

UAL Level 3 Music Performance and Production Summer Project

Welcome to your Level 3 course!

Congratulations on securing your place. This summer project is your first step into the world of a professional musician, producer, or engineer. It's designed to keep your creative skills sharp over the break and to introduce you to the way we work on this course: combining practical skills with research, planning, and critical reflection.

This isn't just a task; it's an opportunity for you to explore your passion, experiment with new ideas, and arrive in September with a fantastic piece of work you can be proud of.

Important Notice: A Condition of Your Enrollment

Please be aware that the successful completion of this **Summer Assignment** is a **mandatory condition of your offer** to enroll on the Level 3 Music Performance & Production course.

- **Deadline:** Your completed assignment must be submitted via a shared Google Drive folder by **Monday 18th August 2025**.
- **Standard:** The assignment must be completed to a good standard, showing genuine effort across all required parts (practical, research, reflection, and evaluation). "Good standard" means the work is complete, thoughtfully executed, and meets the requirements of the brief.

This assignment is your first opportunity to demonstrate the commitment, independence, and creativity required for success at Level 3. **Failure to submit a completed assignment to a good standard by the deadline may result in your place on the course being withdrawn.**

The Overall Goal:

To create a finished practical project in a specialist area of your choice, supported by a portfolio of research and a reflective journal that documents your creative journey from initial idea to final product. This portfolio will be your first piece of assessed work.

Part 1: The Practical Project (The Creative Core)

Your first task is to choose **one** project pathway from the four options below. This should be the area you are most interested in pursuing.

The theme for all projects is “**Reinterpretation.**” This means you can either create something entirely original inspired by others, or take an existing idea and make it completely your own.

Choose ONE Pathway:**Pathway A: The Songwriter**

- **Task:** Write and record a demo of one complete, original song (2-4 minutes).
- **Brief:** Your song must have a clear verse-chorus structure, a complete set of lyrics, a melody, and a chord progression/harmony. The recording can be simple (e.g., vocals and one instrument, or created using basic DAW software). The focus is on the quality of the composition and songwriting craft.

Pathway B: The Performer

- **Task:** Create a unique performance of a cover song (2-4 minutes) and record it on video.
- **Brief:** Choose an existing song and “reinterpret” it. Do not just copy the original. Change the tempo, the genre, the instrumentation, or the feel. You will be assessed on your technical skill, creative interpretation, and performance delivery.

Pathway C: The Producer

- **Task:** Produce a finished track (2-4 minutes).
- **Brief:** You have two options: 1) Create a full **remix** of an existing song in a different genre, or 2) Create an **original track** from scratch using a DAW. The focus is on arrangement, sound selection, and the creative use of production techniques.

Pathway D: The Audio Engineer

- **Task:** Record and mix a multi-track song to a professional standard.
 - **Brief:** You have two options: 1) If you have access to equipment, **record and mix** a song with at least 4 separate tracks. 2) **Download and mix** a free multi-track session from a resource like the Cambridge Music Technology Library. The focus is on achieving a clear, balanced, and dynamic mix using professional techniques.
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Part 2: Research & Development Portfolio

This portfolio is a critical part of your assessment. It demonstrates the thinking behind your practical work and your ability to engage with research—a core skill for Level 3. All written work should be completed using Google Docs.

1. Secondary Research: Deconstruction & Analysis (approx. 300 words)

- Find **two** professional tracks relevant to your project.
- For each track, write a short analysis (approx. 150 words each) explaining *what* makes it effective and *how* you can apply these techniques or ideas in your own project.

2. Primary Research: Gathering & Using Feedback

- At some point during your project, get feedback on a draft from at least **two** people (friends, family, other musicians).
 - Ask specific, targeted questions to get useful, constructive answers.
 - Keep a clear record of the feedback you received and, crucially, explain what changes you made (or chose not to make) as a result.
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Part 3: The Reflective Journal (Evidence of Process)

This journal provides essential evidence of your working process, which is a key assessment criterion at Level 3. It is a log of your progress, challenges, and breakthroughs. You should aim for at least **four** entries over the summer.

Format: This should be kept within your main project Google Doc.

For each entry, you should answer:

- What did I do this week?

- What went well and what challenges did I face?
 - How did I solve any problems?
 - How has my research influenced my work so far?
 - What are my goals for next week?
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Part 4: The Final Evaluation (Critical Reflection)

This is a short, formal summary (approx. 500 words) where you reflect on the project as a whole. You must connect your research to your practical work to demonstrate the application of your learning.

Structure your evaluation using these headings:

1. **Project Aims:** State what you set out to achieve.
 2. **Application of Research:** Explain how your secondary and primary research influenced your creative decisions and the final outcome.
 3. **Strengths and Weaknesses:** Critically evaluate your final piece and your overall process.
 4. **Skills Development:** Identify the new practical and theoretical skills you have learned and how this project has prepared you for the course.
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Part 5: Submission Checklist & Deadline

DEADLINE: MONDAY 18TH AUGUST 2025

Remember, timely and successful completion of this assignment is a condition of your enrollment. You are responsible for ensuring your work is complete and accessible by this date.

On your first day of the course, you will submit a single **shared Google Drive folder** containing all your work. Please name the folder clearly (e.g., "Joe Bloggs - Summer Assignment") and ensure the sharing permissions are set to "Anyone with the link can view".

Your folder must contain:

1. **The Practical Project:**
 - Your final audio file (MP3 or WAV) or video file (MP4).
2. **The Portfolio Document:**
 - A single **Google Doc** that contains:
 - Your Secondary Research

- Your Primary Research Log
- Your full Reflective Journal
- Your Final Evaluation

Tips for Success:

- **Start early!** Do not leave this till the last week. Plan your time effectively.
- **Be organised.** Create your Google Drive folder and document from day one.
- **Experiment.** The goal is to learn and be creative, so don't be afraid to try things that might not work at first.
- **Treat this like your first professional brief – because it is.**

We are looking forward to seeing and hearing the results of your hard work. Good luck.

Here is a link to submission guidance that we covered during taster day, please read this as it will help you organise and submit the assignment -

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1B9HwatOcCA2k1fFSLvj93Shdr2xJjv1GbDh9CKAG_Pg/edit?usp=sharing

The deadline for this assignment is Tuesday 19th August 2025, this is the day before GCSE results day and the beginning of enrolment week. If you have not submitted before this date we will have to review your application and you may not be enrolled onto the course.

Please share the Google Folder with matthew.challinor@ieg.ac.uk ben.hurl@ieg.ac.uk and sam.loose@ieg.ac.uk

If you have any questions regarding the summer assignment I will be on annual leave but will be regularly checking my emails and will be in college from 29/07/25 to 01/08/25.