ALPHA
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Study Music in Jamaica

The Jamaican Music Experience

Why Study in Jamaica?

- Rewarding and memorable experiences with Caribbean musicians
- Growth & adventure! Learn about another culture and yourself!
- Gain new perspectives on the Caribbean and its music.
- Broaden your musical vocabulary and find new musical interests.
- Improve your intercultural communication skills.

The Jamaican Music Experience

Jamaica's impact on world music has been significant. This small Caribbean island has produced 5 distinct popular music genres (Ska, Rocksteady, Reggae, Dub and Dancehall) which have influenced world music and spawned other genres such as reggaeton, Hip Hop and electronic music.

The Alpha School of Music offers a 2-semester **Jamaican Music Experience** for male and female musicians between the ages of 19-28. Learn ska, reggae, rocksteady and mento beside Jamaican music students at the world-renowned Alpha campus.

About the Alpha School of Music

The music programme at Alpha has been preparing students for the commercial music and entertainment industry for over 100 years.

Our alumni include many of Jamaica's musical greats from Ska to Dancehall, such as Don Drummond, Dizzy Reese, Johnny Osbourne, Winston 'Yellowman' Foster, Tommy McCook and most of the original Skatalites Ska Band.

The new Alpha School of Music is based on the ensemble method, emphasizing accompaniment and solo work within a group context. A diverse cross-section of Jamaican and Caribbean musical styles is offered, allowing students with a passion for **Ska, Reggae, Rocksteady & Dancehall** music to explore the best that each genre has to offer .

Cultural Immersion

The Alpha School of Music is situated in the heart of Kingston, a vibrant and diverse **Music City in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.** We are near to the iconic Bob Marley Museum and other landmarks, with opportunities for live music performances and weekly jams. Jamaican street food and fine-dining options are within easy reach and the exquisite scenery and activities of Jamaica's north coast tourist region is a comfortable 1-hour drive from Kingston. Alpha is conveniently located 16km from the Norman Manley International Airport so getting to and from the campus is no problem!

What to expect on the Jamaican Music Experience?

The Jamaican Music Experience is a two semester (1 academic year) Jamaican music immersion programme. It offers students with prior music knowledge, hands-on practical and theoretical instruction in Jamaican music in a structured classroom setting.

1. Engaging and relevant curriculum

Courses taught Include:

- Jamaican Music History
- Ska, Reggae and Rocksteady Bands
- Jamaican Sound System Performance
- Choir focused on reggae, rocksteady, Jamaican R&B and Caribbean folk repertoire.
- Caribbean Music Ensemble
- Rhythms of Jamaica – explorations of the rhythms commonly found in Jamaican music

2. Qualified Staff

Alpha School of Music boasts qualified staff who are knowledgeable about Jamaican music, have a passion for teaching, and are experienced in studio and stage performance. They are ready to guide you through your exploration of the culture and music of Jamaica.

3. Quality Facilities

Our school features well-kept facilities that are on par with international standards.

These include:

- State-of-the-art practice rooms
- Small & large group rehearsal rooms
- Recording studio
- Keyboard lab
- Computer resource centre
- Disc jockey set ups
- Sound system
- 24/7 streaming radio station
- Outdoor stage
- Music technology lab with Digital Audio Workstations running industry standard Pro Tools, Logic & Sibelius software

4. The Alpha Experience

The Alpha School of Music is operated by the Roman Catholic Sisters of Mercy. We incorporate Mercy Education, a lifestyle based on five core values which propels our students to be honorable leaders and good world citizens. You can find more information on the Sisters of Mercy and their mission on our website **www.alphamusicja.com**

Dress Code

Our dress code for classes is black or white uniform shirts with black bottoms. For school performances white, long-sleeved tops, black bottoms and the school tie. Shirts and school ties are available for sale at the campus service bureau.

5. Security

We have invested in 24-hour security measures on our campus, such as security guards, CCTV systems as well as fire extinguishers and burglar alarm systems.

Virtual Tour

Take a Virtual Tour of our campus at our website alphamusicja.com

Admission Requirements

1. Audition on your principal instrument

Students should be able to play a musical instrument competently and read notated music. Your musical abilities will be assessed during an audition on your primary instrument. Recorded auditions are accepted if you are unable to attend an in-person audition.

See our website for details on audition requirements www.alphamusicja.com

2. Other

You will also need the following:

4 CXCs/GCSE **OR** Stage 3 City & Guilds **OR** equivalent passes in other exit examinations. (Passes in Math and English are compulsory)

Living in Kingston, Jamaica

The Alpha campus is located at 26 South Camp Road, Kingston 4. There are a variety of private accommodations, student housing and Airbnb's within 8km of the Alpha campus. A guide to possible costs is available on our website www.alphamusicja.com

Tuition Costs*

International student tuition

$2,000.00 USD per academic year (2 semesters)

Auxiliary Fees & Uniform

$350 USD per academic year (2 semesters)

**Does not include accommodation, meals or transportation*

APPLY TODAY

How to Apply to the Jamaican Music Experience

- **STEP 1 –** Record your audition video. Audition requirements are available at our website www.alphamusicja.com
- **STEP 2 -** Complete an online application form at our website www.alphamusicja.com
- **STEP 3** - Pay your $20 USD application fee (non-refundable)
- **STEP 4** – Upload your supporting documents

Student Visas

Not all international students require student visas to study in Jamaica. A guide to visa and other documentation requirements is available on our website www.alphamusicja.com

Contact Us

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