

A photograph of three people silhouetted against three bright stage spotlights in a dark theater. The spotlights are mounted on a rig above the stage, and their beams create a strong contrast with the dark background. The people are standing in the center of the stage, looking towards the lights.

Backstage Academy 2018/19 Prospectus

**Where
Live Industry
Learns**

“Backstage Academy is the only place where industry lives within the heart of education. It’s fun, lively and you’re able to work towards a common goal with others who have similar interests. It’s the best start to a career and it feels more like a family than a university.”

Josh Pendlebury
Live Events Production student

“We are thankful for the support from Backstage Academy. Their focus on educating professionals in the live events business is crucial to the development of music executives for years to come. They impact the business both locally and globally.”

Brian Ahern
WME Entertainment

“Over the years we have been working with Backstage Academy, I can honestly say I have never been let down by the work ethic and professionalism of their students in the variety of roles we have had covered. I’m constantly surprised to hear some students are in their first year when I had assumed they were close to graduating. I fully support the Academy and the niche qualifications they offer to the new generation of the events industry.”

Frankie Tee
Production Manager, EnTEEtainment Ltd.

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The Live Industry

UK's creative industries
now contribute a staggering

£84bn/year

to our economy –
that's almost

£10m/hour



Employment in the creative
industries is growing at

4times

the rate of the UK workforce
as a whole



The UK's creative industries are
continuing to outstrip other
employment sectors in the UK,
new Government figures reveal.

30.9million

Total audience that attended a live
music event in 2016

Live music's contribution to the
UK economy grew by

37%

between 2012 and 2015



Jobs in the creative
industries are up

5%

compared to a **1.6%**
increase in general



SOURCES: UK MUSIC – MEASURING MUSIC 2015 REPORT, UK MUSIC – WISH YOU WERE HERE 2017 REPORT

Employability

At Backstage Academy we train people for jobs that exist.

Whether it's a music gig, fashion show, sports event, corporate event, festival or theatre production every live event requires a team of people working in collaboration, using their various skillsets to make it a success.

To put it into perspective, the U2 360° world tour incorporated a record-breaking 51 metre tall set that required 300 personnel and 120 trucks to facilitate the 110 dates covering North American, South America, Russia, Europe and Australia.



STUDENT CREW AT CROOKED WAYS FESTIVAL, PONTEFRAC

We are very proud that over

90%

of our students have
secured employment before
they finish their course.

Industry opportunities

Year-on-year we build upon our industry connections so our students gain real experience at exciting events across the globe. Here's a small taster of where they have been.

Glastonbury Festival

Backstage Academy consistently secures work placement opportunities for our students at 'Glasto', the world's favourite festival. Our students work in a wide range of different roles across the 5-day event, including The BBC Introducing Stage, The Other Stage, Block9, Shangri-La, William's Green and The Park. Gaining experience at this world-leading event is an experience our students remember for years to come.



BBC Radio 1 Big Weekend

The annual festival, brought to you by BBC Radio 1, has been around for over 14 years and goes to a different location every year. Each year we have students working on the In New Music We Trust stage in a variety of production roles, from artist liaison officers and transport managers to stage hands and load-in/load-out crew. The festival attracts a wide selection of well-known bands and is the biggest free ticketed music event in Europe.

"I have consistently been impressed by the hardworking and conscientious students from Backstage Academy that come to work with me on R1BW. It's an extremely tough but exciting show to be involved with and this year was no exception. I worked closely with two final year students on the advance in the run up to the event, who, I can safely say I couldn't have done it without! The other Backstage Academy team members also gave me 100% and proved themselves to be invaluable."

Kate Stevens
Super Friendz
Artist Liaison for BBC Radio 1 Big Weekend

Camden Rocks

Camden Town has long been the hub of the UK's rock 'n' roll scene.

Each year Backstage Academy students have the opportunity to work directly for stage managers at different levels of responsibility, ranging from load crew to assistant stage managers.

The students gain plenty of hands on experience dealing with every aspect of a rock and roll show and have direct contact with artists and pro crew in their natural environment.

"The students we take on each year for Camden Rocks are fantastic and well trusted. They come equipped with the right practical skills, attitude and approach which is testament to what they are doing at Backstage Academy"

Ant Forbes
General Manager at CATO Music



Ibiza Rocks

Our students regularly jet off to Ibiza to work with the island's leading live music promoter, with acts such as Royal Blood, Stormzy, Clean Bandit, Bastille, Jess Glynne, Kaiser Chiefs, Wilkinson and Wolf Alice headlining sets at the venue. Backstage Academy students have been placed in key positions at Ibiza Rocks, including the roles of stage manager, front of house engineer, stage crew, production office assistant, video technician and technical production manager.

"I like to work with people who are professional, adaptable, dedicated and good to have around. What might previously have sounded like an unrealistic shopping list of qualities for work in the events business is now more achievable; these people are out there and Backstage Academy is helping to create them. I've heard it said that a University education is like a gym membership, where an individual is provided with information and expertise, but it's up to them to put the work in to get in shape."

Backstage students tend not to be shy of this. They arrive to work with me well adjusted to the live events industry, hungry to learn more and keen to get on. They consistently display a suitably professional attitude and approach and an impressive and healthy breadth of knowledge and experience. I've employed ex-students to work on my projects with global touring artists, national broadcasters and international events businesses and will continue to look for talent at Backstage Academy"

Mike Darling
Industry Consultant, Ibiza Rocks

Denmark - Grøn Koncert

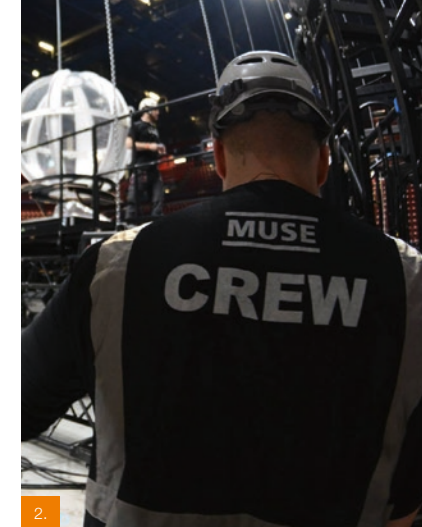
Backstage Academy students from across all our courses travelled to Denmark in the summers of 2015, 2016 and 2017 to join the production team for Grøn Koncert, a show that moves from city to city, starting and finishing in Copenhagen. The students became fully integrated members of the crew as they rose to the challenge of setting up, running and taking down a stage and set every 24 hours for 8 shows.

Students worked in a range of roles, including sound, lighting, crewing, logistics, stage management, hospitality and concessions.

"Working at Grøn Koncert was very challenging, mentally and physically. However, it was extremely rewarding due to the industry contacts, knowledge and skills that I gained throughout."

As Project Manager of the trip, I used my industry experience to confidently lead a group of over 20 students. It was an incredible experience that I was lucky enough to share with some great people and fantastic hard working students"

Raii Jenkins
Backstage Academy Live Events
Production Graduate



2.

1. STUDIO LOAD OUT
2. ON TOUR WITH MUSE
3. STUDENTS AND CREW AT IBIZA ROCKS

"I have worked with many different people at events such as Snowbombing, Parklife and Warehouse Project. I've also been a guitar tech. for The Specials and a stage manager at the BBC 6 Music Festival, Mark Ronson's 40th birthday party, Festival No.6 and many more. The root of all the opportunities and jobs has come from Backstage Academy."

James Hayward

2016 Graduate Live Events Production
BA (Hons)

JAMES HAYWARD WITH GLEN ROWE, TOUR DIRECTOR
FOR MUSE AT DRONES TOUR, MILAN



Don't just learn it. Live it.

Uniquely positioned at the heart of Production Park, Europe's leading live industry destination, Backstage Academy provides the best possible training for the flourishing live events sector, with fantastic industry links and state-of-the-art production facilities. Our degree courses are designed to give you the academic knowledge and the vocational skills you need to enter this vibrant and fast-paced industry. You will get first-hand experience of life in live events providing you with an unrivalled springboard into your career.

Providing real world experience opportunities is at the core of our offering, giving you the opportunity to put theory into practice and create your own professional network that, quite simply, money can't buy.

Throughout all of our degree courses we hold regular masterclasses by internationally renowned industry professionals. These sessions provide invaluable insights and will assist your integration into the real world of work.



STUDENTS ON CREW CALL, LS-LIVE STUDIO

No ordinary campus

Production Park is home to 5 studios and over 10 events businesses enabling big productions and big creations to be nurtured, developed and realised all in one place. Your study will take place in and around the heart of the action.

Our dedicated Backstage Academy facilities will give you the opportunity to get as much hands-on time with industry relevant equipment as you need, including a dedicated 100 seat lecture theatre, computer suites, breakout rooms, media room and a 338sqm state-of-the-art live sound studio.

“Shure is so pleased to be able to partner with an organisation like Backstage Academy. Live industry education has been a key focus over the past few years for Shure. Nurturing up-and-coming talent is important; we want to help students to acquire the skillset they need to establish themselves in the industry after they finish their education. I look forward to sharing some of the experience that Shure has gained, and working closely with the staff and students at Backstage Academy for many years to come.”

Tuomo Tolonen
Manager of the Pro Audio Group at Shure UK

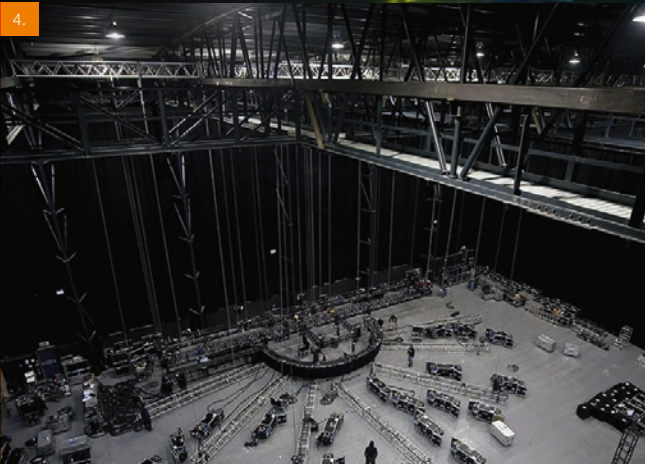
“The students we bring on board from Backstage Academy are always of a high calibre and are very strong across the board. They are forward thinking and can adapt to work in many different situations. It’s great to support a university that gives so much back to the live events industry. We are excited to build and carry on our relationship with Backstage Academy into the future.”

Joe Clark, Melody VR



2.

1. THE LS-LIVE PRODUCTION REHEARSAL STUDIO
2. PREVIS SUITE
3. STUDYING LIGHTING IN THE BACKSTAGE ACADEMY STUDIO
4. INSIDE THE LS-LIVE PRODUCTION REHEARSAL STUDIO



4.

Our alumni



Matt Williams

2017 Graduate,
Live Events Production FdA and
Top-up Course (BA) Hons

Why did you choose Backstage Academy?

Before I started at Backstage Academy, I found that not many sixth-form colleges offered courses relating specifically to festivals or live events. I ended up studying Technical Theatre at Southampton City College. However, it wasn't the theatre side of things that took my interest, I preferred lighting and rigging at events. Therefore when picking my university I chose Backstage Academy because I knew it was at the heart of the live events industry.

What were the highlights of your course?

I loved the hands-on experience and practical aspects of the course. I managed to secure work as a Production Manager at Snowbombing and the Blue Dot Festival, and as a Stage Manager at Radio 1's Teen Awards & Radio 1's Big Weekend.

How did you land your current role?

As I progressed into my second year, it was the management side of events that took my interest. I quickly took up a placement that was offered to me through Backstage Academy with a virtual reality company in Ibiza. We worked long shifts, filming 360° video content at huge events such as Space, Ibiza Rocks, Pacha and Amnesia. In this role I learnt people skills, technical aspects of cameras and how to work well in a team under stressful circumstances.

Whilst coming to the end of my work in Ibiza, I received a phone call from the Production Director at Melody VR, one of the leading virtual reality companies in the music and live events industries, offering me a part-time role as a Production Assistant.

During my final year at Backstage Academy, I spent a lot of time commuting back and forth between Wakefield and London balancing my uni work, social life and a part-time role.

Thankfully, the hard work all paid off. After working at Melody VR for 3 days a week, whilst completing my final year at university, I managed to land myself a full time as a Production Manager at Melody VR.

Due to the contacts and industry links I was able to make whilst at Backstage Academy, I now work in a position whereby I liaise and collaborate with artists for bespoke virtual reality and music video shoots. I'm advancing and running operations at festivals and gigs all over the UK and worldwide.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to study at Backstage Academy?

If you show commitment, loyalty and enthusiasm you could end up travelling to events all around the world and work in roles that lead to massive things. You never know what's around the corner.

When did you know you wanted a career in live events?

Originally, I wanted to be a cinematographer, working on films and TV shows. I began volunteering with the live camera team at my local church when I was sixteen, filming services and conferences. It was from here that I was hired to vision mix and direct a two-camera operator team for a BUPA Global Conference. This led me to realise that I wanted to work in live events. At the time, I wanted to continue with video work, but in live events, rather than in television or in film.

What were the highlights of your course?

The space and equipment you get to use at Backstage Academy is a real highlight of the course. Being able to play around with lights and sound desks is invaluable. You get the chance to make mistakes in a non-pressured environment and it makes all the difference.

What skills will you take from university into real life?

Fending for myself, living on my own, taking care of myself and settling into a completely new town. I'll also take the skills I learnt from my course into my career.

Tell us about your work experience?

I have worked at Ibiza Rocks and Green Man Festival, both opportunities I probably wouldn't have been able to get without Backstage Academy. The things you'll learn and the work experience opportunities you get whilst studying here will set you up for the rest of your career.

What are you doing now?

During the summer I worked alongside the riggers at TSL at events such as the Hillsong Conference at the O2, Secret Cinema and Newday Festival in Norwich. I'm hoping to get a lot more experience and a working knowledge of the discipline of rigging, in order to be fully freelance.

What do you see yourself doing next?

I want to work on arena shows and at festivals as a live event and entertainment rigger, eventually getting my level 2 National Rigging Certificate. I'd like to travel a lot as well, working as a freelancer for different shows in different venues all around the world.



Esther Reynolds

2017 Graduate,
Live Events Production FdA

Live Events Production

3 year
BA (Hons) degree/2 year FdA

This course introduces you to the different areas of event production across the live events sector. Focussing on employability you will leave Backstage Academy with a broad portfolio of relevant experience, together with the right skills and attitude to work in a safe and responsible manner.

Live Events Production

1 year
BA (Hons) Top-Up course

The third year of our BA (Hons) course in Live Events Production can also be taken as a standalone qualification. The Live Events Production Top-Up BA (Hons) course provides a progressive route for students who have successfully completed our Live Events Production FdA or related HE Level 5 qualification at another academic institution.

Live Visual Design and Production

3 year BA
(Hons) degree

Specially designed to follow the trends of modern events, our Live Visual Design and Production BA (Hons) degree is widely regarded as a trailblazer within the live events industry. It will equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to deliver cutting-edge visual productions in the music, film, architectural and theatre sectors.

Stage Management

3 year
BA (Hons) degree

Street parades, product launches, political conferences, film and TV, theatre and music festivals all require stage management skills to ensure their smooth running. This course will equip you with the experience and broad range of skills needed to undertake a successful stage management career, managing a wide portfolio of events.

Live Events Management

(subject to validation)
1 year
MA

This course will provide you with the opportunity to develop new transferable skills essential for working in the events sector, using theories and processes of project and operational management. You will learn about the event management cycle, including planning, design and implementation, environmental and sustainable issues including evaluation of a variety of events.

Live Events Production


3 year
BA (Hons) degree/2 year FdA

Live Events Production is an innovative course that introduces you to all the different areas of event production, design and management. Professional training from industry practitioners on the creative use of entertainment technology will prepare you for a wide variety of roles in the sector.

A series of twelve modules over the first two years will give you strong grounding in a range of technical, creative and production management disciplines. You will study subjects such as lighting, live sound, show control and networking, live visuals, staging and production management.

Work-placement and career development modules are designed to equip you with the skills, contacts and experience to progress into employment or set yourself up as a freelancer. Group and individual assignments are designed to mirror workplace practice and showcase your skills and knowledge.

The first two years of this course can also be taken as a foundation degree (FdA); after which there is then the option to carry on to the third year by applying for the BA (Hons) Top-Up.

MODULE	CREDITS
YEAR 1	
Academic and Professional Skills for the Events Industries.....	20
Concept Design and Presentation.....	20
Staging.....	20
Live Sound.....	20
Lighting.....	20
Live Visuals.....	20
YEAR 2	
Work Placement.....	20
Event Production Management.....	20
Production Planning and Realisation.....	20
Entertainment Networks and Show Control.....	20
Research Methods for Event Studies.....	20
Career Development and Employability.....	20
YEAR 3	
The Integrated Music and Live Events Production Business.....	20
Production Planning and Management.....	20
Events Logistics.....	20
Work Related Project.....	20
Major Project.....	40
*OPTIONAL MODULES (SUBJECT TO VALIDATION):	
Lighting Design.....	20
Live Sound Engineering.....	20
Video for Live Performance.....	20
Sustainability Issues for Live Events.....	20
Validated by:  Teaching Intensive, Research Informed	
UCAS codes – BA (Hons): N821 / FdA: N820. Entry requirements - BA (Hons): 104 / FdA: 64 UCAS points. You will need access to your own laptop/tablet. These will be required for some of our teaching sessions and a lot of the work you undertake away from the classroom. For more information about general entry requirements, fees, anticipated costs and how to apply, please visit: www.backstage-academy.co.uk/degree-courses *These optional modules are currently under development.	

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS FOR THE EVENTS INDUSTRIES

This module is designed to equip you with the methods and techniques to support and plan your studies. You will explore the live events industry to increase awareness of opportunities available in this sector and how you might progress into employment. Key skills and training related to Health and Safety in live events are delivered throughout the module.

CONCEPT DESIGN AND PRESENTATION

Those involved in the installation and operation of staging and technical systems are more effective if they can engage with the creative process. To do this they must understand the aims of the artistic concept and how the resultant design meets these aims. You will be introduced to the creative process of staging and technical design within the live events industry, focussing on communicating design concepts and ideas to satisfy the expectations of client and audience.

STAGING

Complex solutions to ever increasing technical and artistic demands require those working on live events to have an in-depth knowledge of staging systems and components. You will be introduced to techniques, terminology, theory and practice for modular-staging systems, truss systems, hoists and motor control. Using industry standard software you will create a stage plan, and learn how to develop a stage layout to satisfy a client brief.

LIVE SOUND

Live performances rely upon high quality sound to engage the audience. In this module you will learn about the operation and control techniques involved in the preparation and production of live sound. You will evaluate the quality and aesthetics of sound output for live events, investigate a range of techniques for engineering live sound sessions and be introduced to a range of manufacturers' products and equipment.

LIGHTING

Lighting plays a significant role in shaping the perception and emotion of the live event audience. This module introduces you to a wide range of lighting technology, common programming techniques, control signal protocols, the science of colour and light and the principles of lighting design.

You will practice technical skills involved in lighting for live events and apply relevant knowledge creatively. Through the use of industry standard software you will design a lighting plan, visualise it, and produce the required technical paper work.

LIVE VISUALS

With the development of video walls, projection mapping and the pixel mapping of LED sources, the use of live visuals has increased exponentially. Through the use of industry standard software you will learn how to gather and edit content, explore the attributes and technical specifications of different types of projector and video walls, and investigate a variety of media servers to deliver content including mapping to a 3D shape. You will consider the aesthetics of live visuals whilst you design your own live visuals performance.

WORK PLACEMENT

This module will provide you with experience of working in the events industry, and facilitate opportunities for reflective analysis of event operations and practice in a work context. You will be required to find and apply for a work placement in a live events production related capacity. In preparation you will focus on your personal development, including career planning and skills analysis, develop interview skills through practice and assessment, and increase health and safety awareness in the workplace.

EVENT PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

Event Production Managers are responsible for preparing creative proposals for site and venue layouts, specifying infrastructure, preparing budgets and defining how safe operations will be regulated. You will explore the key elements of event production management, and develop your knowledge and skills in this area. You will also explore contextual issues around the nature of events, audience profiles and the marketing of events.

PRODUCTION PLANNING AND REALISATION

A vital learning environment is created by the experience of actually developing and delivering events for a live audience. Building on skills and knowledge gained in all previous modules you will work in a collaborative team to deliver an exciting program of live events. Roles may include scheduling, budgeting, stage and artist management, contracting and production, events programming, artist liaison, marketing and front of house duties. The collaborative team will see an event through from conception to delivery and evaluation.

ENTERTAINMENT NETWORKS AND SHOW CONTROL

Expectations of audiences, designers and performers regarding artistic and technical systems grow each year. Increasingly complex control networks are employed to synchronise and control numerous core systems and devices, offering increased precision and reproducibility, as well as broadening creative possibilities. You will learn to plan, program and maintain show control networks, and develop practical skills in the operation of show control technologies.

RESEARCH METHODS FOR EVENT STUDIES

To gain a deeper understanding and engage proactively with issues in the live events industry it is important to develop your ability to investigate through research. You will appraise a topic of your choice from a range of subject areas including technical production, creative design or event management issues in any event category such as cultural, corporate or sporting events. You will review current literature, propose primary research methods for your investigation and present your proposal in an academic context.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY

The purpose of this module is to provide you with the opportunity to develop your skills and experience in a way that is targeted to your personal career aspirations. You will reflect upon your achievements to date and relate your interests and expertise to career choices. Once you have identified your progression route you will develop a proposal for a project to further your skills and knowledge towards this chosen route, whether in employment or further academic study.



LIVE SOUND ASSESSMENT

THE INTEGRATED
MUSIC AND LIVE EVENTS
PRODUCTION BUSINESS

You will be introduced to the diverse nature of the music and events industry. You will study the framework in which a project is planned, organised and controlled to ensure a successful event, whilst developing the team-working, decision-making, negotiation and communication skills needed to effectively manage within the music and events sector. You will study organisational structures and issues related to the industry and look at the function and interaction between the various creative and technical facets of the sector.



TRAINING ON THE LIGHTING DESK.

PRODUCTION PLANNING
AND MANAGEMENT

Those involved with the management of events will have a practical working knowledge of planning, licensing and permissions. They will be capable of preparing site and venue surveys, budgets, creative proposals, and assessing the environment and social impact of events. You will explore these factors thus broadening your knowledge of what is involved in the safe planning of events. You will evaluate the theories relating to personal development, management and leadership, and consider the ethical dimensions of management responsibility and control.

EVENTS LOGISTICS

This module offers you the opportunity to expand your knowledge of issues related to logistics and supply chain management in the live events industry. You will analyse the management of operations, supply chain management and evaluate how the international dynamics of the live events industry can work in a coordinated manner to provide a successful event.

WORK RELATED PROJECT

This module is designed to provide you with a vehicle to develop your prior and concurrent learning into practical work related skills. You will complete a period of work placement and gain practical experience of working in the live events industry. You will apply your learning to a real work based project which you will develop and implement to the benefit of your work placement provider.

MAJOR PROJECT

You will pursue a piece of individual research which will be academically rigorous and address a unique and specific question or issue relevant to live events production. You will be required to demonstrate familiarity with a range of data, research sources and appropriate methodologies, and express critical evaluation of theories, principles, concepts and models appertaining to live events production industry operational practices.

The third year of our BA (Hons) course in Live Events Production can also be taken as a standalone qualification. BA (Hons) Top-Up in Live Events Production provides a progression route for students who have successfully completed our Live Events Production FdA or a related HE Level 5 qualification at another academic institution.

Our Top-Up course is focused on management and will provide an insight into the key issues involved in the strategic organisation of large events, festivals and venues. Personal and professional development is emphasised and encouraged during the course, whilst the modules reinforce the programme's integration with the industry and teach students to design, develop and deploy management strategies across a variety of areas within the live events sector.

You get the opportunity to showcase your skills when everything is brought together in a live event for an audience and in a final year performance using advanced networking and show control techniques.

The delivery structure of the course is designed to be compatible with students maintaining employment in the sector and provide opportunities to get involved in a diverse range of practical projects, manufacturers' seminars and visits.



PYROTECHNICS TRAINING

MODULE	CREDITS
The Integrated Music and Live Events Production Business.....	20
Production Planning and Management.....	20
Events Logistics.....	20
Work Related Project.....	20
Major Project.....	40
*OPTIONAL MODULES (SUBJECT TO VALIDATION):	
Lighting Design.....	20
Live Sound Engineering.....	20
Video for Live Performance.....	20
Sustainability Issues for Live Events.....	20

APELs:
If you have worked in the live events industry for some time and your learning at work is relevant to the course you intend to follow, it may be possible for this experience to satisfy the entry requirements of the Top-Up course.

For further details please email enquiries@backstage-academy.co.uk and include 'APEL course entry' in the subject line.

Validated by:



University
of Bolton

Teaching Intensive, Research Informed

UCAS codes BA (Hons) Top-Up: 4F89 Entry requirements Our Live Events Production FdA or another related HE Level 5 qualification. You will need access to your own laptop/tablet. These will be required for some of our teaching sessions and a lot of the work you undertake away from the classroom. For more information about general entry requirements, fees, anticipated costs and how to apply, please visit: www.backstage-academy.co.uk/degree-courses
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THE INTEGRATED
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STUDYING FOR THE LIGHTING MODULE.

Our BA (Hons) Live Visual Design and Production degree has been created to meet increasing employer demands for skilled visual professionals within the live events sector and creative industries. To meet the needs of this exciting and fast-moving industry the course content has been developed in conjunction with a range of commercial partners including d3 Technologies, FIX8Group, Green Hippo and XL Video. As a visual production specialist, you will be able to take a project from concept and design through to delivery on site.

Our degree is taught in a variety of practical and engaging ways. Masterclasses with world leading experts, project work using state-of-the-art visual software and industry placements will provide you with invaluable practical experience of working within visual production. Assessment methods include project work, written reports and visual schematic assignments.



LIVE VISUAL PRODUCTION AND DESIGN ASSESSMENT

MODULE CREDITS

YEAR 1	
Professional Skills for the Visual Production Industry.....	20
Visual Production Toolbox - Basic Techniques.....	20
Creative Workflows and Concept Design.....	20
Experimental Design.....	20
Experiential Technologies - Hardware.....	20
Showtime Production Basics.....	20
YEAR 2	
Industry Placement.....	20
Visual Production Toolbox - Advanced.....	20
Creative Research.....	20
Show Technologies - Integration and Design.....	40
Contemporary Issues for Visual Production.....	20
YEAR 3	
Visual Production Design.....	20
Experimental System Design.....	20
Showtime Applied Project Management.....	20
Work Related Project.....	20
Major Project.....	40

Validated by:



University
of Bolton

Teaching Intensive, Research Informed

UCAS codes BA (Hons): W990 Entry requirements 104 UCAS points
You will need access to your own laptop/tablet. These will be required for some of our teaching sessions and a lot of the work you undertake away from the classroom. For more information about general entry requirements, fees, anticipated costs and how to apply, please visit: www.backstage-academy.co.uk/degree-courses

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS FOR THE VISUAL PRODUCTION INDUSTRY

As an overview of the visual production industry, this module will equip you with all the necessary methods and techniques to support your professional development. Topics include the fundamentals of visual design and production, efficient work practices, managing your well-being and safety, planning your career and developing the right attitude and expectations. You will understand the importance of developing lifelong learning skills to cope with the ever-evolving technologies and work practices.

VISUAL PRODUCTION TOOLBOX - BASIC TECHNIQUES

The understanding of some core concepts and industry standard software is at the heart of the degree course. This module introduces you to basic concepts of projection mapping, creative software workflow and 3D modelling. You will also be introduced to a range of creative software such as computer aided design, performance and projection mapping, and video editing programmes.

CREATIVE WORKFLOWS AND CONCEPT DESIGN

This module introduces you to the processes of creative workflow and concept design in the visual production industry. Managing a diverse range of projects across many sectors and meeting your clients' needs is key. It is imperative that you interpret the clients' requirements appropriately, communicate your ideas and solutions effectively, and manage their expectations. This module assists you to interpret brands and products effectively, and examine how designers make the connections between ideas and images.

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

Your learning of experiential design technologies within the live events industry commences by researching the evolution of lighting design and digital media. In this module, you will gain an understanding of the importance of style and theme, and the artistic qualities common to both light and video. In the module, you will produce a project in response to a given client brief, using examples of experiential technologies and techniques.

EXPERIENTIAL TECHNOLOGIES - HARDWARE

In this module you will gain an understanding of how to interpret artistic ideas and transform them into a technological response that embraces both lighting and video. Through taught content and project work you will expand on the knowledge and skills gained to look at the basics of lighting technology and video - from virtual building blocks and interconnects, to control and programming.

SHOWTIME PRODUCTION BASICS

The purpose of this module is to prepare you for the process of transferring your project proposals and experiential technology solutions to real performance environments across a range of sectors. The module integrates with on-site rehearsals and performances, including collaborative working, allowing you to gain experience of managing a performance and evaluating its success.



INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

This module will prepare you for a work placement within the visual production industry. Before the placement commences, a series of workshops will guide you through personal development planning. Health and Safety in the workplace and management responsibilities will be discussed and you will also have a chance to refine your interview techniques. Work placements could range from acquiring a position within an established company through to freelancing on Production Park or external projects.

VISUAL PRODUCTION TOOLBOX – ADVANCED

Building upon skills gained from the first year Visual Production Toolbox module you will gain experience of using a wider range of industry standard software and the exploration of generative content, camera techniques, composition and video game software. The work you complete in this module will help you to produce a showreel which is based upon researched content and represents your own style and interests.

CREATIVE RESEARCH

When studying visual production, it is essential that you are able to engage creatively with projects, given the enormous range of clients and creative scenarios available to you. In this module you will acquire the skills and knowledge needed to undertake investigative research, which will underpin your studies and facilitate you in producing ideas of your own. This module explores the history of art, architecture, music and scenography in support of your creative research practices.

SHOW TECHNOLOGIES - INTEGRATION AND DESIGN

In this module you will explore the expectations of audiences, designers and performers regarding artistic and technical systems and how those expectations grow each year. Working to a given brief and as part of a team, you will project manage an entire production process; bringing together a range of artistic, creative, and technical skills.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES FOR VISUAL PRODUCTION

The visual production sector is constantly evolving and, as part of the next generation of practitioners, you must be aware of the challenges it faces. In this module, you will conduct in-depth research into one element of the visual production industry and explore the latest national and international issues that affect it.



VISUAL PRODUCTION DESIGN

This module will enable you to develop your own values, attitudes, style and interpersonal skills to provide a platform for continuing personal development as a visual production designer. Working to an agreed brief, you will develop imaginative concepts and work collaboratively with your client; exploring creative workflows, communication skills and efficient working methods.

EXPERIMENTAL SYSTEM DESIGN

You will design a convergent, innovative and creative experiential technology system. Responding to the artistic and creative requirements, you will generate a professional and technical response that will enable a budget to be approved by your client. Prior to your proposed system being installed by on-site contractors and local crew you will make recommendations for any licensing and health and safety considerations that need to be implemented.

SHOWTIME APPLIED PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The safe delivery of visual productions across the globe relies on effective project management. In this module you will study a range of management techniques and consider the impact of events on the site and the community. Production planning takes into consideration a range of skills so it is important that you are able to develop a professional approach to pre and post event evaluation.



WORKING IN THE COMPUTER SUITE

WORK RELATED PROJECT

This module is designed to provide you with a vehicle to develop and transfer your prior learning into practical, work related skills. You will also reflect on your own personal management skills in terms of time management and working with others towards an agreed goal. The module will require you to complete a period of work placement providing you with practical experience of working in the visual production sector.

MAJOR PROJECT

The final project module gives you the opportunity to pursue a piece of individual study under the supervision of a tutor. The selected area of study must be relevant to visual production and be academically rigorous. The field of visual production has a relatively small body of research compared to more traditional university subjects so this is your chance to make a lasting contribution to the knowledge-base of the sector.

Stage Management BA (Hons) at Backstage Academy is dedicated to delivering the next generation of Stage Managers for the live events sector, in areas as diverse as theatre, festivals, touring, corporate events and sport.

Beginning with an in-depth study of traditional theatre based stage management techniques, you will then learn how to apply this knowledge across the breadth of live events. You will examine how the role of the stage manager develops from rehearsal to performance and tour, and study ways in which your skills can be transferred to working on international events. The programme is the first of its kind to be dedicated to the stage management of festival stages, large scale events, parades, fashion shows and conferences, and is designed to give you an edge to succeed in a busy market place.

Seminars, lectures and practical workshops will deliver course content, whilst assessment methods include practical assignments, written reports and reflective portfolios. Work experience modules are embedded into the second and third years of the programme so that all students become fully integrated in the live events industry by the end of their time at Backstage Academy.

MODULE

CREDITS

YEAR 1	
Academic and Professional Skills for the Events Industries.....	20
Backstage Technical Skills.....	20
Production Pre-Planning and Rehearsal.....	20
Production Realisation.....	20
Events and Festival Stage Management.....	20
Film and Television Location Work.....	20

YEAR 2	
Work Placement.....	20
Event Production Management.....	20
Production Planning and Realisation.....	20
Applied Stage Management Techniques.....	20
Research Methods for Event Studies.....	20
Career Development.....	20

YEAR 3	
The Integrated Music and Live Events Production Business.....	20
Events Logistics.....	20
Showtime Strategic Project Management.....	20
Stage Management Work Related Project.....	20
Major Project.....	40

Validated by:



University of Bolton

Teaching Intensive, Research Informed

UCAS code: W450. Entry requirements: 104 UCAS points
You will need access to your own laptop/tablet. These will be required for some of our teaching sessions and a lot of the work you undertake away from the classroom. For more information about general entry requirements, fees, anticipated costs and how to apply, please visit: www.backstage-academy.co.uk/degree-courses

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS FOR THE EVENTS INDUSTRIES

This module is designed to help equip you with methods and techniques to support and plan your studies throughout the course and as a lifelong learner. You will explore the live events industry to increase awareness of opportunities available in this sector and how you might progress into employment. Key skills and training related to Health and Safety in live events are delivered throughout the module.

BACKSTAGE TECHNICAL SKILLS

The role of Stage Manager involves being at the centre of a range of disciplines and roles. From introducing you to the basics of stage management, through to staging, lighting, sound and video, this module will give you an overview of different disciplines so you can act effectively as part of the stage management team on a range of events.

PRODUCTION PRE-PLANNING AND REHEARSAL

Positive, clear communication is a vital element of Stage Management. This module examines the importance of this skill in managing the information flow to stakeholders and other members of the show creation team. You will gain

an understanding of key motivational theories, consumer behaviour challenges, contracting, scheduling and budgeting. You will also explore how key communication theories relate to the flow of information in the collaborative rehearsal process and the skills involved in successfully managing a team.

PRODUCTION REALISATION

This module introduces you to the processes required in moving from rehearsals to the production phase of an event. It examines the correct industry practice for communicating with venues and techniques that will enable you to manage the load-in and production period. You will gain knowledge of the standard facilities associated with performance venues and be able to fully engage with performance previews, opening nights, load-outs and post-production reflection.

EVENTS AND FESTIVAL STAGE MANAGEMENT

This module will prepare you for working in the live events sector, where the transferable stage management skills acquired in previous modules can be applied. You will evaluate the wide range of roles and opportunities available in commercial environments as diverse as weddings, private parties, large scale music festivals, political events and conferences. You will gain an excellent understanding of different work processes and how they can be used to best effect in the industry.

FILM AND TELEVISION LOCATION WORK

Stage Management is just as important on a television and film set as it is on the stage of a live event or theatre. You will examine the roles and management structures that facilitate television and film operations on location. Comparing roles and processes from live events, you will learn how your skills and knowledge gained are transferable to the Film and Television sector. Finding a suitable site that meets the needs of the clients is also a key challenge that will be explored in the module; alongside the range of practices that can be factors on location such as working with helicopters, liaising with local authorities or filming from vehicles.

WORK PLACEMENT

The purpose of this module is to provide you with experience of working in the events industry, and facilitate opportunities for reflective analysis of event operations and practice in a work context. You will be required to find and apply for a work placement in a live events production related capacity. In preparation you will focus on your personal development, including career planning and skills analysis, develop interview skills through practice and assessment, and increase health and safety awareness in the workplace.

EVENT PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

Event Production Managers are responsible for preparing creative proposals for site and venue layouts, specifying infrastructure, preparing budgets and defining how safe operations will be regulated. You will explore the key elements of event production management, and develop your knowledge and skills in this area. You will also explore contextual issues around the nature of events, audience profiles and the marketing of events.

PRODUCTION PLANNING AND REALISATION

A vital learning environment is created by the experience of actually developing and delivering events for a live audience. Building on skills and knowledge gained in all previous modules you will work in a collaborative team to deliver an exciting program of live events. Roles may include scheduling, budgeting, stage and artist management, contracting and production, events programming, artist liaison, marketing and front of house duties. The collaborative team will see an event through from conception to delivery and evaluation.

APPLIED STAGE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

This module deals with the managerial aspects of the Stage Manager's role. You will appraise a range of techniques to help you gain an understanding of management concepts in dealing with teams and individuals. Techniques explored will include motivation, Total Quality Management, pastoral care and conflict resolution. You will also study the wider performance environment to understand the management issues involved in larger scale productions.

RESEARCH METHODS FOR EVENT STUDIES

To gain a deeper understanding and engage proactively with issues in the live events industry it is important to develop your ability to investigate through

research. You will appraise a topic of your choice from a range of subject areas including technical production, creative design or event management issues in any event category such as cultural, corporate or sporting events. You will review current literature, propose primary research methods for your investigation and present your proposal in an academic context.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY

The purpose of this module is to provide you with the opportunity to develop your skills and experience in a way that is targeted to your personal career aspirations. You will reflect upon your achievements to date and relate your interests and expertise to career choices. Once you have identified your progression route you will develop a proposal for a project to further your skills and knowledge towards this chosen route, whether in employment or further academic study.



THE INTEGRATED MUSIC AND LIVE EVENTS PRODUCTION BUSINESS

You will be introduced to the diverse nature of the music and events industry. You will study the framework in which a project is planned, organised and controlled to ensure a successful event, whilst developing the team-working, decision-making, negotiation and communication skills needed to effectively manage within the music and events sector. You will study organisational structures and issues related to the industry and look at the function and interaction between the various creative and technical facets of the sector.



TRAINING ON THE LIVE SOUND DESK

EVENTS LOGISTICS

This module offers you the opportunity to expand your knowledge of issues related to logistics and supply chain management in the live events industry. You will analyse the management of operations and supply chain management, and evaluate how the international dynamics of the live events industry can work in a coordinated manner to provide a successful event.

SHOWTIME STRATEGIC PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Production companies and creative agencies are for the majority, required to plan and stage events sustainably across a range of international settings, often balancing the impact of events on the venue site and the host community. This module evaluates the range of additional skills and the key knowledge base, which is required by professionals in the industry to fully recognise these very important sustainable factors. You will also critically appraise pre and post event evaluation techniques.

WORK RELATED PROJECT

This module is designed to provide you with a vehicle to develop your prior and concurrent learning into practical work related skills. You will complete a period of work placement and gain practical experience of working in the live events industry. You will apply your learning to a real work based project which you will develop and implement to the benefit of your work placement provider.

MAJOR PROJECT

You will pursue a piece of individual research which will be academically rigorous and address a unique and specific question or issue relevant to live events production. You will be required to demonstrate familiarity with a range of data, research sources and appropriate methodologies, and express critical evaluation of theories, principles, concepts and models appertaining to live events production industry operational practices.

Live Events Management

Subject to validation

1 year
MA

This course will provide you with the opportunity to develop new transferable skills essential for working in the events sector, using theories and processes of project and operational management. You will learn about the event management cycle, including planning, design and implementation, environmental and sustainable issues including evaluation of a variety of events. As an academically driven course, you will learn to critically evaluate a range of theories and models relevant to live events management.

The teaching and design of the course is international, giving you an interesting opportunity to mix with a diverse range of individuals from a range of disciplines. This allows you to increase your intercultural competence, which is vital for working in a mixed-nationality workforce and working for a mixed-nationality clientele.

The practical and production pathway for the MA programme will only be available to applicants who can demonstrate prior industry knowledge through interview and application.



SETTING UP A STAGE

CORE MODULES	CREDIT
Management Theory and Leadership for Live Events.....	30
Sponsorship, Marketing and the Digital Environment for Live Events.....	30
Creative Practice in Event Production Implementation and Design.....	30
Major Research / Industry Project.....	30
OPTIONAL MODULES	
Principles of International Event Management and Research.....	30
Environmental Event Management and Future Practice.....	30
PRODUCTION PATHWAY OPTIONAL MODULES	
Projection Mapping and Live Performance.....	30
Production Management and Implementation of Lighting Design.....	30
Production Management and Implementation of Sound Reinforcement.....	30

This course is currently awaiting validation. If you would like to learn more about it please contact Ria Forsyth (ria.forsyth@backstage-academy.co.uk)

MANAGEMENT THEORY AND LEADERSHIP FOR LIVE EVENTS

This module will investigate and elaborate on the different management and leadership styles deployed across the live events industry. There will be a particular focus on the positive and negative outcomes to ensure compliance and acceptance to deliver major festivals and events. Original case studies will be inserted throughout the teaching cycle, to explore and develop a greater understanding between theory and practice.

SPONSORSHIP, MARKETING AND THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT FOR LIVE EVENTS

The module has been designed to allow you to grasp the theoretical principles of sponsorship and marketing and how it is translated within the digital environment. You will be required to critically articulate the commercial value of sponsorship and how to maximise its commercial footprint for consumers and stakeholders. The module will take its lead from a collection of sporting, festivals and business related events to express the fundamental principles.

CREATIVE PRACTICE IN EVENT PRODUCTION IMPLEMENTATION AND DESIGN

You will develop an appreciation of the design process and implementation of production equipment within a live event setting. Examples of product innovation will be introduced to gain an understanding of the role it plays to enhance client expectation and attendee engagement. This will be taught against a backdrop of the competitive business landscape from an international perspective.

MAJOR RESEARCH / INDUSTRY PROJECT

In this module you'll be taught how to prepare and interpret data for business and research projects, which will help your decision making skills, and develop an appreciation of the diverse nature of research. You will be required to produce a dissertation or a comprehensive industry inspired research project.

OPTIONAL MODULES

PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL EVENT MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH

The module will give you a deeper insight into the operational, technical and delivery requirements of international events, taking on a global perspective. The module will also focus on the commercial, social and political influences that can have a major impact on the bidding and operational success and final outcome for international events. An industry visit will also be included as part of the learning requirement for this module.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVENT MANAGEMENT AND FUTURE PRACTICE

The module is designed to improve your understanding of the environmental impact within the event industry. You will be required to investigate sustainable and environmental impacts on consumers who attend festivals and events. The module is constructed to push forward the global issues of climate change, with a specific focus on sustainability within the UK event industry.

PRODUCTION PATHWAY

Along with the core modules, those you who qualify for the production pathway can choose from the following optional modules:

PROJECTION MAPPING AND LIVE PERFORMANCE

The module will give an enhanced insight, investigation and practical application of 'Visual Design'. You will explore and interpret, through design and implementation, the technical specification directly associated for projection and visual mapping within the digital environment. The professional use of video walls, media servers and projection mapping will enable you to push forward your creative and technical appreciation culminating with critical analysis for the future deployment of the technology within the sector.

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LIGHTING DESIGN

Modern events are forms of cultural consumption and require a vast understanding and technical appreciation to achieve successful outcomes for attendees and stakeholders. This module will investigate the technical and commercial endeavours to bring about a unified outcome. You will bring to this module prior expertise in light propagation that can be developed and tested within a real world environment.

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SOUND REINFORCEMENT

This module works with the latest technological advancement in sound reinforcement, you will be required to design and critically analyse the acoustic and sound amplification within different venues. You should bring to this module practical knowledge and prior expertise in sound reinforcement. The module will give you theoretical and practical appreciation of the technological advancement and implementation of sound systems within the live event industry.

Student Life

Backstage Academy is not your usual red brick university. As soon as you start your course with us you become part of the industry. Our teaching schedule has been carefully planned to allow you time to gain as much experience as possible and ensures your availability to attend evening concerts and events.

LIVE MUSIC & EVENTS

Wakefield has a flourishing live music scene with thriving venues. Unity Works hosts acts such as Mr Scruff, Embrace and Cage the Elephant, whilst the The Hop and Warehouse 23 also have packed schedules. The city also hosts Long Division, a music and cultural festival that takes place across the City Centre.

Leeds is home to an eclectic and thriving music scene, with plenty of gigs and venues to suit any music-lover's taste. From Brudenell Social Club, to the O2 Academy and Leeds 'First Direct' Arena you could catch anyone from the next big thing to the world's biggest artists. Since opening in 2013 the Arena has seen the likes of Prince, Fleetwood Mac, Paloma Faith and Pharrell Williams pass through. Alternatively head to Sheffield, home of the Arctic Monkeys and its very own multi-venue festival, Tramlines.

CULTURE AND RETAIL

Creativity is engrained in Wakefield's DNA and you won't find the city lacking for cultural attractions. The award-winning Hepworth Gallery, the largest purpose-built exhibition space outside of London, is the focal point of the regenerated Waterfront area, whilst further afield the Yorkshire Sculpture Park is one of the leading open-air art galleries in the world.

When it comes to shopping, you are spoilt for choice. Stay local and take advantage of Wakefield's new Trinity Walks shopping centre or catch a 15 minute train into Leeds; rated the best UK city for shopping by the Rough Guide to Britain. From quirky independent stores to all the major high street names, there is something to suit all tastes.

ACTIVE

With picturesque Yorkshire countryside surrounding the city and three national parks on your doorstep, you won't lack for green spaces. Fans of watersports can try out sailing, kayaking or windsurfing at Pugneys Country Park, whilst adrenalin junkies looking for thrills can head to Xscape in Castleford, to experience its 170m real snow ski slope, laser tag and climbing.



1.



2.

WATERFRONT HOUSE

Student accommodation is available at the newly completed Waterfront House across from the Hepworth Gallery in central Wakefield. The accommodation includes 50 rooms, communal kitchens, free parking, free Wi-Fi and a free bus to Westgate train station (Backstage Academy is 3 stops and 15 mins away).

For any enquiries regarding accommodation in and around Wakefield please contact Linley & Simpson on 01924 375245 or wakefield@linleyandsimpson.co.uk

ACCOMMODATION

Backstage Academy works closely with Linley & Simpson letting agents to ensure that finding somewhere to live is a simple process when joining the course. We have created a Landlords' Charter to encourage high standards of accommodation and customer service.

Wakefield Council also run the Wakefield Responsible Landlord Scheme and all landlords who join are checked out and their properties inspected so that tenants can rent with confidence. More information about the standards you can expect from a rented property can be found on the Housing section of the Council's webpage www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/community-and-housing/housing/private-rented/private-rented-homes. The Housing Standards Team offers advice and support for tenants with problems or concerns about the standard of their property and contact details can also be found on the Council's website.

1. ENJOYING A LECTURE
2. ARTISTS IMPRESSION OF NEW WATERFRONT HOUSE ACCOMMODATION
3. PRODUCTION PARK RECEPTION



Student Life

DIVERSITY AND DISABILITY

Backstage Academy is committed to equality of opportunity, and we encourage this opportunity regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, religious belief or sexual orientation. We welcome applications from disabled applicants or those with learning difficulties – please ensure that you disclose relevant information when completing your application in order that we might provide additional support during the application process and after you begin your course.

ACADEMIC AND PASTORAL GUIDANCE

From leaving home for the first time to balancing academic commitments, university life can sometimes be challenging. If this is ever the case, our Student Services staff will be on hand to provide support.

All students can take advantage of study skills sessions or book a one-to-one meeting with a specialist member of the team to discuss an upcoming assessment, pastoral issue or mental health concern.

FRESHERS' WEEK AND INDUCTION

Our returning students put their event production and management skills into action by running an inclusive and inventive Freshers. With activities to suit all tastes, you can be sure of a memorable start to student life.

We have also designed a comprehensive induction programme to help you settle in at Backstage Academy.

Student mentors regularly visit new students in the first weeks of the new academic year to offer support and guidance.



Open days/ How to Apply

Our open days provide a great opportunity to come and see Backstage Academy for yourself. Students will demonstrate current projects, you can tour our facilities, talk to our team about course content and ask any questions about accommodation, UCAS and student finance and support.

Visit our website to book yourself into our next open day: www.backstage-academy.co.uk/OpenDays

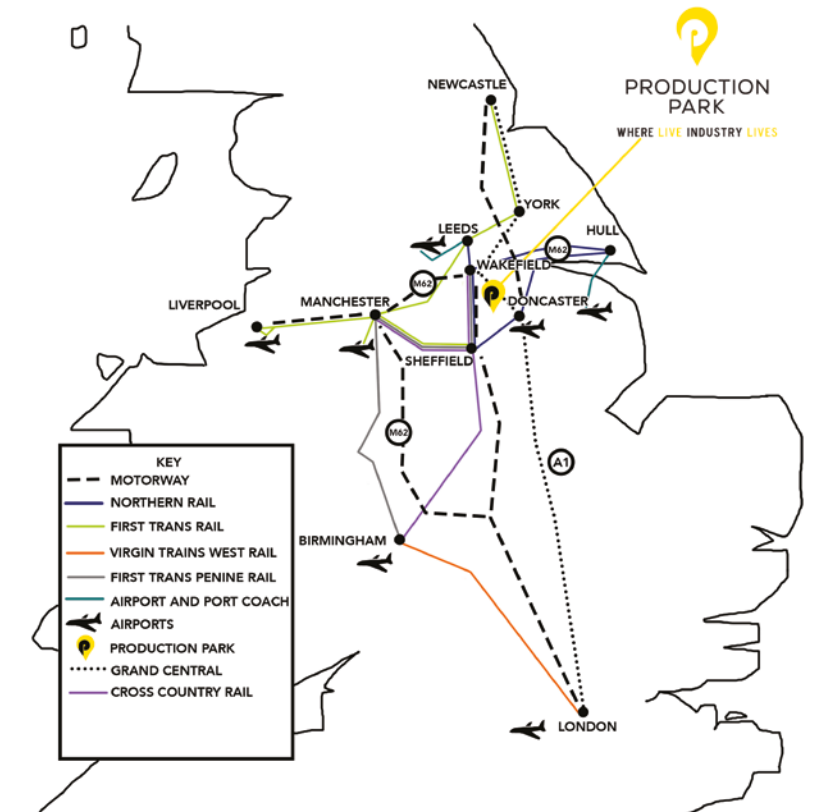
HOW TO APPLY

Applications are made via UCAS with all courses listed under the University of Bolton. When completing your UCAS application please give special consideration to your personal statement, as it may be possible to admit applicants without the necessary academic qualifications, but who are able to demonstrate relevant practical experience.

We additionally invite you to attend an interview. This is your chance to tell us all about your experience, ask any questions and to make sure the course is right for you. We try to make sure that current students are on hand to discuss their experience of the course with you.

LOCATION

Backstage Academy is based on Production Park, on the outskirts of Wakefield, which is perfectly situated at the very centre of the UK with easy access to most major cities and airports in Britain by road or rail.





Adrian Brooks

Having worked in this exciting, diverse and challenging industry for most of my working life, I realised several years ago that emerging young industry talent was key to the UK maintaining its lead position in creating the very best live shows and events.

It also became apparent that for new and developing talent to be a valuable asset to the industry they needed hands-on experience from the get go, leading to the industry based learning approach of Backstage Academy.

This enabled our students to develop their skills in world-class environments, alongside some of the seasoned best of our industry's experts, and build up an extensive network of industry contacts to help with the leap into employment.

On completion of their degree course our students step out in the real world with a CV of work ready to prove their credentials, giving them the edge over other graduates.

Dr Adrian Brooks
Chairman and Founder, Backstage Academy



Paul Walters

Choosing a university course is one of life's most significant decisions. It is a choice that will affect not just the next two or three years but your career to follow. The range of courses that you can now study across the UK is perhaps the greatest it has ever been, so the decision has become more difficult than ever.

With all these options in front of you, why should you choose to come here, to Backstage Academy? In a word: integration.

Universities often highlight their links to industry; we are part of the industry. From our guest and in-house tutors at the forefront of their trade to the internationally renowned facilities at Production Park in which you learn, you are constantly immersed in a commercial environment and have the opportunity to work alongside major names in the events and live music sectors.

Our courses have a heavy emphasis on practical-based learning and assessments are largely tailored to reflect tasks which could be expected from you after graduating in that field. If you make the most of the networking opportunities on offer and show the right desire to succeed, then you can expect a smooth transition from university to employment.

Paul Walters
Associate Dean, Backstage Academy



Glen Rowe

If the young roadie in me could see how far you can get in this business by being honest, hard-working and remaining positive then I would have hung up my drumsticks a few years earlier.

I remember the moment very well; I had no money (and I mean ZERO cash!) whilst on tour as a drummer in a grunge band. The band had a terrible record deal and we'd spent our last few pounds on spare guitar strings!

Our tour manager, mind you, got to travel the world with different bands, have as much fun as us (maybe more) but still get paid for it... the step over the line into the crewing world was a simple choice. I have never looked back.

The time you spend with us at Backstage Academy should be viewed as one long job interview. If you show the kind of skills, personality and acumen needed there is plenty of work out there for great crew. And a degree from Backstage Academy will put you ahead of the game.

Glen Rowe
Managing Director, Backstage Academy



Sara Gleadhall

I've enjoyed working in the live events industry in a variety of roles, from Artist Liaison to Stage Management, for some of the biggest companies in the sector including The BBC and Live Nation.

Throughout your time here at Backstage Academy there are opportunities for you to gain experience at events such as Glastonbury Festival, Ibiza Rocks and the Radio 1 Big Weekend. You could be helping with logistics, managing a stage, liaising with artists or assisting with set construction. Most importantly you will get to work alongside industry professionals and learn from them in real-life environments. Any of these placements could lead to your next job, shaping your career for years to come.

At Backstage Academy we are passionate about giving you the skills, experience and network you need to facilitate your future in this fantastic industry.

Sara Gleadhall
Business Development Director, Backstage Academy

A final word from our students

"I absolutely love it at Backstage Academy, and I think the course is almost perfect for me. I have massively expanded my skill set into areas that I didn't know even existed before and I have been pushed beyond the classroom into a variety of different professional environments."

Ashley Ball,
Live Visual Design and Production Student

"I have already worked as a Venue Manager at Bradford Literature Festival, Event Co-ordinator at Saltaire Arts Trail, Deputy Stage Manager at Wakefield Theatre Royal and soon I will be working at Edinburgh Fringe Festival as a Stage Manager with Broadway production company, Maximum Entertainment. Experience is currency in this industry and Backstage Academy can give you that."

Danielle Calthorpe,
Stage Management Student

"In my first year here, I got the chance to work at Radio One's Big Weekend. It was my first time working on a big stage with major artists and professional engineers and technicians. It was a great opportunity for us all and an invaluable introduction into how a stage operates at a large and highly publicised event. Some advice I would give to someone wanting to get into the industry would be to be attentive and adaptive. Be prepared to keep learning even when you've left the classroom, be friendly and don't forget to have fun."

Nicholas Reynolds,
Live Events Production Student

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Find us on:

f [backstageacademy](#)
🐦 [@BackstageAcad](#)
🌐 backstage-academy.co.uk

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All information correct at time of publication.
Errors and omissions excepted.



Teaching Intensive, Research Informed

Backstage Academy has enjoyed a successful partnership with the University of Bolton since 2011. The University of Bolton has achieved its record student satisfaction rating of 85% following the results of The National Student Survey (NSS) 2017. Over the past 12 months, the university has also been recognised by The Complete University Guide for its student satisfaction, ranking in the top 27% of 129 higher education institutions. Other recent accolades include silver status in the government's new Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) evaluation scheme of university teaching, recognising

universities for exceeding the baseline threshold expected of UK higher education. The university also ranked 38 out of 128 institutions for teaching quality in The Sunday Times; and entered The Guardian's top 40 for teaching quality.

These achievements bring to the forefront the University of Bolton's commitment to its policy of being a Teaching Intensive, Research Informed (TIRI) institution, one that continually strives to enhance and enrich the student experience.