

Module Specification

Module Title: Music and Business in Context 2 (Copyright and Contract Law)

Module code:	X_BUS5C003R	NQF level:	Level 5
Credit value:	20 credits	Semester of study:	1 and 2
Module type:	Compulsory	Pre-requisites:	None
Available to:	BA (Hons) Music (Business)		

Module overview

The module will cover a range of topics including:

- sources and classification of English law;
- the essentials of contract law, including formation of contracts, contractual terms, exclusion clauses, discharge and remedies, with specific reference to music contracts;
- an introduction to copyright law, focusing on copyright protection for songwriters, musicians, performers and sound recordings;
- moral rights, performance rights and copyright as applied in the digital communications era, as well as the role of collection agencies;
- an introduction to other intellectual property rights which apply to the music and media industries, such as trademarks and rights to domain names; specific legal issues relating to licensing in the music and media industries.

Aims

This module forms part of the contextual studies strand of the programme with particular reference to copyright and contract law. An understanding of copyright and contract law is essential for work undertaken at level 6 since it will inform a range of factors when working on future projects.

The module aims to:

1. Introduce students to the fundamental legal aspects appropriate to the music industry – the English legal system, to the law of contracts and to copyright and licensing.
2. Provide students with an understanding of the legal rules which apply in all forms of business relationships with musicians, record labels, digital aggregators, licensing and contractual relationships between creatives and distributors of creative content.
3. Introduce students to the English legal system and how laws have been created, interpreted and practically applied.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Understand the distinctions between different types of law and identify various sources of English law.
2. Understand the essential elements of a binding contract and identify any vitiating factors affecting a contract.
3. Understand the basic principles of the law on copyright, evaluate the way in which copyright protects a variety of creative works and the contemporary context of copyright and its relationship to a changing media environment.
4. Apply appropriate legal rules and reach a solution; undertake a critical case study and prepare a written analysis using basic legal terminology with reasonable accuracy.

Learning and teaching methods

The module will be delivered through a lecture and seminar series.

Contact hours and directed study (over semesters 1 and 2)

Delivery type	Student hours
Indicative hours for learning and teaching activities	60 hours
Indicative hours of directed study	140 hours
Total hours (100hrs per 10 credits)	200 hours

Opportunities for formative feedback

Students have the opportunity to present drafts of their essays to their module tutor for formative feedback.

Assessment Method

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Contracts and Contract Law	2500 words	50%	1, 2
Copyright and the Music Industry	2500 words	50%	3, 4

Re-Assessment Method

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Contracts and Contract Law	2500 words	50%	1, 2
Copyright and the Music Industry	2500 words	50%	3, 4

[Module resource lists are available via Key Links](#)