

School of Media Music and Performance Curriculum Review Public Statement

The School of Media Music and Performance has over the past 20 years been at the forefront of new and innovative developments in creative education and has become one of the largest and most successful UK higher education providers in the subject areas of media, music and performance. We intend to build on this success by continually innovating.

Our engagement with Media City in Salford Quays, where a substantial number of our media and journalism programmes will be based from October 2011 onwards, is one of a number of examples of substantial investments that the university is making into the school. Media City, and a number of other complementary developments, are going to equip the school with state of the art facilities that will be unrivalled by any higher education institution in the UK, if not Europe. These developments are enabling the school to build on its engagement with the sector industries in new and exciting ways, including with the major stakeholders in the Media City development, such as our neighbours there, the BBC.

These developments offer the school a unique opportunity to refresh its curriculum with a view to making it responsive to changing contexts and demands. The aim of the review is to ensure that we are delivering the best and most distinctive creative education in ways that make for an unrivalled student learning experience. To achieve these aims, we will be looking to:

- maintain the broad suite of existing content available to students, as the comprehensive range of subject areas available remains a unique strength;
- simplify and liberate the curriculum to enable and encourage students to take advantage of opportunities to engage with interdisciplinary collaborations and live sector/industry briefs;
- encourage more interdisciplinary option choices, with a view, particularly at postgraduate level, to allowing students to build their own unique programmes that reflects the diversity of learning aspirations;
- improve the content and delivery of our programmes, with a view to ensuring they deliver in innovative and engaging ways;
- create a more flexible curriculum that is able to accommodate a variety of blended learning modes, such as part time, continual professional development and e-learning;
- evolve a more responsive curriculum that enables the school to respond to more complex and varied student living and learning contexts.

The review is school wide and any changes decided on will be implemented in a phased process over three years starting in October 2011.

Professor Erik Knudsen
Head of School of Media Music and Performance