skills. www.speakersforschools.org

DJ School UK
 Specialising in online or face to face teacher training and CPD in DJ skills. www.djschooluk.org.uk

Notes

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UK Music is the collective voice of the UK's world-leading music industry. We represent all sectors of our industry - bringing them together to collaborate, campaign, and champion music.

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