



About IGNITE

Ignite, a BIG FAN initiative, is dedicated to nurturing and empowering rangatahi with a passion for music and events through a free 8-week industry specific training programme. Our mission? Support the personal and professional development of our rangatahi and offer valuable insights into the behind the scenes of the music industry. Ignite has a unique aim to teach not only creativity but also the complementary skills supporting the music industry, exposing the incredible breadth of career pathways and opportunities within it.

The programme offers one on one mentoring from industry professionals, upskilling opportunities, hands on experience and the opportunity to apply the skills learnt to practice. Through Ignite, we are engaging the wider community by producing truly authentic all-ages shows – run by young people for young people, whilst creating key performance opportunities for young and emerging artists.

IGNITE Pōneke

This intake of Ignite is supported by BIG FAN, Blackbird Foundation & Toi Rauwhāangi at Massey University and delivered by Creative Capital Arts Trust. After successfully piloting the Pōneke intake in 2024 and running multiple intakes in Tāmaki Makaurau over the past seven years, IGNITE continues to foster the growth of creative rangatahi across Aotearoa. This collaboration brings meaningful opportunities to nurture the next generation of music and events professionals in Pōneke.

WHAT'S ON OFFER: Free 8-week industry specific training programme with two streams

- **Event Management** (4 placements)
- **Music Production** (Up to 5 placements)

Programme is roughly 35 hours of direct activity comprised of:

- **Mentoring** (8 hours)
 - established music industry professionals paired with each participant (one on one)
 - group sessions with peers (peer to peer)
- **Seminars and Workshops** (4 hours)
 - industry experts and facilitators presenting seminars (also open to the public)
- **Experience** (3 hours)
 - private tours of music venues / recording studios
 - hands on practical experience at a music-related event
- **Application** (18 hours)
 - Event Management – organise an all-ages music event
 - Music Production – produce a song with a local artist
- **Review and Graduation** (2 hours)
 - reflect and present learnings and experience with peers and guests at graduation
 - share the songs produced during the programme

About BIG FAN

BIG FAN is a not-for-profit, multi-purpose music space located in Morningside, Tāmaki Makaurau offering three world-class recording studios and a live music venue all under one roof. Our goal is to bring people together, to support the role of music in the betterment of people's lives, and to foster the talents of musicians, songwriters, and those behind the scenes at every level.

About TOI RAUWHĀRANGI - MASSEY UNIVERSITY

Toi Rauwhāangi is Massey University's College of Creative Arts, based in Wellington offers internationally acclaimed degrees in Design, Māori Visual Arts, Fine Arts, Commercial Music and Screen Arts. They provide an inspiring learning environment and a supportive and professional faculty that will give you the knowledge and skills you need to succeed in all creative industries.



IGNITE PŌNEKE

Open to rangatahi aged **15 to 18 years old**, based in and around **Pōneke Wellington**

The 8-week programme runs **Sunday 15 March to Thursday 7 May**

Applications Open: 4 February 2026 at 10am

Applications Close: 23 February 2026 at 10pm

Applicants Notified By: 25 February 2026*

**Subject to change*

KEY DATES		ACTIVITY
Sunday 15 March	10am-2pm	Launch Day
Sunday 22 March	Afternoon	Lesson 1 - Music Production & Event Management
Friday 10 April	Midday	Studio Tours & Workshop - <i>open to all participants</i>
Saturday 11 April	Afternoon	Lesson 2 - Music Production
Sunday 12 April	Afternoon	Lesson 2 - Event Management / Production
Friday 17 April	Afternoon	Venue Tours - <i>open to all participants</i>
Saturday 18 April	Midday	Lesson 3 - Music Production & Event Management
Friday 1 May	Evening	Show 1
Saturday 2 May	Evening	Show 2
Monday 4 May	After School	Show Settlement Meeting
Thursday 7 May	Evening	Graduation

All participants are expected to attend all activities related to their chosen stream. All dates are subject to change, we will endeavor to give as much notice as possible.

[APPLY HERE](#)

Locations

- All the above dates will be held at Massey University, except for the Venue/Studio Tours
- Venue and Studio Tours may start at one of the venues/studios.
- Mentoring sessions are held as mutually agreed with the mentor – a mix of face-to-face, zoom and phone calls.
- CCAT can provide workspaces and facilitate meetings as needed.



ELIGIBILITY: Who Can Apply

Rangatahi passionate about music and events and interested in learning and new experiences.

- New Zealand citizens and residents based in and around Pōneke
- Rangatahi aged between 15 and 18 years old at the start of the programme
- Be available for all key dates of Ignite
- No prior experience required

To apply for IGNITE, we ask for:

- A few short paragraphs about yourself & why you would like to participate in Ignite
- What you hope to achieve from participating in the programme
- Which stream(s) you're interested in, and your interest in these
 - If applying for the Music Production stream, applicants are required to submit up to 3 demos you've produced and/or written, and detail any prior experience with DAW
- A list of your favourite artists / bands / live events
- Social media or video links if relevant (*optional*)
- A character reference – this doesn't have to be from a place of work. It could be your school teacher, a music tutor, employer, or family friend
- CV (curriculum vitae) – with your work and education history (*optional*)
- Contact information of the applicant
- Confirmation of eligibility criteria

SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS - We will be looking for these qualities:

- **Event Management:** a passion for live music and events, and keenness to learn about organising shows
- **Music Production:** an established interest in music production and/or songwriting, and keenness to learn about music production and engineering

Of the shortlisted applicants, consideration will be given to ensure:

- Fair representation
- A range of musical interests

CONDITIONS: All successful applicants are required to:

- Be available for all key dates (pg.2)
- Arrange travel to and from Massey University and for any mentor meetings
- Be a New Zealand citizen or resident
- Adhere to the BIG FAN code of conduct
- Provide feedback post programme

[APPLY HERE](#)

Ngā mihi nui **Big Fan**, **Blackbird Foundation** and **Toi Rauwhārangī** for making Ignite Pōneke possible!





FAQS

Skills and Experience:

No skills and experience are necessary to apply for Ignite.

We would like to see your passion really come across in your application to get a sense of your passion for music and/or events and your keenness to learn and have new experiences.

Time Commitment:

Ignite roughly consists of 40 hours of direct activity over the 8-week period. Participants are welcome and encouraged to put in additional time as they need and like.

Mentors:

Mentors are selected and approached by BIG FAN based on their experience and reputation in the industry, alongside their commitment to fostering new music industry talent in Aotearoa. We aim to ensure our mentors are a representative snapshot of the music industry at large and can provide unique expertise and knowledge to our participants. All mentors are required to sign an agreement with BIG FAN to adhere to our code of contact as well as being police vetted, and reference checked to ensure the safety of all involved.

Age Restriction:

This intake is for people aged 15 to 18 by the start of the programme.

Fee:

There is no cost to participate in this intake of Ignite thanks to the support of Big Fan, Blackbird Foundation & Toi Rauwhārangī at Massey University and delivery by Creative Capital Arts Trust.

Parking and Transportation:

Participants will need to arrange their own transport to and from Massey University and for any in person mentor sessions. BIG FAN will supply transport for venue and studio tours.

Criteria Eligibility:

All outlined criteria must be met. If you're unsure or have any questions, please get in touch with us at igniteponeke@bigfan.co.nz. Our venue and studio facilities in Tāmaki Makaurau are available to hire to all, so if this programme isn't quite the right fit, please feel free to get in touch to enquire, or check out our other programmes on offer.

Application:

You can apply once per round. Previous Ignite participants cannot take the same stream.

Outside Wellington:

Unfortunately, this intake is only available to people who reside in the Wellington region.

Anything Else:

Get in touch with us igniteponeke@bigfan.co.nz