

# CHEM RECORDING

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## SOUND LAB

### 'ENGINEERING & PRODUCTION IN PRACTICE'

#### LAUNCHING OCTOBER 2011

**CHEM19 Recording Studios**, based in Blantyre, just outside Glasgow, is proud to announce a brand new 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 14 years from Mogwai to Franz Ferdinand, and from King Creosote to Calvin Harris.

The course will take the form of approx 17, 4 hour teaching sessions taught over 10 months, once every fortnight. Two groups of 6 students will be taught by a selection of Chem19's own experienced engineers/producers in one of our commercial studios.

A brief description of the course content can be found overleaf, but please bear in mind that this is a brief outline and work in progress so may be subject to change between now and the start of the course. The emphasis of the course being on engineering and production in a practical and commercial environment will not change however.

We envisage this course to be of interest to a great many individuals in the field of sound engineering/production, whether already studying or having studied at further or higher education levels, or whether having a more practical, hands-on experience of the disciplines. 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. 3 basic, commercial style 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.

The course is presented with grant support from **Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative Fund** and as such the cost for the first run of the course from October 2011 is heavily reduced, presenting a great opportunity to those students interested in taking part. The fee for the whole 10-month course is £50, payable upfront.

## **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 first 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 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011. We will be notifying all applicants of the outcome of our selection process by mid September. The course will begin on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

We require:

### **An up to date CV**

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

**Please describe your current knowledge/experience in audio engineering and/or production.**

**Please explain why you are interested in learning about audio engineering and production.**

**Please tell us what you hope to gain if you are successful in attending this course.**

We don't require any more than a few paragraphs on each question.

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

Chem19 Recording

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## **'SOUND LAB: 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 / Learning to listen critically to a song

#### **3 Recording Sessions:**

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

## 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.

A second recording session will take place two thirds into the course to allow the students to gauge where they have improved and where work may still be necessary.

The goal for the third 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.

## WRITTEN WORK

There will be at least one practical or written assignment every fortnight 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.

## COURSE DATES

The course will run on a Tuesday, every fortnight with the exception of around Christmas and New Year when there will be a 3-week 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. Each student will only be required to attend 17 of the total 20 sessions, as the recording sessions will be spread across 2 separate sessions, with each student only being required to attend one of them as part of a group of 3.

The dates are:

<b>Wk</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Month</b>	Oct	Oct	Nov	Nov	Nov	Dec	Jan	Jan	Jan	Feb
<b>Date</b>	4	18	1	15	29	13	3	17	31	14

<b>Wk</b>	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>Month</b>	Feb	Mar	Mar	Apr	Apr	May	May	Jun	Jun	Jul
<b>Date</b>	28	13	27	10	24	8	22	5	19	3

