

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

Learning and Teaching Committee – 19 November 2025

Enabling Innovative Learning - More Than Music Exchange Project

Report by Head of Enhancement & Assurance

1. Introduction

More Than Music is an international skills development project, led by Glasgow Kelvin College and Kainuu Regional College (Finland) and delivered by eight colleges from seven European countries (Scotland, Finland, Northern Ireland, Netherlands, Germany, Estonia and Latvia). Students from the centres work together to develop professional skills and knowledge in the music and associated industries. Students of Music Performance, Sound Production, Music Business and Media collaborate to record, release, promote and sell musical work, simulating industry practice in terms of the required operations and working relationships between connected professional disciplines.

The student musicians form international bands, working online and in-person on two annual mobilities. They work with student producers in recording music, with music business students acting as managers and A&R, and with media students who create social media content to publicise the project and the end product, that being a concert that is live-streamed internationally and a single for each band, released through GKC's Electric Honey label). The project consists of four working groups, each containing musicians, a manager/ A&R, a producer, media manager and staff mentors for each discipline.

More Than Music is a two-year pilot scheme, the end goal of which is to produce a digital toolkit to allow other educational institutions to deliver a similar project. Whereas this is a music-themed project, the model is designed to be transferable to any Creative Industries context, for example:

- Visual Art or Photography students working with Events students on an exhibition, publicised and promoted by Media, Marketing or Public Relations students.
- Performing Arts students working with Creative Writing students and Production students on a play or musical, publicised and promoted by Media, Marketing or Public Relations students.

The project received total funding of €240K from ERASMUS+ (KA2), via the Finnish national agency, despite the significant disadvantage of including two non-EU partners, on the basis that GKC were able to offer unique input to delivery.

2. Update and Project Progress

The project is on a two-year cycle where the format is piloted in Year 1 and amended and perfected in Year 2, to provide instruction and resources for the digital toolkit. The format is as follows:

- Working groups form and work together online to devise band names; undertake workshops to understand the project, their role and the role of other disciplines; and begin songwriting and media strategizing
- Mobility 1: groups work in person at one of two locations (two working groups per location) to complete songwriting, record songs for release and launch and populate social media feeds.
- Continued online working between mobilities
- Mobility 2: All groups in the same location. Preparation, rehearsal and performance of showcase concert, and continued social media output.

In Year 1, mobility 1 took place at GKC and at Rijn Issel college in Arnhem, Netherlands. Mobility 2, including the live-streamed concert, was at Gradia college in Jyväskylä, Finland. Groups were arranged so that all student participants had at least one international trip and, in most cases, two. Five GKC students took part in Year 1, with the same now participating in Year 2. Further GKC Sound Production students were involved as hosts and sound engineers for the visiting groups during the mobility at Springburn campus.

Based on analysis and evaluation of Year 1, the schedule has been amended for Year 2, with student groups forming and working together online earlier, the first mobility being earlier, and the content of mobilities being adapted (Mobility 1 will focus entirely on songwriting and rehearsal, with both recording and performance in Mobility 2. The input of production, music business and media students remains essentially unchanged). Further evaluation will take place to establish whether the revised model is more effective, and information on both variants will be included in the toolkit.

GKC students travel to Derry/ Londonderry in late October and Munich in early November to participate in Mobility 1. All involved students will go to Tallinn, Estonia for the final mobility in late April.

GKC received its first tranche of funding (40%) in autumn 2024 and is due to receive the second on November 7th 2025, with the final payment due on completion of the project and approval of the end product and final report by the Finnis national ERAMUS+ agency.

The project has been shortlisted in the Skills Development category for the CDN College Awards 2025, with results to be announced on December 4th.

3. Impact on Students

MTM is an opportunity for participating students to develop skills in their chosen vocational area in a real-world context, and to better understand the required synergies and relationships with related professionals. It also uses collaborative learning to enhance metaskills, transferable skills and career management skills in a multi-disciplinary apprenticeship model not replicated by any existing course or single-college offer. Combining international travel with a unique collaborative model on a massive scale, this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the students involved. GKC Sound Production students who acted as hosts and sound engineers during the Glasgow mobility also benefitted from the project, gaining vital experience. The student participants have formed potentially long-term professional and personal relationships on an international level.

4. Resource Implications

The resource requirements of MTM are met by the ERASMUS+ funding (approx. €31K total), aside from some working hours being committed to the project by a small number of GKC staff as part of their jobs.

5. Equality

All project activity and host venues are subject to accessibility and EDI guidelines and all students were able to access the project. One of the GKC mentors is a mental health first aider and is able to provide support to our student participants as required.

6. Risk and Assurance

Risk assessments were completed and approved for all travel involved in the project.

7. Data Protection

Secure platforms are used for any student-related data retention required, with only necessary and appropriate persons having access.

8. Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- Note the positive impact of the project on college learners, in terms of their skills and metaskills development, building of professional relationships and confidence, and the enrichment of their college experience.
- Note the reputational benefit to the college, with particular reference to being shortlisted for a CDN award.
- Note the creation of the project toolkit, which could be used to implement further similar projects, should appropriate funding be available.

9. Further Information

Members can obtain additional information on the contents of this report from John Clarke, Head of Enhancement & Assurance

Glasgow Kelvin College
JC
30/10/2025