Music Technology

Getting ready to study music technology.

Listening Skills

Your listening skills are essential for good progress through this course. Listening to a variety of styles/ genres from the last 100 years is going to give you a great foundation of awareness. This should be active, purposeful critical listening… not just music in the background! Get to know what your headphones sound like on different material and compare this to listening on speakers. Ideally you should be able to listen to music over a good set of stereo speakers.

Suggested listening:

'The Essential Billie Holiday', Billy Holiday

'Lady Soul', Aretha Franklin

'Pet Sounds', Beach Boys

'Graceland', Paul Simon

'Hysteria', Def Leppard

'Dig Your Own Hole', Chemical Brothers

'This Music May Contain Hope', RAYE

Musicianship Skills

Whilst you are never assessed on ability to play an instrument on this course, it is called *music* technology for a reason! Whatever your starting point, you should develop your musical skills as broadly as possible. Pick up a new instrument if you can, download a keyboard app. The more awareness you have the better. If you have an iOS device, you can download Garageband for free! We are a creative subject; take time to play.

Research

YouTube and podcasts are a great source for ideas and -as long as you're selective- reliable information.

To develop your general musical awareness, listen to 'Switched on Pop'. It is not specifically about music tech., but covers a broad variety of topics about artists' processes, styles, influences and techniques. 'Sound on Sound' magazine has several podcasts but listening to their 'Recording and Mixing' podcast will give some great technical knowledge.

'Sound on Sound' magazine also has many back articles available for free.

Investigate the character and sound of microphones at Audio Test Kitchen webapp. A little tricky to work out at first, but something to try with headphones.

Key terminology

You should begin the course being familiar with the following terms. Beside each term you could write a description or write a weblink/source for information about it. This list is not exhaustive!

A/D conversion: _____

Auto-tune: _____

Cardioid: _____

Compression (dynamic): _____

Compression (of data ie MP3): _____

Condenser: _____

DAW: _____

dB: _____

Delay: _____

Distortion: _____

Dry/wet (of effects):_____

Dynamic: _____

EQ: _____

LFO: _____

dB: _____

MIDI: _____

Mono: _____

Phase: _____

Phaser: _____

Reverb: _____

Sampling: _____

Stereo: _____

Synthesis: _____

XLR: _____