

BA/BSc (HONS) Audio Production

2 Year Accelerated & 3 Year Courses Available



Why choose this course?

At SAE, you'll cover every major area of audio production, developing hands-on experience in professional studios and being trained on the consoles and equipment found in industry. You'll create music, record artists, mix and master tracks, and produce electronic music, alongside working on sound for film, TV, animation, radio drama, and games.

Industry-standard software including Pro Tools Ultimate and Ableton Live sits at the core of your training, and small class sizes ensure maximum studio access & personalised feedback throughout.

Graduate in two years on the accelerated route, with a portfolio employers can review instantly.

Industry relevance

The audio industry spans music, broadcast, film, games, and beyond - and the demand for technically confident, creatively versatile audio professionals continues to grow across all of them. At SAE, you're training in professional studio environments with the same tools and workflows used in the industry today, supported by SAE's global network of industry connections that help close the gap between education and a working career in sound.

Career outcomes

Our graduates move into roles including Audio Engineer, Music Producer, Mixing Engineer, Mastering Engineer, Live Sound Technician, Sound Designer, Music Editor, and Studio Manager - with skills that translate equally well into broadcast, games, film, digital media, and freelance.

BA/BSc (HONS) AUDIO PRODUCTION

MODULE BREAKDOWN

The purpose of this module breakdown is to provide a concise summary of the main topics covered on the Audio Production programme offered at SAE.

Trimester 1/Semester 1

Develop the essential technical audio skills and knowledge needed to collaborate with professionals and your fellow creative media students.

Audio (T1) - Principles of Audio

You'll be introduced to the concept of sound as a physical phenomenon, as you learn to predict its behaviour in different situations. Using Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) for recording and editing, you'll also explore the fundamental concepts of audio production, as you develop a core understanding of key maths & physics concepts to support your learning.

A highly practical course, you'll familiarise yourself with the concepts of signal routing and the basic applications of microphones and loudspeakers, including the set-up of sound reinforcement systems.

Topics include:

- Sound Theory
- Decibels
- Acoustics
- Introduction to DAWs and sequencing environments
- Equalisation (EQ), effects and dynamic range processors
- Basic audio signal routing and wiring
- Electronics
- Microphones and loudspeakers

Audio (T1) - Desktop Music Production

You'll learn to design sounds with synthesis and sampling techniques within a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW). Across your classes, you'll develop a good understanding of music theory from a practical perspective, compiling and arranging your own music productions. You'll also apply EQ and dynamics processing to creative production, work with effects 'in the box', apply DAW-based mixing techniques to your projects and present your work to the class.

Topics include:

- Digital Audio Workstations
- Synthesis and sampling Sequencing
- MIDI
- Basic sound design
- Effects processing
- Dynamics processing
- Mixing
- Intro to music theory
- Presentation techniques

Trimester 2/Semester 2

Across your second term, you'll broaden your scope to work on more complex projects, while getting to grips with industry-standard practices.



Audio (T2) - Recording Techniques

You'll be introduced to a studio-based recording environment by getting hands on in SAE's in-house recording studios. You'll build the theoretical knowledge and practical skills you need to operate a modern professional studio environment by arranging and engineering recording sessions.

Topics include:

- Signal flow principles and applications
- Signal flow diagrams
- Signal flow applications
- Recording procedures and techniques
- Mixing procedures and techniques
- Digital Audio Workstations
- Audio editing
- Principles of signal processing equalisation, dynamics, and effects
- Time and pitch correction

Audio (T2) - Audio Production Industries

In this module, you'll focus on common production workflows and techniques used in various audio fields, such as music and multimedia. You'll also examine these industries and explore roles within them. As you enhance your skillset in audio editing by investigating sound restoration, pitch and time correction and multitrack drum editing, you'll also look at mixing techniques within a studio environment for both multimedia and music applications. Finally, you'll research and write about a chosen area of interest in the audio production industries.

Topics include:

- Console types and differences
- Components of consoles
- Workflows: analogue, digital, hybrid
- Integrating hardware and DAWs
- Care and maintenance
- Production planning
- The recording process
- The mixing process
- Audio editing techniques
- Finalising
- Sound restoration
- Aesthetics and musical context

Trimester 3/Semester 3

Across Trimester 3, you'll undertake a variety of project briefs in a professional working environment using a project-based 'creative studio' approach. Creative Studios sees you participate in authentic assessment activities that reflect industry practices, providing a highly practical approach to your education.

Audio (T3) - Creative Studio 1: Overview

During Creative Studio 1, you'll develop your professional practice and focus on the supportive role audio practitioners play across other media disciplines, including film, TV, games and animation.

Studying sound design and post-production techniques across a range of media, you'll complete practical sound-to-media projects in these areas.

Topics could cover:

- Sound for media (film/TV, games, animation, audio storytelling)
- Sound design and editing
- Foley recording
- Music and electronic music composition
- Immersive audio



Trimester 4/Semester 4

The second Creative Studio term focuses on collaborative audio and music production. Building on your practical knowledge, you'll take on production roles and plan artist productions: from pre-production right through to the final mixing, mastering and distribution stages.

Audio (T4) - Creative Studio 2: Overview

The Creative Studio 2 module is all about collaborative music production. As a course cohort, you'll divide up production roles to create your own artist productions. Operating large-format consoles and conducting complex recording sessions, you'll learn more advanced microphone and multi-microphone techniques.

Expanding on skills gained in earlier modules, you'll increase your knowledge of mixing techniques to incorporate hybrid and analogue console and outboard equipment workflows. You'll also explore mastering in the context of the final delivery format of your project.

Via your project, you'll discover fundamental business, marketing and finance concepts, as you plan for the marketing, promotion and release of your music production..

Across the module, you'll be encouraged to collaborate with students from other SAE disciplines outside of your audio production course to create additional media for your project, including graphic design, artwork, music videos and websites.

Topics could cover:

- Advanced music production tools and techniques
- Large format consoles
- Advanced recording techniques
- Location music recording
- Live sound / advanced electronic music production
- Mixing on a large format console
- Hybrid workflows
- Mastering
- Business, legal issues, marketing and finance



Trimester 5/Semester 5

As you near the end of your studies, you'll start to specialise, advancing your skills across your chosen area of the audio industry.

Audio (T5) - Creative Studio 3: Overview

Across this module, you'll build a thorough understanding of professional practice as you align your professional development with your future career plans.

Exploring an audio-specific area of interest, you can choose to pursue a research project in your field of specialisation or undertake a structured industry-based live project designed in collaboration with your Experts and the wider industry. Using your mastery in creative media practice in combination with evidence-based decision making, you'll develop a proposal for your final Major Project (Trimester 6). Study areas could include programming environments, electroacoustic music, electronic composition, game audio, film sound and immersive audio... or something else entirely.

In this module, you'll create the proposal for your final Major Project with guidance from our Experts. You'll also develop a variety of academic and professional skills as you prepare to progress to postgraduate studies or embark on your career journey.



Audio (T5) - Advanced Specialised Production

Across the Advanced Specialised Project module, you'll build on your previous skills and knowledge to create professional-standard work in your chosen field. This can either be through live projects with peers from other SAE disciplines or during live projects, or by developing your own project.

This module is a great opportunity to refine your skills, as you develop connections with industry professionals and create a body of work that showcases your knowledge and skills to date.

Topics could cover:

- Programming environments
- Electroacoustic music
- Composition
- Game audio
- Film sound
- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Live sound and events
- Immersive audio

Trimester 6/Semester 6

The final module of this audio production degree lets you demonstrate the practical and academic skills you've developed across your 2 years at SAE via a large-scale advanced-level project.

Audio (T6) – Major Project

During your final trimester, you'll implement the Major Project you designed, scoped and planned across Trimester 5. This industry-focused venture lets you concentrate on a specialism of your choosing, advancing your knowledge and skills in this area.

Depending on your topic, you can use it as a springboard into industry, an opportunity to establish your own business or as a way to make connections with industry professionals that may lead to future employment.



WANT TO KNOW ABOUT AUDIO PRODUCTION AT SAE?

If you need help at any point during your application process, our friendly Admissions Team are here to help at every step of the way.

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**READY FOR THE NEXT STEP?
APPLY TODAY!**

Scan the QR code to begin your application for our BA/BSc (Hons) Audio Production at SAE.