



BIMM MUSIC
INSTITUTE

GRADUATE PACK

Your industry toolkit for career success.

Introduction and overview of the creative industries

Congratulations on reaching the conclusion of your studies at BIMM University. You'll be glad to know that you're stepping into the music industry at a particularly exhilarating time...

IFPI, who represent the music industry worldwide, reported that global recorded music revenues grew by 10.2% in 2022. This was the ninth consecutive year of global growth, and IFPI added in their report that "music has abiding meaning and value to people. Within cultures worldwide, music is tightly woven into the fabric of life." Indeed, according to Ticketmaster, over 145 million people across the world attended music events in 2023.

As you reach the end of your journey at BIMM, the Creative Futures Team has organised Industry Month to ensure that you have all the essential skills, knowledge and network that you need before you enter the workplace. Additionally, we have assembled this graduate pack to aid your transition into professional employment within your desired field. We encourage you to make the most of this resource.

It is also the perfect moment to engage with the Alumni, Talent and Enterprise Team for ongoing career advice, along with updates on job openings, performances and creative opportunities. You'll find further details about this continuous support later in this graduate pack.

People often say, "Don't work harder, work smarter." But this is the music industry, and my advice is to work harder and smarter. Get stuck in and don't hold back: use the amazing tools at your disposal, find your place, and excel in it better than anyone else.

Mark Bowers

Head of Careers: Music



Careers in music

The future is bright for anyone hoping to enter the music industry. You could make your name as an artist, composer, backing singer, booking agent, promoter, live sound engineer, producer, or as something else entirely. The trick is to understand what kind of work would suit you. These resources will help you choose a career that best fits your skills and goals, and many also offer advice on how to get your foot in the door:

Find your perfect role in the creative industries - Creative Careers (discovercreative.careers)

UK_Music_Careers_Information_Pack_2022.pdf (ukmusic.org)

Get a music job in 2024 | Learn more about the routes into the music industry | Prospects.ac.uk

Podcasts Archive | Amazing If

Download the free **ERIC app** for Creative Careers to discover creative internships, bootcamps, events, training schemes, courses and more.

Whether you're looking to work as an employee or grow as an artist, maintaining a strong online presence is essential. If you're applying for a job, remember that employers will go online to look at potential

candidates to help them decide whether to invite them to an interview.

Using professional websites is beneficial as you can easily bring together your experience, skills and educational background. A lot of recruiters use LinkedIn, as it provides a way to connect with other professionals, exchange knowledge and ideas, and share employment opportunities. Take a look at the LinkedIn guide on your SharePoint **here**.

Aspiring artists will find plenty of resources online. For example, Spotify launched a video series called **Song Start** where artists are invited to discuss their music, including production, songwriting and more. You should also check out the wider video hub for Song Start, which contains videos featuring Charli XCX and Tove Lo. In addition, the episode of **How They Made It with Julia Wolf** talks about the planning of a release and how to amplify that moment using certain tools. Videos like these will give you even greater insight into the inner workings of the music industry.

We'd also recommend **Spotify For Artists** for advice videos from global artists giving tips on getting started.

To support the **Co.Lab video series**, Spotify also released a podcast series featuring bite-sized tips and tricks from voices in the industry. By listening to this podcast, you'll learn more about industry roles and you may even discover a new career path.



Recent graduate success

Jake Williams - Digital Operations. Jake studied Music Business at BIMM

Birmingham and now works at Republic of Music, a label, management and distribution company in Brighton. After founding and managing the inaugural year of the BIMM Birmingham Record Label, River Street Records, Jake worked on numerous festivals and the Commonwealth Games to develop his experience whilst promoting local shows. He has now gone on to secure a role at Republic of Music, which he will do alongside his own artist management work.



Alexis Smith – Sound Designer In 2022, BIMM Institute Manchester graduate Alexis Smith got a place on the highly competitive Warner Bros. Access X Rocksteady Studios Games Academy: Sound Designer programme, joining two other female BIMM Manchester graduates working in the games industry. Here, she presented her sound design to the company's audio director.

Alexis returned to the North-West in 2023 and successfully applied for a sound designer role at Cloud Imperium games. Since then, she has spoken at the Women in Games conference about her experience and has contributed to the Prince's Trust NextGen Skills Academy.

Dani Murden (BIMM Manchester - Music Business) was featured in a recent Manchester United x adidas Football x The Stone Roses campaign #ROSESARERED:

“It’s beyond a dream to have been featured in the campaign. It was a real honor to be noted on a cast list alongside some of my biggest heroes: Gary Neville, Gabby George, Geyse Ferreira, to name a few.

#ThisIsTheOne is a track I hold very close to my heart. The band carried me through all my teenage struggles and angst and also accompanied some of the most joyous moments of my adolescence, not to mention their ability to give me goosebumps and supply hope and belief at every listen, whether I’m at Old Trafford or just in my bedroom.

BIMM was the perfect place for me to start building my creative network. Not only was I interacting with students from different courses and practices, but I was also surrounded by lecturers and tutors working in the industry, who shared their experiences and professional contacts with me as well. The careers support at BIMM was particularly excellent, from one-to-one CV support to employment guidance tutorials, so progressing into a creative career always felt reachable and possible.

My advice for graduating students would be to stay connected with your lecturers; add them on LinkedIn because they may be a useful contact for you and your journey post-university. Also, remember that BIMM offer alumni support with careers, so you are not on your own from here; keep fostering your relationship with the university and use their advice and guidance.”

Enterprise, funding & support

Many graduates run their own businesses or work as freelancers. This is especially common within the creative industries as professionals often have a 'portfolio career', which is a career with multiple income streams, where you're working across a range of separate roles or projects.

Whether you are developing a business idea, looking for funding, or starting work as a freelancer, we can help. Feel free to contact us for business and enterprise resources and advice. We also deliver a Creative Futures: Enterprise programme for those focused on entrepreneurship, self-employment, freelancing, and starting their own business.

We are especially proud to be working with **Santander Universities**, who have an excellent development programme that you can apply to.

Our very own **Greenhouse Enterprise Programme** continues to provide training, coaching and funding for entrepreneurial projects designed by students from underrepresented groups. We can connect business start-ups with professional advisors where further support is needed.

There are many more useful resources on our **Enterprise SharePoint page**, from tax and self-employment guides to funding advice and creative toolkits.

For further information, including help finding professional advisors or accessing funding opportunities either via Santander Universities or our own Greenhouse Enterprise Programme, please email **enterprise@bimm.ac.uk**.

Freelancing

Are you looking to become a freelancer?

It's not as daunting as it seems: if you have a specific skill set that other people require to complete their work, then this is a perfect way for you to make some supplementary income, and it could even lead to a full-time freelance career in which you have control over your workload and pay.

In terms of getting started, you need to identify exactly what you want to offer and be specific about this. You also need to research your clients and gain some understanding where they are and the best way of communicating with them. Once this is established, you can begin to decide how to present yourself. Start off by creating a website or social media account to host your portfolio, as this will allow you to signpost to your work when networking.

Jimmy Aggett became a freelancer after graduating from BIMM Birmingham. He went into freelance live sound engineering and got his first contract through a Creative Futures post. This was after having a one-to-one tutorial with the Creative Futures Team, who helped him work out the best way to approach this career path. Now an established FOH engineer, he has gone on to work major festivals and EU/UK tours with high profile artists.

For more resources, including a Freelancer Guide, check out our **[SharePoint page](#)**.

Advice from Careers Managers

Big congratulations, graduates!

It has been my absolute pleasure to be part of your journey and especially now, as you step out into the professional world. This past year, I have supported many of you as you embraced and learned from challenges and successes, both in and outside of BIMM. It takes hard work and perseverance to get this far, and I have no doubt that your futures are full of potential and greatness.

As you move forward, remember to trust in yourself, stay true to your values, and never forget the power of building connections!

Wishing you all the best of luck.
Warm regards,

Jo Hadler
Careers Manager Bristol

A message from

Pete Smith, Head of A&R for UMPG UK:

“Congrats to you all. The music industry is an incredible place to work, and BIMM has given you a great foundation, so my advice to you is: be brave, take risks and be unashamedly yourself. Always remember that labels, publishers and managers work for you – not the other way around.”

Useful resources

We understand that navigating the music industry, especially in terms of finding work and opportunities, can be daunting. So, here are some resources to get you started.

News and opportunities

Complete Music Update: CMU allows you to find opportunities and stay in the loop with everything happening in the industry.

[CMU | Daily Music Business News](#)

Record of the Day: Record of the Day publish a daily email newsletter and a weekly email magazine featuring the most relevant and up-to-date music news. [ROTD | In tune. Informed. Indispensable](#)

Music Business Worldwide: With MBW, you'll receive a free daily newsletter detailing the most important music business stories right now. [MBW](#)

Support organisations

Musicians' Union: The Musicians' Union is a trade union representing musicians working in the UK across all sectors of the music business. Their 'Join For a Pound' scheme, which launched in January 2019, allows those who have not previously been members of the MU to join the union for £1 and get their first six-months of membership for free (under £21 per month thereafter). This scheme has now been extended so that student members can renew their membership for £1 after graduating and receive six-months of free membership.

<https://musiciansunion.org.uk/news/join-for-a-pound-scheme-extended-to-graduate-members> | [MU](#)

Independent Society of Musicians:

Since 1882, the ISM has highlighted the importance of music and supported those working in the music profession. ISM membership offers everything that recent graduates need to navigate the music profession, including extensive online advice, comprehensive insurance cover, bespoke legal assistance, health and wellbeing support and more. You can find out more about the benefits of becoming an ISM early career member by watching this short [interview](#) or visiting their member benefits page. ISM | [ism.org](#)

For Ireland, please check out the [Irish Music Rights Organisation](#).

More useful links:

[MU Fair Music Guide](#)

[Women in Music](#)

[The Unsigned Guide](#)

[BBC Introducing](#)

[Music Week](#)

[PRS Foundation](#)

[Help Musicians UK](#)

[Alive Network](#)

[Guide to Getting into the Industry](#)

Finding work

Handle Recruitment

Handle Recruitment supports creative businesses and is committed to connecting individuals with brands. [Handle | Great People Power Great Brands](#)

Music Jobs Network

Music Jobs Network is a global publication and online networking community with job boards specifically for music and the creative industries. [MJN | Music-Jobs.com](#)

Universal Music Group

Check out UMG's Careers site to discover graduate roles and internships, to sign up for job alerts, or to join the Talent pool for Universal Music UK. [Universal Music Group Careers](#)

BIY People & Talent

BIY People & Talent work with a range of music business clients, providing recruitment, development opportunities and advice. [CONTENT | BIY People & Talent](#)

Creative Access

This is a social enterprise that provides career-long access, opportunities, support and training for people from underrepresented groups. Their mission is to make the creative industries reflect society. [Creative Access | Creative industry jobs and career-long support](#)

Small Green Shoots

Small Green Shoots was founded in 2009. They are a small but mighty National Portfolio Organisation dedicated to increasing career opportunities for underrepresented young adults within the music and creative industries. Small Green Shoots - [Increasing Career Opportunities | Small Green Shoots Instagram](#)

Social FIXT

Social FIXT is a job search platform whose mission is to see more creative black talent not just on billboards, but in boardrooms, too. They connect young people with entry-level opportunities, and they also educate companies on hiring, retaining and empowering black talent within their company pipelines. [Social FIXT](#)

There are plenty more resources available to you via SharePoint. [Our Careers Resources](#) page features guides to festival applications, CVs and cover letters, freelancing and self-employment, rights organisations, publishing, LinkedIn and more. There is also a page dedicated to [interviews and applications](#), and another for [enterprise](#).

Paid internship programmes

We work alongside top industry providers to give you access to the best paid internship opportunities:

Spotify

Check the Spotify internship page for paid opportunities. If you'd like more detailed information and advice, there's a podcast all about the summer internships they provide. [Students | Life at Spotify](#)

Sony Music

Sony Music's internship programme offers you the chance to gain incredible experience working at one of the UK's most successful major labels. [Sony Music UK - Internships](#)

CAA

CAA internships offer current students and recent graduates the opportunity to gain relevant, hands-on work experience at a leading entertainment, media and sports agency. Interns work alongside seasoned agents and executives to support a variety of projects within their assigned departments. [CAA Internships | CAA](#)

Universal Music Group

Universal Music Group is one of the world's leading music companies, boasting a diverse portfolio of artists, labels and businesses. Browse their Careers site for available opportunities. [Universal Music | Careers](#)

Partners

We have plenty of industry partners, but there are some that are especially useful for you as a leaver:

The Great Escape

Every year, BIMM partners with The Great Escape festival in Brighton. They offer a volunteer programme, which is a great way to build your network and get more experience on your CV. **VOLUNTEER - The Great Escape - Europe's leading festival for new music (greatescapefestival.com)**

Festivals

We work closely with many other festivals, including 2000trees and Victorious. If you'd like to play at a UK festival, follow our socials to hear about work opportunities and check out this guide: **Festival Application Guide 2024 | M Magazine (prsformusic.com)**

Alive Network

Alive Network are the UK's largest live entertainment agency for weddings, corporate events and parties, and they are keen to work with BIMM graduates. **Alive Network Entertainment Agency UK | Hire Live Music | Booking Agent**

Rocksteady Music School

RMS delivers progressive and inclusive rock and pop band lessons in primary schools. If you are you an enthusiastic and passionate musician looking for a full-time job in music, you can expect a full-time salary, 12 weeks paid holiday, full teacher training, ongoing support and development, and staff benefits such as everyday discounts, music retailer discounts, free 24/7 GP service and more. **Rocksteady Music School – Fun and inclusive in-school rock and pop band lessons for primary school children | Rocksteady Music School**

DIY Magazine

DIY is a UK-based music magazine and website that celebrates alternative music, emerging artists and DIY culture. Get in touch with them if you're looking to have your band featured, or if you're hoping to develop your skills as a journalist. **DIY Magazine | Contact**

Alumni services and contacts

Our Alumni, Talent and Enterprise Team provides a careers service that serves to enhance collaboration and professional development

Join our online platform **BIMM Connect** to become part of a rich network of graduates and industry professionals. Here, you can connect with fellow alumni in a vibrant and dynamic online space, access exclusive events and jobs, and showcase your achievements. We have also launched several brand-new **LinkedIn groups** for our alumni communities to keep you updated about jobs, events and opportunities.

Our team is dedicated to helping our new leavers and alumni with their career development by offering one-to-one support with industry professionals and qualified careers coaches. You can book a session by emailing **alumni@bimm.co.uk**

Talent

Talent is an exciting new programme of activities that connects our community of leavers and graduates to employers in the creative industries.

Activities include: job placements with leading companies, industry workshops, assessment days, careers fairs, mock

interviews, festival performances, songwriting camps, artist showcases, film screenings, A&R listening sessions, agent panel workshops, showreel feedback, and more. To find out more, join the **Connect Group** or follow @creativefuturestalent on Instagram.

Survey and follow-up

We will contact you at certain points in the coming months to see how it's going and whether you need any support. This includes an initial survey that goes out to all our leavers six months after the course finishes. After 15 months, UK students will receive the Graduate Outcome Survey, which is a government initiative that aims to improve the experience of future students by asking you about your perspectives and outcomes. We aim to call as many of our leavers as we can in advance of this survey. For further questions or advice, please email **alumni@bimm.co.uk**.

