



# MUSIC INDUSTRY SOUND and MUSIC PRODUCTION

## Course Information



**MELBOURNE  
POLYTECHNIC**



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# MELBOURNE POLYTECHNIC SOUND AND MUSIC PRODUCTION PROGRAMS

Melbourne has a dynamic and exciting music scene that offers many unique venues and opportunities. It's the perfect place for you to begin your career in the music industry.

Melbourne Polytechnic's sound and music production programs are a vehicle for you to realise your musical, artistic, technical and career goals. Our courses provide ample opportunities for collaboration, and are conducted in professional recording studios and performance venues. Sound and music production staff are all active practitioners with years of industry experience, eager to impart their insights and share opportunities with passionate students.

Melbourne Polytechnic is an Avid Training Provider and includes Pro Tools training in all its sound production courses. You'll have access to analogue and digital technologies, and industry-standard software packages Pro Tools and Ableton Live.

During your time at Melbourne Polytechnic, you'll use integrated projects to develop your skills and prepare a professional portfolio of work to launch you into a career in the music industry.

# PATHWAYS THROUGH SOUND PRODUCTION

## VET music industry programs at MP offer a range of qualifications, from Certificate IV to Advanced Diploma.

Each qualification is designed to develop your sound and music production skills and help you progress through the higher qualifications.

While single qualifications are available and will suit some students, becoming a confident and skilled practitioner can take many years of study. Most students choose to pathway through several qualification levels.

Each qualification level has some common subjects to support your development as a well-rounded contemporary music producer or sound engineer. See the individual subject descriptions on p.8-13 for more information.

### CERTIFICATE IV

The Certificate IV in Sound Production will develop your fundamental sound production skills in both studio and live production environments, with an emphasis on technical operations. It's an excellent preparation for further study; especially for those with limited experience or a lower music-industry qualification.

The course covers studio recording, audio theory, analog and digital audio equipment and applications, live sound and public address operation, basic composition, introduction to Ableton Live, copyright, workplace health and safety, and industry knowledge. Students in the Cert IV also have the opportunity to study the Avid Pro Tools 101 course.

### DIPLOMA

If you're considering a career as a music producer, the Diploma of Music Industry (Music production) is for you. In this program, you'll produce quality, commercial-release music through the study of composition and arrangement, studio recording techniques, and performance using interactive music technology.

The course has an emphasis on composition and arrangement for electronic musical instruments, and Ableton Live-based production techniques.

During the course, you'll prepare a portfolio of work and perform an original composition utilising interactive technologies in a feature concert. You'll also produce electronic music and sound for commercial release, live performance, theatre, film and television.

The Diploma offers opportunities to manage the creation and installation of sound designs, write and produce original music and the work of other musicians, and explore compositional techniques using electronic media.

Finally, you'll have access to analogue and digital technologies and industry-standard software packages ProTools and Ableton live. Diploma students also have the opportunity to study the Avid Pro Tools 101 course.

### ADVANCED DIPLOMA

This course is for those with considerable industry experience, or who have completed a Certificate IV or Diploma with an emphasis on advanced technical operation. Units cover live production, studio recording, sound design and audio post-production, and various aspects of industry involvement.

In the Advanced Diploma, you'll be able to collaborate with, and provide audio services to, other Performing Arts students at VET and higher education levels. You'll also have the opportunity to study the Avid Pro Tools 110 course.

This program will help you develop advanced work flows and techniques for producing music and sound in a variety of professional contexts, including music production, post production, sound reinforcement and sound design.

Career pathways from this qualification include music producer, sound designer, FOH operator, monitor operator, sound editor, music production engineer, and audio post-production for radio, television, film and digital media.

# COURSE OVERVIEWS

## CUA40915 Certificate IV in Music Industry (Sound Production)

One semester duration. February intake available at Fairfield and Prahran campuses, July intake at Fairfield campus only.

Unit code and title	Cluster/Subject
BSBCRT401 Articulate, present and debate ideas	Industry
BSBIPR401 Use and respect copyright	
BSBSMB301 Investigate micro business opportunities	
CUAWHS302 Apply work health and safety practices	
CUASOU301 Undertake live audio operations	Live Sound
CUAPPM503 Incorporate creative and technical needs into management processes	
CUASOU308 Install and disassemble audio equipment	
CUAIND401 Extend expertise in specialist creative fields	Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) 101
CUASOU202 Perform basic sound editing	
CUASOU307 Record and mix a basic music demo	Studio Production
CUASOU311 Mix music in a studio environment	
CUASOU405 Record sound	
CUAMCP303 Develop simple musical pieces using electronic media	Electronic Music Production
CUAMLT302 Apply knowledge of style and genre to music industry practice	

## CUA50815 Diploma of Music Industry – Music Production

One year duration. February and July intakes available at Fairfield and Prahran campuses.

Unit code and title	Cluster/Subject
BSBCRT501 Originate and develop concepts	Freelance Services
CUAIND402 Provide freelance services	
CUACMP501 Manage copyright arrangements	
CUAPPR505 Establish and maintain safe creative practice	Work Health and Safety
CUAPPR606 Extend expertise in a specialised art form to professional level	Production Extension
CUAMLT501 Refine aural perception skills	Aural Perception
CUAMCP402 Develop techniques for composing music	Music Composition
CUAMCP501 Compose music using electronic media	
CUASOU407 Edit sound	Production Processes
CUASOU409 Mix recorded music	
CUAPPR501 Realise a body of creative work	Creative Portfolio
CUASOU401 Mix live audio	Live Recording and Mixing
CUAMCP401 Develop techniques for arranging music	Music Arranging
CUAMPF502 Incorporate interactive technology into performance	Music Technology & Performance
CUAMPF408 Develop performance techniques on a second instrument	
CUASOU504 Produce sound recordings	Recorded Music Production

## CUA60515 Advanced Diploma of Music Industry (Sound Production)

One year duration. February and July intake available at Fairfield campus.

Unit code and title	Cluster/Subject
CUAMLT502 Apply concepts of music and society to professional practice	Music and Society
CUAPPR603 Engage in the business of creative practice	Creative Business Practice
BSBIPR501 Manage intellectual property to protect and grow business	
CUAPPR505 Establish and maintain safe creative practice	Work Health and Safety
BSBCRT601 Research and apply concepts and theories of creativity	Creative Production
CUASOU503 Develop sound designs	Sound Design
CUASOU505 Implement sound designs	
BSBPMG522 Undertake project work	Studio Projects
CUASOU602 Manage production of sound recordings	
CUASOU601 Manage production of sound designs	Post Production
CUASOU507 Compile music for soundtracks	
CUAPPR401 Realise a creative project	Studio Production
CUASOU506 Create a final sound balance	
CUASOU502 Manage the operation of stage monitor systems	Stage Monitor Systems
CUAPPM504 Manage bump in and bump out of shows	Live Event Production



# SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

## 1. CERTIFICATE IV IN MUSIC INDUSTRY (SOUND PRODUCTION)

### INDUSTRY

Explore careers in the music industry and align your skills, interests and professional aspirations with micro music business opportunities. Network with others and learn from professionals as they share their journey and experiences in the music industry. Articulate your career goals and aspirations, learn how to use and respect music industry copyright, and apply work health and safety practices as a music industry professional.

### LIVE SOUND

Discover the fundamentals of live sound production, developing the skill and knowledge to set up and operate small vocal PAs and mix a live band. Learn about specialist microphones, cabling and connectors, and focus on analogue mixing desks and outboard processing equipment before progressing to using digital mixing consoles. Plan audio events and specify live sound systems to ensure a successful live event.

### STUDIO PRODUCTION

Collaborate with performers to plan, record and mix a basic music demo. Practise preparing, assembling and digitally editing sound sequences for media content. Work as part of a production team to interpret artistic and technical production requirements in a studio environment to create quality sound recordings for contemporary musical production.

### ELECTRONIC MUSIC PRODUCTION

Develop and understand musical styles and genres through the use of Ableton Live. Advance your technical skills and create a variety of musical pieces exploring Ableton Live's role in the creation of original music and electronic music production (EMP).

### DIGITAL AUDIO WORKSTATION (DAW) 101

Develop your expertise with industry-standard editing and mixing software by exploring the key features and functions of Pro Tools. Analyse Pro Tools' strengths and weaknesses, with the opportunity to undertake the internationally recognised Pro Tools 101 Exam.



## 2. DIPLOMA OF MUSIC INDUSTRY (MUSIC PRODUCTION)

### PRODUCTION PROCESSES

Collaborate with artists to analyse and work on music productions using Ableton Live and Pro Tools. Plan, organise and produce audio recordings using acoustic, electric and electronic sound sources. Edit, process, and mix sound using Pro Tools digital audio workstation.

### MUSIC COMPOSITION

Explore and develop a variety of music composition techniques, while analysing approaches to original music creation. Implement various synthesis techniques with the use of Ableton Live, and create original music pieces for multiple contexts.

### CREATIVE PORTFOLIO

Discover a range of creative strategies and implement them in your own music creation. Learn about collective track production, remote collaboration, genre creation, and against the clock challenges. Explore mastering techniques in Ableton Live and prepare an online folio page that showcases your best creations.

### PRODUCTION EXTENSION

Create custom-made drum, instrument and effect racks in Ableton Live and implement your production skills in a remix project. Design a creative manifesto that will guide your music-production practice.

### AURAL PERCEPTION

Refine aural perception skills essential to music producers. Conduct regular exercises to test your ability to transcribe musical material and recognise changes in music that has been modified with a range of sound processing tools.

### LIVE RECORDING AND MIXING

Consolidate your mixing skills on analogue mixing equipment, then move your focus to utilising the features and workflows of digital mixing consoles. Use live audio equipment and microphones as you learn to record and produce live audio mixes. Be introduced to live sound design skills, and gain mixing skills that can be utilised in your own performance and further consolidated in the Advanced Diploma.

### MUSIC ARRANGING

Investigate music arranging techniques in the context of three distinct genres. Discuss and analyse the historical roots, pioneers, key producers and musical arrangements in these genres and utilise sampling, sound processing and other contemporary production elements to produce three pieces of music.

### MUSIC TECHNOLOGY & PERFORMANCE

Explore the role of Ableton Live, Push and a variety of related interactive technologies in the context of live music performance. Extend your production skills to incorporate the Push as a live instrument, learning chord and melody playing techniques and experimenting with other interactive controllers. Perform your music at a showcase concert.

### MUSIC PRODUCTION

Further your exploration into the role of contemporary studio recording techniques for producing music. Work collaboratively to develop creative sound concepts for recording projects, producing an electronic track and working with a variety of guest artists. Explore how different recording and performance environments and sound equipment affect sound. Develop techniques for evaluating the quality of sound and producing the sound recordings required for a range of productions.

### WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

Develop an understanding of risk management and risk controls relating to live event production, providing an expanded awareness of what goes on behind the scenes when planning large events. Study risks inherent to live performance, and learn how to control risk and limit your exposure to hazardous situations.

### FREELANCE SERVICES

Develop concepts for freelance work in the music industry, and undertake business planning and investigate business structures and regulations. Participate in a series of masterclasses and presentations delivered by key industry stakeholders.

Understand the role of copyright collection societies in the process of creating, arranging, using, and performing live and recorded music. Learn to complete an audio manufacture license from AMCOS, analyse recording contracts, and investigate music publishing and income streams.

### 3. ADVANCED DIPLOMA OF MUSIC INDUSTRY (SOUND PRODUCTION)

#### MUSIC AND SOCIETY

Explore genres, styles and the important correlations between art, culture and technology. Develop critical thinking skills, broaden your stylistic awareness and understanding, and use self-reflection to engage with cultural values as they relate to your professional practice. Expand your musical vocabulary and collaborate to produce a recording that demonstrates an understanding of style, genre, performance and production techniques.

#### CREATIVE BUSINESS PRACTICE

Undertake activities involved in planning, promoting, monitoring and executing a live event, as well as participate in case studies and business constructs that are relevant to you and the music industry. Investigate the role and management of intellectual property, music copyright and royalties, marketing strategies and digital aggregation, and complete your own industry standard creative business plan.

#### WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY\*

Develop an understanding of risk management and risk controls relating to live event production, providing an expanded awareness of what goes on behind the scenes when planning large events. Study risks inherent to live performance, and learn how to control risk and limit your exposure to hazardous situations.

#### CREATIVE PRODUCTION

Explore theories of creativity and their application to the creative process within studio recording and production contexts. Research, experiment, reproduce, and evaluate a variety of recording techniques including using reel-to-reel tape, as a way of exploring creativity through limitations in technology.

#### SOUND DESIGN

Expand your technical and creative skills to implement sound designs in a variety of contexts. Explore managing projects, working collaboratively, and delivering products in consultation with a client. Develop location sound recording techniques, use mobile recording and synchronization devices, work with voice talent, and design sound for an audio tour and animation.

\*This subject may be completed in the Diploma of Music Industry and credited in the Advanced Diploma.

#### STUDIO PROJECTS

Acquire advanced creative and technical skills with Pro Tools operation and within the studio. Manage and conduct live and studio recording projects through planning and conducting sessions, editing and mixing. Explore production tools and methods that optimise recordings to suit the style of music and fulfil the creative goals of the artists.

#### POST PRODUCTION

Explore the history of sound and music in film. Develop awareness of current post-production work practices and the technical skills to deliver high quality audio visual content.

Manage and perform dialogue editing and re-recording (ADR), sound-effect creation, music compilation and editing. Explore and foster advanced mixing techniques related specifically to post-production workflows, including surround-sound mixing, creating stems and premixes.

#### STUDIO PRODUCTION

Work with artists to realise their creative and aesthetic goals in live and studio-based sound productions. Record, edit and mix live and studio recordings and prepare them for mastering and distribution. Produce a single, develop production for a major event, and manage advanced studio production techniques and workflows, focusing on the important creation of sound balances.

#### STAGE MONITOR SYSTEMS

Learn the hands-on skills required to become a professional live audio engineer. Mix front of house sound, and separate foldback or stage mixes for live performances. Develop stage management skills and use advanced audio equipment like splitters, digital mixing desks (DiGiCo, Allen & Heath, and Midas), and in-ear monitor mixes.

#### LIVE EVENT PRODUCTION

Work in a professional venue with performers, stage managers, and lighting and camera operators. Use communications systems to manage your event, and digital and analogue recording splits to capture performances. Develop work-ready production skills necessary to analyse a live venue and recommend suitable PA equipment. Visit a number of Melbourne music venues and collaborate and work on external events.



## APPLYING FOR SOUND COURSES

A young man with brown hair, wearing a light-colored t-shirt, is smiling at the camera. He is in a recording studio. In the foreground, a large, professional mixing console is visible, with various knobs, buttons, and a small screen. The background shows other people in the studio, including a man in a dark jacket and another man in a blue shirt. The lighting is warm and focused on the equipment.

A questionnaire and interview will help us find the right course for you: one best suited to your skills, creative interests, and career aspirations.

Applications for sound and music production courses require you to complete a brief online questionnaire and interview. This process is a chance for you to show us the music you feel passionate about, and tell us about your aspirations and career objectives. It also allows us to evaluate your abilities and find the course best-suited to your current skills and knowledge.

During the interview, you can tell us about any previous sound activities and experience you may have, and showcase examples of your work.

For further information on the questionnaire and interview process, or to contact Sound and Music Production staff, see details on p.17

# MUSIC INDUSTRY SOUND/MUSIC PRODUCTION PATHWAYS



## FIND OUT MORE ...

### INFORMATION SESSIONS

Information sessions for Melbourne Polytechnic Sound and Music Production courses are held every Tuesday from 4pm to 5pm during Victorian school terms.

**To register for an information session, visit the website:**

[www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/information-enrolment-sessions](http://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/information-enrolment-sessions).

### CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT

**Sound and Music Production staff**, email [performingarts@mp.edu.au](mailto:performingarts@mp.edu.au).

**Melbourne Polytechnic education and course advisors**, phone 03 9269 8400.

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### CUA40915 Certificate IV in Music Industry (Sound Production)

[www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/courses/certificate-iv-in-music-industry-sound-production](http://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/courses/certificate-iv-in-music-industry-sound-production)

#### CUA50815 Diploma of Music Industry - Music Production

<https://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/study/diploma/music-industry/music-production/>

#### CUA60515 Advanced Diploma of Music Industry (Sound Production)

[www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/courses/advanced-diploma-of-music-industry-sound-production](http://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/courses/advanced-diploma-of-music-industry-sound-production)

### QUESTIONNAIRES AND INTERVIEWS

#### Preparing for a sound and music production interview

[www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/performing-arts-booking-information/sound-and-music-production](http://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/performing-arts-booking-information/sound-and-music-production)





*This training may be delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth Government funding.  
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