

## Programme Specification

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| Awarding Body/Institution                  | Queen Mary, University of London  |
| Teaching Institution                       | Queen Mary, University of London  |
| Name of Final Award and Programme Title    | Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) Electronics with Music and Audio Systems |
| Name of Interim Award(s)                   | Cert HE, Dip HE, BSc(Eng)   |
| Duration of Study / Period of Registration | 3 years FT  |
| QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)           | H288  |
| QAA Benchmark Group                        | Engineering   |
| FHEQ Level of Award                        | Level 6   |
| Programme Accredited by                    |   |
| Date Programme Specification Approved      |   |
| Responsible School / Institute             | School of Electronic Engineering & Computer Science                     |

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

N/A

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

N/A

### Programme Outline

This programme uses mathematics and engineering techniques to enable you to understand how technology is applied to music and audio. You will learn how electronics and computers shape electronic musical instruments, analogue and digital audio systems, music downloads, sound effects and games. In addition to a team project in your second year, you will complete an individual final-year project that will be supervised by a researcher in our world-leading Centre for Digital Music (C4DM).

### Aims of the Programme

The aim of this undergraduate programme is to give the student a firm foundation in all aspects of audio systems engineering from the recording and composition/synthesis of music to the design of the underlying hardware and software that makes recording and synthesis possible. The course includes several practical audio related modules along with the core electronics and programming topics required to understand and master the underlying technology.

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### What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

Skill-based aims and objectives applying to all engineering undergraduates:

At the end of his/her degree, each student should be able to demonstrate the following abilities:

- the ability to recall factual knowledge and the ability to apply it in familiar and unfamiliar situations;
- the ability to apply scientific, mathematical and software 'tools' to a familiar or unfamiliar situation;
- the ability to use Information Technology as a key tool pervading all aspects of Electronic Engineering;
- the ability to understand practical issues concerning real systems (whether hardware or software);
- the ability to recognise insufficient existing knowledge and the ability to search for the necessary scientific, mathematical and software 'tools' relevant to that particular issue;
- the ability to work as part of a team;
- the ability to manage time effectively;
- the ability to appreciate the financial background against which decisions are made in industry;
- the ability to show a certain level of reflection on the role of engineering in society;

and the following skills:

- the perceptive skills needed to understand information presented in the form of technical circuit-diagrams, flow-charts and high-level languages;
- the practical skills needed to implement a piece of hardware or software and to use laboratory test equipment;
- the analytical skills needed to verify the correct behaviour of a hardware or software system or component and to be able to identify faults;
- the design skills needed to synthesise a design (in hardware and/or software) from a specification (including the choice of the best option from a range of alternatives), to implement the design and to evaluate the design against the original specification;
- the written and oral communication skills needed to present information, in particular written information, effectively;
- the critical reasoning skills needed to appraise a particular topic.

Context-based aims and objectives

- to develop a knowledge of audio and music-related technologies and have a grasp of the latest developments in the field.
- to gain practical experience designing, using and building audio circuits and systems.

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| Academic Content: |  |
| A 1               | Theories and principles of acoustics plus both analogue and digital audio. |
| A 2               | Analogue and digital hardware knowledge and understanding.                 |
| A 3               | Programming languages and environments, systems development methodologies. |
| A 4               | Approaches to audio system design and evaluation                           |

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Disciplinary Skills - able to: |                                    |
| B 1                            | Critically evaluate audio systems. |

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| B 2 | Design, implement and test audio systems (hardware/software/both)                                 |
| B 3 | Critically evaluate audio technologies, make informed decisions about how best to solve problems. |
| B 4 | Critically reflect on their own performance in practical projects and apply to future work.       |

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| Attributes: |   |
| C 1         | Integrate scholarship, research and professional activities within the audio area of the EE discipline in a developing professional career. |
| C 2         | Evaluate their practice and engage in continuing professional development.  |

### How Will You Learn?

Each non-project-based module involves lectures, problem solving coursework and practical sessions. Lectures are used to introduce principles and methods and also to illustrate how they can be applied in practice. Coursework allows students to develop their skills in problem solving and to gain practical experience. Practical sessions provide students with guidance and help while solving a problem. These lessons take the form of exercise classes and programming laboratories that allow the students to learn-by-doing in order to complement the lectures.

Individual projects are undertaken throughout the year under the supervision of an academic member of staff with whom there are weekly consultancy meetings. These are used for students to report on their progress, discuss research and design issues and plan their future work. This develops and reinforces students' ability to communicate technical ideas clearly and effectively. The Projects Coordinator also runs a thread of taught sessions to support the project module.

### How Will You Be Assessed?

The assessment of taught modules normally consists of a combination of written examination and coursework. Specialised audio related modules also include elements of performance and presentation for some courseworks.

Project modules are normally examined on the basis of a written report, a formal oral presentation, and, where applicable, a demonstration of any software and/or hardware developed.

### How is the Programme Structured?

Semester 1  
ECS401U Procedural Programming  
ECS402U Professional and Research Themes  
ECS408U Electronic Engineering Mathematics I  
ECS412U Digital Circuit Design

Semester 2  
ECS409U Analogue Electronic Systems  
ECS411U Signals and Information

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ECS415U Introduction to Audio  
 ECS416U Introduction to Multimedia

ECS422U - Skills for Electronic Engineering and Computer Science (runs in sem1/2. Non credit bearing)

Semester 3  
 ECS501U C Programming  
 ECS502U Microprocessor Systems Design  
 ECS517U Electronic Devices & Applications  
 ECS521U Interactive Media Design and Production

Semester 4  
 ECS512U Sound Design  
 ECS514U Design and Build Project in Electronic Engineering  
 ECS515U Signals and Systems Theory  
 Plus one from:  
 ECS519U Database Systems  
 ECS522U Graphical User Interfaces

Semester 5  
 ECS625U Project (30 credits)  
 ECS602U Digital Signal Processing  
 ECS614U Sound Recording and Production Techniques  
 Plus one from:  
 ECS604U Entrepreneurship in Information Technology  
 ECS607U Data Mining  
 ECS612U Interaction Design  
 ECS615U Digital Systems Design (prerequisite for ECS617U)  
 ECS650U Semi-Structured Data and Advanced Data Modelling

Semester 6  
 ECS625U Project (cont)  
 ECS622U Product Development  
 ECS623U Digital Audio Effects  
 Plus one from:  
 ECS617U Integrated Circuit Design  
 ECS624U C++ for Image Processing  
 ECS637U Digital Media and Social Networks

Academic Year of Study 1

| Module Title | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester |
|--------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
|              |             |         |       |                         |                        |          |

**What Are the Entry Requirements?**

General entry requirements

- A-levels: Our A-level entrance requirements are based on 3 A-levels, or 2 A-levels and 2 AS-levels. We are delighted to receive applications from students who have studied Computer Science at GCSE or A-Level (often called Computing by the examination boards), and in general we prefer Maths and Science based A-levels, though we will consider other combinations of subjects.
- Advanced diplomas: The School warmly welcomes applications from students taking Advanced or Extended (level-3) Diplomas in Information Technology or Engineering. We require 320-360 UCAS Tariff points (320 for BSc Computer Science and

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Mathematics, 340 for BSc(Eng) and BEng, 360 for BSc, MSci and MEng programmes) and applicants must also have passed GCE A-level Mathematics at grade C or above. Grade B or above for BSc Computer Science and Mathematics.

- Vocational or applied A-levels: Vocational A-levels are acceptable and are subject to the above tariff requirements for A/AS-levels. They should be subject-related: electronic engineering or engineering for MEng and BEng programmes. Grade B GCSE Mathematics minimum.
- Key skills: Results of key skills tests will not normally form part of an offer of a place.
- BTEC National Diploma (18 units): The BTEC National Diploma is acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications with minimum grade requirements: DDM for BEng, MEng, DDD (with Distinctions in all modules) for BSc(Eng), BSc. Your BTEC National Diploma must be subject-related: engineering, electronic engineering for MEng and BEng programmes, computing or related subject for BSc programmes. The IT practitioners Diploma is only accepted for BSc(Eng) programmes. Additionally, we require a minimum Grade C GCSE in mathematics.
- International Baccalaureate: We require a minimum of 32 points overall for BEng and BSc programmes, 34 points for MEng and BSc(Eng) programmes. Subjects must include mathematics HL at least five points for all MEng and BEng programmes and at least six points for all BSc programmes; physics is required for selected MEng and BEng programmes; see programme details.
- European Baccalaureate: We require 80% including grade eight minimum Mathematics for all MEng and BEng programmes. Physics at grade eight required for selected MEng and BEng programmes as per A-level subject requirements, please see programmes for specific requirements.
- Access to HE Diploma: Applicants will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the School for guidance.
- European and international qualifications: The College accepts a wide range of EU and International qualifications, for information please contact the School.
- Other qualifications: The College welcomes applications from those holding qualifications not listed above. The School will be happy to advise you as to the acceptability of your qualification.

Specific programme entry requirements

- A-level or equivalent Mathematics.

International students - English Language entry requirements

For international students, English Language skills are required to a recognised standard. The minimum requirement is IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

## How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between Schools and its The Student-Staff Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the School and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each cohort, together with appropriate representation from School staff. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Student-Staff Liaison Committees meet four times a year, twice in each teaching semester.

Each semester, students are invited to complete a web-based module questionnaire for each of their taught modules, and the results are fed back through the SSLC meetings. The results are also made available on the student intranet, as are the minutes of the SSLC meetings. Any actions necessary are taken forward by the relevant Senior Tutor, who chairs the SSLC, and general issues are discussed and actioned through the School's Learning and Teaching Committee.

The School's Learning and Teaching Committee advises the Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in this Committee's work in a number of ways, including through student membership and consideration of student surveys and module questionnaires.

The School participates in the College's Annual Programme Review process, which supports strategic planning and operational issues for all undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes. The APR includes consideration of the School's Taught Programmes Action Plan, which records progress on learning and teaching related actions on a rolling basis. Students' views are considered in the APR process through analysis of the NSS and module questionnaires, among other data.

## Academic Support

All students are assigned an academic advisor during induction week. The advisor's role is to guide their advisees in their academic development including module selection, and to provide first-line pastoral support.

In addition, the School has 2 Senior Tutors for undergraduate students who provide second-line guidance and pastoral support for students, as well as advising staff on related matters.

Every member of teaching staff holds 2 open office hours per week during term-time.

## Programme-specific Rules and Facts

Students must pass their Final Year Project in order to obtain the BEng. Students who do not pass their Final Year Project will exit with the BSc(Eng). This is an IET requirement.

## Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

## Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

The School has a wide range of industrial contacts secured through research projects and consultancy, our Industrial Experience programme and our Industrial Advisory Panel.

The Industrial Advisory Panel works to ensure that our programmes are state-of-the-art and match the changing requirements of this fast-moving industry. The Panel includes representatives from a variety of Computer Science oriented companies ranging from SMEs to major blue-chips. These include: Microsoft Research, IBM, The National Physical Laboratory, National Instruments, PA Consulting, Rohde and Schwarz, O2, Cisco Systems, ARM, Selex and BAE Systems.

Recent graduates have found employment as IT consultants, specialist engineers, web developers, systems analysts, software designers and network engineers in a wide variety of industries and sectors. A number of students also go on to undertake PhDs in electronic engineering and computer science. Merrill Lynch, Microsoft, Nokia, Barclays Capital, Logica,, Credit Suisse, KPMG, Transport for London, Sky and Selex ES are among the organizations that have recently employed graduates of EECS programmes.

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Transferable skills are developed through a variety of means, including embedding of QM Graduate Attributes in taught modules and the project, together with the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities, e.g. the School's E++ Society, the School's Annual Programming Competition and external competitions with support from the School.

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## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification**

Jane Reid

**Person responsible for management of programme**

Dr. Chris Harte

**Date Programme Specification produced/amended  
by School Learning and Teaching Committee**

12 Feb 2016

**Date Programme Specification approved by  
Taught Programmes Board**