



# POINT BLANK

MUSIC SCHOOL



POINT BLANK MUSIC SCHOOL

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## Undergraduate Guide



# Step Inside the Music Industry

## Introduction

### Our Mission

Point Blank's mission is to prepare students from diverse backgrounds for a successful career in the music industry by providing access to:

- A diverse, global community and student experience unmatched in creativity and innovation
- The latest state-of-the-art equipment
- Teaching excellence via highly trained instructors with a wealth of industry experience and Point Blank's network of contacts and partnerships

### About Point Blank

Established in 1994, Point Blank began life as a commercial recording studio before evolving into a hands-on teaching facility. Today we're recognised as an internationally-renowned music school and training ground for the next generation of global artists and industry influencers. Voted "Best Music School" by the readers of DJ Mag, Point Blank offers bespoke tuition from campuses in London, Los Angeles and through our online school, with personalized teaching and intimate classes. Our goal has always been to harness and demonstrate the creative process of making music at the highest level.

We select outstanding talent from the music industry to join our elite team of instructors and provide them with the training required to teach our courses to a rigorous standard of excellence. Students learn at our state-of-the-art studios on the latest equipment in a highly creative learning environment. Our accredited courses offer internationally recognised academic qualifications and include degree-level programmes. Since we started sharing the music industry's secrets, over 50,000 students worldwide have turned to Point Blank to provide the best possible foundation for successful careers across the fields of music production, sound engineering, music business, singing, radio production and DJing.

*"If you're serious about your music, Point Blank is the place to be..."*

Pete Tong MBE, internationally renowned BBC Radio One DJ/broadcaster and global music industry figure for over 30 years.



## Quality Assurance & Awards

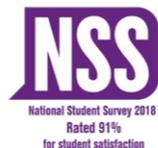
Point Blank offers programmes that are quality assured by Middlesex University and students receive a Middlesex award upon successful completion of these programmes. Our degrees are ideal progression routes into careers in the music industry.

The School was among the first independent HE institutions to successfully be registered by OfS and TEF and has won numerous awards for excellence within its field.

The School has received a high level of student recognition through a) scores of 100% (2017) and 91% (2018) for 'Overall Student Satisfaction' in our first two years taking part in the NSS and b) winning the 2018 WhatUni Student Choice Award for 'Best Independent HE' institution.

It is significant that:

- 100% of students in 2017 agreed that the teaching quality of the course was strong (NSS Q1-4, 2017). This is 15.7% above the sector benchmark for the year.
- 82.5% of students agreed that assessment and feedback was clear, timely and fair (NSS Q8-11, 2017). This is 2.7% above the sector benchmark for the year.
- 100% of students agreed that academic support was strong and helpful (NSS Q12-14). This is 17% above the sector benchmark for the year.
- Our 100% graduate outcomes score in highly skilled employment or further study is 23.9% above the sector average.



## BA (Hons) Music Production & Sound Engineering

Institution Code: P73 // Course Code: WW33

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to pursue your passion for music whilst also gaining a BA (Hons) degree in music production and sound engineering, validated by Middlesex University. It features multiple opportunities for students to get started in the music business through our dedicated industry liaison programme.

Developed and taught by music industry professionals who have worked with

Pharrell Williams, Chemical Brothers and Swedish House Mafia to name a few, this 360-degree experience will ensure your expertise across a range of disciplines including production, remixing, sound design, studio and live sound engineering, mastering, how to manage your career (or manage others), making music for TV, film and games, Pro Tools and how to start your career in the music industry. You will be attending our state-of-the-

art School in Shoreditch which features the best equipment and facilities in the music business.

You can complete this degree course in either two or three years (3 year pathway featured below). Student Finance is available for the three year pathway and places are limited.

### Modules

#### Year 1

##### Term 1

- Intro to Music Production (Logic Pro) or Intro to Music Production (Ableton)
- Music Composition

##### Term 2

- Sound Engineering
- Sound Design

##### Term 3

- Art of Mixing
- Music Industry

#### Year 2

##### Term 4

- Composing for Film & TV
- Production Analysis

##### Term 5

- Record Deals & Branding
- Creative Production & Remix

##### Term 6

- Electronic Music Performance
- Mastering

#### Year 3

##### Term 7

- Advanced Composition
- Advanced Recording & Mixing

##### Term 8

- Advanced Sound Design
- Music Entrepreneur

##### Term 8

- Audio for Games
- Production Portfolio



## BA (Hons) Music Production & DJ Practice Degree

Institution Code: P73 // Course Code: WW44

## BA (Hons) Music Industry Management Degree

Institution Code: P73 // Course Code: W5W5

This DJ specialist programme is the fast track to a career in the music industry. It is your opportunity to pursue your passion for music and DJing whilst gaining a BA (Hons) degree validated by Middlesex University in the process. With in-depth DJ-focused content, this is an intensive and practical course with plenty of career opportunities for students. Before graduating, you'll have regular opportunities to play out including at DJ Mag's Work Bar, getting your mix featured on Magnetic

Mag and Pioneer DJ Radio, alongside shows from Carl Cox's Global, Toolroom and Defected.

Developed and taught by music industry professionals who have worked with Pharrell Williams, Chemical Brothers and Rihanna to name a few, this degree programme ensures your expertise in crucial areas of the music industry such as DJing, production, remixing, sound design, mastering, how to manage your

career (or manage others) and more. You will be attending our state-of-the-art school in Shoreditch which features industry-standard equipment and facilities to ensure you're ready for a career in music.

You can complete this degree course in either two or three years (three year pathway is featured below). Student Finance is available for the three year option and places are limited.

For many years, Point Blank has shared the secrets of the music business and seen its students find high profile work in the industry. In an exciting and opportunity-filled musical landscape, this degree gives you the skills, depth of knowledge and practical experience you need to work within the music industry as well as the contacts to get started.

Course activities include setting up a record label; planning and executing live performances and tours; and how to negotiate music industry contracts and deals. You will gain an understanding of Intellectual Property (IP) law and copyright and the relationships between record labels, music publishing companies and the live sector. We will help you identify career opportunities and show you how to develop a strategy for success in your chosen field.

As you can see, on completion, you will have options to take on a wide range of roles within the music industry.

We understand that many people want to study with us due to our exceptional student experience as evidenced in our National Student Survey (NSS) results of 91% for Student Satisfaction. The School has also won various awards for other outstanding achievements. However, places on this programme remain strictly limited. This degree course includes regular masterclasses from leading figures in the music industry, such as Nick Halkes (XL Recordings) and multiple career developing opportunities and events.

This is a two year accelerated course.

### Modules

#### Year 1

##### Term 1

- Intro to Music Production (Logic Pro) or
- Intro to Music Production (Ableton)
- Essential DJ Skills

##### Term 2

- Music Composition
- Sound Design

##### Term 3

- Art of Mixing
- Music Industry

#### Year 2

##### Term 4

- Native Instruments Maschine
- Production Analysis

##### Term 5

- Record Deals & Branding
- Creative Production & Remix

##### Term 6

- Electronic Music Performance
- Creative DJ Skills

#### Year 3

##### Term 7

- Advanced Composition
- Advanced DJ Skills

##### Term 8

- Music Entrepreneur
- Advanced Sound Design

##### Term 8

- The Art of VJing
- Production Portfolio

### Modules

#### Year 1

##### Term 1

- History of the Music Industry
- The Recording Industry
- Intellectual Property & Copyright

##### Term 2

- Music Publishing
- Music Management
- Digital Music

##### Term 3

- The Live Music Industry
- Music in the Global Marketplace
- Music Licensing

#### Year 2

##### Term 4

- Music Branding & Promotion
- Digital Marketing
- Artist Development

##### Term 5

- Professional Development for the Music Industry
- Business Setup & Management
- Music Futures

##### Term 6

- Start-Up Lab - Personal Project



## Foundation Year (access to our degrees)



## Online BA (Hons) Music Production & Sound Engineering Degree

Institution Code: P73 // Course Code: WW88



If you are interested in enrolling on one of our three BA (Hons) degree programmes but do not yet meet the entry requirements, this Foundation Year could be your launching pad. Point Blank has been delivering high-quality Higher Education courses since 2012, when we established our partnership with Middlesex University. We recognise that demand for these courses makes competition for each place extremely high.

We understand that many people want to study with us due to our exceptional student experience as evidenced in our 2018 National Student Survey (NSS) results of 91% for Student Satisfaction. The School has also won various awards for other outstanding achievements, including 'Best Independent HE Institution' at the 2018 WhatUni Awards, as voted by our students.

We are happy to offer this Foundation Year entry into HE for those who may not otherwise be able to study with us. This could be your route into Point Blank. Student finance will be available for this Foundation Year subject to validation.

This is a one year course.

If you can't study with us in person in London but still want to learn how to produce cutting edge music and how to excel in the music industry, our online BA (Hons) in Music Production & Sound Engineering is the ideal option. You can achieve a degree qualification in a subject you feel passionate about - without leaving the comfort of your own home.

Taught by experienced music producers who have worked with artists including Armin Van Buuren, Rizzle Kicks and Jamelia, there are eighteen carefully crafted modules over three academic years, two per term taken concurrently. This is your chance to benefit from the practical music industry expertise and innovative teaching methods that Point Blank is known for whilst also gaining a BA (Hons) degree validated by Middlesex University.

UK/EU students can contact us for information on Student Finance for this online course.

### Modules

#### Year 1

##### Term 1

- Personal Development for Higher Education
- Introduction to DAWs
- Fundamentals of Production: Analysis & Genre Study

##### Term 2

- Understanding Music Theory
- Foundations of Sound Design
- Introduction to DJ Techniques

##### Term 3

- Understanding the Music Industry
- Fundamentals of Sound Engineering
- Foundations of Music Composition

### Modules

#### Year 1

##### Term 1

- Intro to Music Production (Logic Pro) or Intro to Music Production (Ableton)
- Music Composition

##### Term 2

- Creative Audio (Logic) or Creative Audio (Ableton)
- Sound Design

##### Term 3

- Art of Mixing
- Music Industry

#### Year 2

##### Term 4

- Composing for Film & TV
- Production Analysis

##### Term 5

- Record Deals & Branding
- Creative Production & Remix

##### Term 6

- Electronic Music Performance
- Mastering

#### Year 3

##### Term 7

- Advanced Composition
- Advanced Mixing

##### Term 8

- Advanced Sound Design
- Music Entrepreneur

##### Term 8

- Audio for Games
- Production Portfolio



## Student Opportunities

We maintain an active dialogue with employers in the music industry through our industry liaison programme, giving our alumni genuine career opportunities. For example, Decca and Columbia Records hold regular auditions with Point Blank students to unearth new talent in the cohort. We host a range of live events for students to showcase their talents such as Pioneer DJ Radio, DJ Mag, our own in-house PB Live Sessions and many more. Our strong industry connections ensure that unique internships, studio placements and competitions become available on a regular basis. From these, we have had many graduates who have gone on to work at studios including Abbey Road, become in-house sound engineers for labels such as Mute Records and work at radio stations such as Radio One and Kiss FM.

As part of the Point Blank experience, we offer students at the London school free music career advice sessions with professional music consultant Kwame Kwaten of Ferocious Talent Management. Kwame has steered the careers of many successful artists including Dido, Rumer and Laura Mvula as well as scoring No.1 hits himself as a producer (Shola Ama) and artist (D:Influence). Kwame's feedback and advice is an invaluable tool for our students.

You can find more information on these types of opportunities on our daily digital magazine Point Blank Plus.

[plus.pointblankmusicschool.com](http://plus.pointblankmusicschool.com)

## Student Success

Our graduates have been highly successful at finding work within the music industry. This trend has been borne out by our recent core metrics report to HESA where Point Blank students scored 100% in attaining highly skilled employment in the industry. Point Blank students have also achieved No.1 success in the UK and International singles charts as well as across music platforms such as Beatport and Juno Download. Our graduates include artists such as Leona Lewis, Goldie, Felix Jaehn and Aluna Francis from No.1 act AlunaGeorge (see opposite); Radio One DJ/ Presenters including Gemma Cairney, Monki, Edith Bowman, and Mistajam; A&R representatives for Universal and Interscope Records (Dave Rene, Ben Scarr) and many other successful industry figures. By studying at Point Blank, students join our global network. You can see our ever-growing list of student successes on our website.



FEATURED  
STUDENTS  
#1

### AlunaGeorge

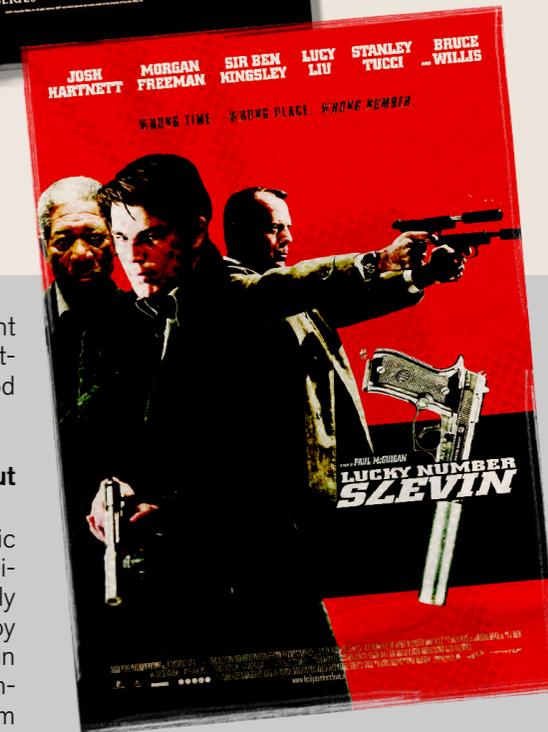
Aluna Francis is one half of top UK duo AlunaGeorge. She studied music production at Point Blank and then took off to massive chart success with "You Know You Like It" to NME's Best Track of the year and UK No.1 hit "White Noise" which she performed live at the Brit Awards with Disclosure. Aluna's talent has taken her a long way – we are proud she studied her art with Point Blank.



FEATURED STUDENTS #2

# PAULA FAIRFIELD

Paula Fairfield is an award winning Sound Designer who has worked on a host of movies and TV shows including *Game of Thrones*, *Lost*, *Sin City*, *Tropic Thunder*, *Predators* and many others. We spoke to Paula about her work and what prompted her to study music production online at Point Blank.



## Please introduce yourself. What is your name and where are you from?

My Name is Paula Fairfield. I am originally from Canada but have lived in Los Angeles for 11 years.

## Can you tell us a little about your job?

I am a supervising sound editor and designer for feature film and TV. I have been working in the commercial industry for 15 years and before that I ran a media center for artists in Canada, worked as a picture and sound editor for artists and also made my own multi-media based video, film and audio works.

## How did you get started in this line of work? Is this what you always wanted to do?

I went to the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, where I concentrated on video, audio and photographic art.

One summer I got an apprenticeship at the National Film Board of Canada and worked as an assistant to an award-winning picture and sound editor. At that time, film was still edited on magnetic tape stock, moviolas and Kems. As I waited to cut edited magnetic tape pieces of sound into prepped tracks, I watched in awe at the sound editing my boss was doing. I had no idea this was how sound for movies was done. So when you ask "Is this what you always wanted to do" the answer is "No. I didn't know this job existed". At the risk of sounding corny, the process of adding sounds to image was so magical and I got completely hooked.

## What do you like most about your job? And what's the hardest part?

I love designing sounds. I love breaking a sonic event down conceptually into its tiniest parts and then building it. I get a

rush every time I watch a completed sequence against picture. It is so much fun and I get paid to do it. What's not to love? The hardest part is dealing with tight budgets and deadlines. Sound is pretty much the last process in filmmaking and by the time we get the project, everyone has run out of money and time. Consider what contribution sound makes to the movie experience and then consider that we often find ourselves fighting for 1/2% of the entire film budget (yes you read that right!!!).

## What tips would you offer someone who is interested in working in this field?

It's tough right now, but I guess that can be said about all industries. Best thing is to try and build a portfolio of work and network with industry people. There are online sites always advertising the need

for low or no-pay sound for short films etc and that is a good way to get opportunities and meet people.

## What prompted you to take a course with Point Blank? What appealed to you about these courses?

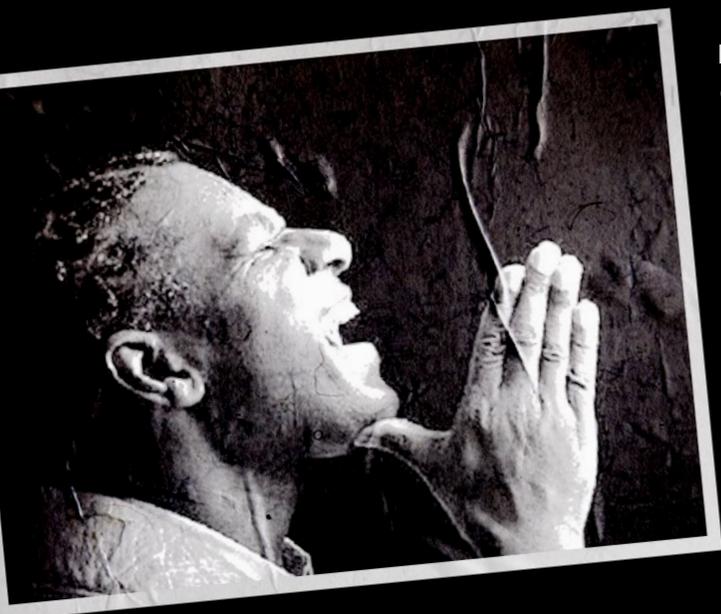
I have owned Ableton Live for a while and have never had the time to get into it. I tried once but because it is such a different way of thinking, it wasn't immediately apparent how to use it in the half hour I had here and there to look at it. I had some time this summer and thought it would be fun to finally learn it. Similarly, Reaktor has always eluded me as it seems like you need to be a nuclear physicist to use it. It is an interesting tool and one very well suited for design work. My main hesitations about taking courses at your school were that a) I am not a musician (though I wish I were) and b)

I work exclusively to picture. The Point Blank courses definitely put me way outside my comfort zone, and that's a good thing!

## What has been the best thing about the course so far?

Surprisingly, I find myself making music and really, really enjoying it. It's very liberating. It makes me work in a totally different way. I didn't think I would enjoy it as much as I have so far - I sit down in the evening to work a little on an assignment and I look at the clock and it's 4am and have to tear myself away. I may not be brilliant at it but I am loving it. And I am learning tons of stuff every day.

Thanks Paula!



FEATURED LECTURER

# PHIL RAMOCON

Phil Ramocon has racked up some impressive accolades in his 25 years in the music industry. His enthusiasm and passion for all genres of music has lead him to work with Gregory Isaacs, Neneh Cherry, Jimmy Cliff, Marianne Faithful and even Bob Marley to name a few!

In this interview, our Grammy award-winning Music Composition instructor spills the beans on his legendary career...

**How did you originally get into songwriting and music, and what made you decide it was something you should follow as a career?**

I got into Songwriting through playing piano at school. People were telling me it sounded pretty good until one of the teachers said I should get some proper lessons. They sent me to a local teacher

in Stamford Hill and I loved it. I kept doing my grades and winning competitions before getting a scholarship to study properly. I thought I'd take it really seriously and – to everyone's amazement – got a place at Dartington Hall in Devon. From there I got exposed to things I hadn't known about before, lots of classical music.

The Amadeus Quartet and famous classical people go down there and give lessons and masterclasses. I kind of got obsessed and attended them all and got exposed to lots of different forms of composition, concertos, symphonies so wrote a lot of that stuff.

There was also a big electronics department there that had a massive Modular

synth. I got fascinated with all the wires etc. as I never knew about anything like that. So that was one of the benefits about going to that place, getting exposure to early electronic music.

I met someone at college who had a contact at Island Records, the record company for Jimmy Cliff, Bob Marley, Gregory Isaacs and rock bands like "Free". I went down to London to audition for Island and they must have liked the way I played. While I was still at college I was playing on a Bob Marley record!

I just played what I knew which was classical pieces and they all got excited about it. At the time I didn't really appreciate who I was playing for...



Bob Marley

I then came across a guy called Steve Winwood who was in a band called Traffic. Through him I worked with the sax player where I met Jimmy Cliff and various other musicians that were signed to Island Records.



Steve Winwood

As soon as I left college I was playing with these guys and they got excited because I could read classical music. They asked me to write brass and string arrangements and it was really nice to hear this

stuff on the radio knowing I'd played on it.

I did an audition for a guy called Rico Rodriguez who was a jazz trombonist back in the early 60s and he's a very revered older statesman of ska music and I got into his band. I was the youngest guy there. They told me their band was going to be supporting Bob Marley on the European leg of his Exodus tour 1978 and asked if I wanted to do it.

That tour was the first time I came across Bob in person and it was when he was in his peak. Bob heard me play every night with Rico and I started chatting to him. We shared the same outlook on life as a spiritual journey with a moral purpose. After the tour ended I would often get the call to work with him in the studio whenever he was in London.

It was definitely an honour to watch him work close up, talk with him and be a part of his creative process.

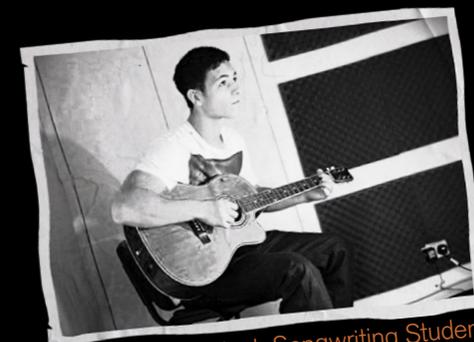
**After having a number of commercial and critical successes with songwriting & production, (gaining a number of Grammy nominations in the process), how did you eventually make the leap from being the writer, full-time, to teaching others how to write for themselves?**

A long time ago I was asked to deputise a teaching job at South Thames college and they were running a small department in music production. My job was to teach Pro Tools as it was then and piano. I was really inspired by my students as the gear that we had then was really basic but they made the best of it. Some of the things they were playing was unbelievable. Pretty much my whole class were the founding members of So Solid Crew who had all come from the church. They were really enthusiastic and hungry for the knowledge and any little thing they could get from me and the other tutors.

**Apart from learning from a hugely experienced songwriter and mentor like yourself; what other benefits to young musicians do you see coming from taking music courses such as those at Point Blank?**

This is important in contemporary music where it's all about the collaborative process. Also, in a college environment you get to meet loads of people that have similar music interests and tastes.

When I was studying music there weren't many places where you could learn to produce music. It was more a case of reading the manuals and learning by making a lot of mistakes. At Point Blank you get hands on experience and have people who can show you tips that you wouldn't see in a manual or text book.



Point Blank Songwriting Student

Everybody has got the chance to be up there with the very best, if you keep working, keep developing and try different things and experiment by mixing genres. Personally I like catchy things so my advice to you is just make it catchy!



## Expert Lecturers

Our courses are taught by music industry professionals whom we select for their combination of talent, personality, experience and tangible success in their field. Our lecturers have long lists of credits and have collaborated with some of the biggest artists in the world including Pharrell Williams, Björk, Swedish House Mafia and Chemical Brothers. You can see the full list of Expert Lecturers on our website at [pointblankmusicschool.com](http://pointblankmusicschool.com).

## Classes

We teach in small class sizes (max 16 students), students have their own production workstation with the latest software and hardware.

Students are allotted regular one to one tutorial sessions time with lecturers from across the faculty. Students also gain access to the practice studios outside of lecture hours.

The studios are open Mon-Fri from 9:30am - 11:00pm and Sat-Sun 10:00am - 6:30pm.

## Course Fees & Funding

We know that funding options for your course can be confusing. We can assist you with this to make things a little easier!

Being an undergraduate student involves two main expenses: tuition fees and living costs.

Students can either choose to pay for their course privately or we have a range of courses which are eligible for Student Finance loans.

The course fees for our higher education programmes are listed here, for some courses there may be an additional registration fee. Please contact us for more detail.

Course	Duration	UCAS Code	UK / EU Course Fees Per Year	International Course Fees Per Year	Student Finance Available
BA (Hons) Music Production & Sound Engineering	3 years	WW33	£9,000	£12,000	✓
BA (Hons) Music Production & Sound Engineering	2 years	W3W3	£14,985	£15,485	✗
BA (Hons) Music Production & DJ Practice	3 years	WW44	£9,000	£12,000	✓
BA (Hons) Music Production & DJ Practice	2 years	W4W4	£14,985	£15,485	✗
BA (Hons) Music Industry Management	2 years	W5W5	£8,985	£9,485	✓
Foundation Year (Subject to Validation)	1 year	N/A	£5,850	£6,850	TBC
Online BA (Hons) Music Production & Sound Engineering Degree	2 years	WW88	£5,970	£5,970	✓

## Student Finance

You may be able to apply for a tuition fee loan of up to £6,165 and a maintenance loan of up to £12,382 per year.

The amount of maintenance you can apply for will depend on your circumstances. EU students and Distance Learning students are not normally eligible for a maintenance loan.

Maximum tuition and maintenance loan amounts for UK residents / eligible students are shown below:

### Funding - London

	Tuition London	Maintenance London
England	£6,165.00	£12,382.00
Scotland	£6,165.00	£1,875.00
Northern Ireland	£4,030.00	£6,780.00
Wales	Not eligible	Not eligible

### Funding - Online

	Tuition Online	Maintenance Online
England	£6,165.00	Not eligible
Scotland	Not eligible	Not eligible
Northern Ireland	£3,022.00	Not eligible
Wales	Not eligible	Not eligible

NB. Students residing in Wales are not currently eligible for Student Finance tuition or maintenance loans.

We would encourage all applicants to contact the Student Loans Company for personalised advice, applicable to their domicile prior to applying for a course:

England – 0300 100 0607  
 Scotland – 0300 555 0505  
 Northern Ireland – 0300 100 0077

### Paying privately

For students wishing to pay privately, we have a number of payment plans available, including annual and termly instalments.

If you would like further information regarding course fees or funding, please call + 44 (0) 207 729 4884 or email:

[admissions@pointblankmusicschool.com](mailto:admissions@pointblankmusicschool.com)





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[WWW.POINTBLANKMUSICSCHOOL.COM](http://WWW.POINTBLANKMUSICSCHOOL.COM)

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH A COURSE ADVISOR:

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