



South Avenue, Blantyre Industrial Estate, Blantyre G72 0XB  
Tel 01698 324246 Email: [info@chem19.co.uk](mailto:info@chem19.co.uk) [www.chem19.co.uk](http://www.chem19.co.uk)



### 'ENGINEERING & PRODUCTION IN PRACTICE'

FEBRUARY 2018 – JUNE 2018

**CHEM19 Recording Studios**, based in Blantyre, just outside Glasgow, is proud to announce the launch of the 7th round of its innovative learning opportunity for individuals of ages 18-25 who are interested in learning about the disciplines of engineering and production in a hands-on, commercial studio environment.

Chem19 is one of Scotland's best-established recording studios, created as a sister company to Glasgow's independent record company **Chemikal Underground** in 1997. The studio has seen many of Scotland's most influential artists pass through its doors over the past 20 years from Mogwai to Franz Ferdinand, and from Twilight Sad to Calvin Harris.

The course will take the form of approx 18, 4 hour teaching sessions taught over 5 months, **one every week**. Two groups of 6 students will be taught by a selection of Chem19's own experienced engineers/producers in one of our 2 commercial studios.

A brief description of the course content can be found overleaf. The emphasis of the course is on engineering and production in a practical and commercial environment and as such takes the form of workshops rather than lectures.

We have found this course to be of interest to a great many individuals in the fields of sound engineering, production and music in general, whether already studying or having studied at further or higher education levels, or whether having a more practical, hands-on experience of the disciplines. It is **not** necessary to have any qualification in the field – some basic knowledge and practical experience is all you require to be eligible to apply. We aim to present each student with the opportunity to learn, or refresh their existing knowledge about the basic theories and principles, their practical application and ultimately their roles as applied in an actual recording session. 2 basic, commercial style recording sessions will be carried out by the students under supervision, during the course. Successful completion of the course will result in receipt of a completion certificate. Good attendance will be necessary in order to receive a completion certificate.

## **COURSE FEES**

The course is presented with grant support from **Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative Fund** and as such the cost for the delivery of the course from February 2018 is heavily subsidised, presenting a great opportunity to those students interested in taking part. **There is no fee to take part in SoundLAB 2018.**

## **CONTRIBUTION TO TRANSPORT COSTS**

We will be making a contribution to transportation costs up to a value of £5 per student per class, subject to the fund's availability. Receipts will be necessary to claim for this support.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible to apply you must be between 18-25 years old and resident in Scotland. There will only be 12 places available for the year and as such there will be a selection procedure in place to enable us to identify the most suitable candidates.

## **APPLICATIONS**

If you are eligible and would like to apply please send the following to us at [info@chem19.co.uk](mailto:info@chem19.co.uk) by **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018**. We will be notifying all applicants of the outcome of our selection process by mid January. The course will begin on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018**.

We require:

### **Your current CV**

#### **Answers to the following:**

- 1. Open paragraph. Please tell us a little about yourself.**
- 2. Describe your current knowledge/experience in audio engineering and/or production.**
- 3. Explain why you are interested in learning about audio engineering and production.**
- 4. Tell us what you hope to gain if you are successful in attending this course.**
- 5. Talk a little about a recording / artist / engineer / producer that has inspired you in becoming interested in the field of audio engineering and production.**

We only need a few paragraphs on each question.

Many thanks for taking an interest in this course, and if you do choose to apply we wish you the best of luck.

## **Chem19 Recording**

*SoundLAB is part of The Scottish Government's Youth Music Initiative (YMI) which is administered by Creative Scotland. The YMI creates access to high quality music making opportunities, enables young people to achieve their potential in or through music and supports the development of the sector for the benefit of young people.*

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# SOUNDLAB: ENGINEERING & PRODUCTION IN PRACTICE

## A BRIEF OUTLINE

### **Basic audio engineering theory & principles:**

Signal flow / Gain Structure / Microphones / EQ / Compression / Reverb & Delay / Phase Relationships / Brief history of recording

### **Practical application of theory:**

Effective use of Pro Tools / Microphone placement / Use of mixer & outboard equipment / Mixing Techniques

### **Artistic Input & Production:**

Recognising a good performance / Understanding and finding a client's desired sound / Understanding the importance of arrangement & song structure / Learning to listen critically to a song

### **2 Recording Sessions:**

Dealing with a client / Etiquette in the studio / Time management & planning / Problem solving / Decision making

## THE PRODUCTION ELEMENT OF THE COURSE

Part of the teaching of production within the SoundLAB course will be presented within the context of working with a professional songwriter on a new song; helping them develop and subsequently record the song over subsequent sessions. This will take place over a number of weeks, with the songwriter being present to introduce the song and develop discussions on how to arrange it and record it with full input from the students. This hands-on approach will allow the students a first hand glimpse into the importance of arrangement and instrument choice when it comes to producing a great recording. Listening to the song and being able to provide critique on its constituent parts is often just as important as being able to record the instruments, when aiming for the best possible result.

## A NOTE ABOUT THE RECORDING SESSIONS

The main emphasis of this course will be based on a hypothetical recording session with pre-recorded guide tracks. It will give the tutors the ability to 'freeze time' and focus in on specific details and problems that might arise week by week. This will maintain focus on delivering contextualized results when the students themselves begin engineering.

The students will be asked to run a basic session in the studio early on in the course as a way to identify their current abilities and skills and also to act as a marker or reference point to build their learning on.

The goal for the second and final session will be for the students to track one song for a professional band and produce a rough mix in 10 hours with little or no assistance from the tutor. Students will be sorted into groups of 3 to record these sessions. These sessions will take place in weekends in June, on dates to be scheduled nearer the time.

## ASSIGNMENTS

There will be regular, short practical or written assignments to keep students focused throughout the course. Students will be able to communicate with tutors via an online forum and further learning resources will also be made available online through the Chem19 website for the duration of the course.

## PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Whilst not necessary it is recommended that students have access to a computer to be able to access the online forum and complete assignments between sessions. Free software ProTools First will be used as the basis from which to teach the fundamentals of one of the most commonly used professional recording software packages: Pro Tools. Pro Tools First can be downloaded for free from the Avid website, but to maximize the learning experience we recommend a good pair of studio headphones be used when using the software.

## COURSE DATES

The course will run on a Tuesday, every week with the exception of around Easter when there will be a break. On each teaching day there will be two separate groups of 6 students, one group taught in the morning from 10am – 2pm and one in the evening from 5pm – 9pm. You are welcome to indicate which time would suit you best when applying but **we will not be able to guarantee the preferred time slot should you be offered a place on the course**, as we wish to keep the group sizes to no more than 6 students to maintain the highest quality learning experience. Please note that the June TBC date is a full day recording session, to be arranged nearer the time.

<b>Wk</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Month</b>	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Apr
<b>Date</b>	6th	13th	20th	27th	6th	13th	20th	27th	3rd

<b>Wk</b>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>Month</b>	Apr	May	May	May	May	May	Jun	Jun	Jun
<b>Date</b>	24th	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th	5th	TBC	19th

