

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes **Honours Degree programmes in Music**. For Joint and Combined Honours Degree programmes, please also refer to the equivalent document(s) for the other subject(s). This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2015**.

The aims of all Honours Degree programmes in Music are:

- to encourage a deeper understanding of music through the detailed study of its manifold aspects, while at the same time promoting the development of the student's intellectual, critical and creative abilities;
- to promote the study of music in its historical and social contexts (treated not only as a history of musical style but also in terms of its cultural, aesthetic and ethnomusicological aspects);
- to promote the study of music in relation to the structure and techniques of composition (including musical analysis, theory, composition and music technology);
- to promote the study of music in its practical application through performance and performance practice;
- to produce graduates equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for the undertaking of further study of music at postgraduate level, if desired, and with personal attributes and professional skills relevant to the wider world beyond the academic study of music.

Programmes are delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which the student must follow courses to the value of four units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits). The programmes provide progressive structures in which students are able to gain ever-wider knowledge and understanding, and appropriate skills. Stage one courses concentrate on fundamentals. Thereafter, increasing freedom of choice of courses from intermediate (I) and honours (H) level courses in stages two and three allows students, with advice, either to maintain a broad spread of studies or to construct pathways which emphasize historical musicology, theory and analysis, performance ethnomusicology, music & media, or composition. Most programmes culminate in a stage three special study in one of these fields (possibly two special studies) and can thereby lay the foundations for postgraduate study, if desired.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

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Knowledge and understanding

- knowledge of selected repertoires, cultures, problems or themes in depth;
- an understanding of the relationship between music and broader cultural, social, political and economic environments;
- an understanding of the concepts underpinning the study of music history (e.g. stylistic change; the musical work), and the problems encountered in identifying and explaining these concepts;
- an understanding of musical works in terms of coherent bodies of theory and tested analytically;
- an understanding of the complex linkages between the many aspects of a culture, repertoire, problem or theme;
- an understanding of the nature of professional musical and musicological activity at the highest national and international levels;
- an understanding of music in relation to or in contrast with another discipline;*
- the opportunity to explore interdisciplinary aspects of music and another discipline.*

** learning outcomes particularly applicable to the major/minor and joint programmes*

Skills and other attributes

- to define the numerous key terms and analytical concepts that are employed in the historical, theoretical, critical and aesthetic analysis of musical products and cultures;
- to manipulate both words and musical notation in the service of advanced creative or interpretive tasks;
- to evaluate and express the advantages and disadvantages of different critical and interpretive techniques;
- to contribute to the understanding of at least one complex musical work, problem or theme by way of advanced independent study;
- to analyse the context, form and content of primary and secondary sources, both of musical works and of other materials relating to the study and criticism of music in all its aspects, and to test their interplay;
- to expose the epistemological issues encountered in the study of such materials;
- to understand in depth the criticism and/or sources pertaining to one or more musical works, problems or themes;
- to assimilate and comprehend complex bodies of information perceived through the eye and the ear;*
- to organize and take responsibility for learning;*
- to work to timetables and deadlines;*
- to participate in collective debate and analysis;*
- to plan and produce a body of work or performance based on independent research and/or creative activity;*
- to engage in social communication, team-working, collaborative problem-solving, organization and presentation.*

** transferable skills*

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, tutorials, oral presentations, and instrumental/vocal lessons. Beyond formal teaching sessions, learning takes place through private study and practice, attendance at college concerts, and participation in Department-sponsored (and other) musical activities, including performances by various orchestras, choirs and other ensembles. Formative assessment during the academic year is succeeded by formal summative assessment; modes of assessment include coursework essay or other assignment, portfolio of technical exercises or compositions, formal written examination, practical tests, examination recital and dissertation. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

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Details of the programme structures

Please note that not all courses run each year. A full list of courses including optional courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [Department](#).

Single Honours degree programme

(12 units or the equivalent in Music)

Stage one:

Students must choose eight courses, at least one from each list:

List A

MU1110 Theory and Analysis (0.5 unit)

MU1111 Practical Musicianship (0.5 unit)

List B

MU1112 Creative Composition Techniques (0.5 unit)

MU1113 Practical Composition Skills (0.5 unit)

List C

MU1114 A Very Short History of Music (0.5 unit)

MU1115 Introduction to Historical Musicology (0.5 unit)

List D

MU1116 Introduction to World Music (0.5 unit)

MU1117 Contemporary Debates in Music (0.5 unit)

List E

MU1118 Solo Performance (0.5 unit)

MU1119 Creative Ensemble Performance (0.5 unit)

Stage two:

Students choose courses to the value of 4 units, to include at least four courses from the following list:

MU2000 Studies in Music Analysis (0.5 unit)

MU2001 Studies in Composition (0.5 unit)

MU2002 Studies in Music History (0.5 unit)

MU2003 Studies in Ethnomusicology (0.5 unit)

MU2004 Studies in Music, Media & Technology (0.5 unit)

MU2205 Practical Performance (0.5 unit)

and options drawn from intermediate (I) and honours (H) level courses with a maximum of 1 unit of H.

Stage three:

Students must take 1 Special Study from:

MU3391 Dissertation (1 unit)

MU3392 Theory and Analysis (1 unit)

MU3393 Performance (1 unit)

MU3394 Composition (1 unit)

and options to the value of 3 units drawn from honours (H) level courses (one of which may be a second Special Study) and intermediate (I) level courses, with a maximum of 1 unit of I.

Note:

(i) Within stages two and three, and subject to the approval of the Departments concerned, up to 1 'elective' unit of intermediate (I) or honours (H) level courses in other Departments may be substituted for Music courses, consistent with the permitted maxima of H and I in stages two and three respectively, given above.

(ii) Prerequisites may apply to optional courses.

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Joint Honours programmes with Music as an equal component

(5 to 7 units or the equivalent in Music, with the rest of the programme in the other component)

The curriculum in Music is as follows:

Stage one:

Students must take four courses, to include at least one course from List A; at least one course from Lists C or D; and no more than one course from List E:

List A

MU1110 Theory and Analysis (0.5 unit)

MU1111 Practical Musicianship (0.5 unit)

List B

MU1112 Creative Composition Techniques (0.5 unit)

MU1113 Practical Composition Skills (0.5 unit)

List C

MU1114 A Very Short History of Music (0.5 unit)

MU1115 Introduction to Historical Musicology (0.5 unit)

List D

MU1116 Introduction to World Music (0.5 unit)

MU1117 Contemporary Debates in Music ((0.5 unit)

List E

MU1118 Solo Performance (0.5 unit)

MU1119 Creative Ensemble Performance (0.5 unit)

Stage two:

Students choose courses to the value of 2 units, to include at least two courses from the following list:

MU2000 Studies in Music Analysis (0.5 unit)

MU2001 Studies in Composition (0.5 unit)

MU2002 Studies in Music History (0.5 unit)

MU2003 Studies in Ethnomusicology (0.5 unit)

MU2004 Studies in Music, Media & Technology (0.5 unit)

MU2205 Practical Performance (0.5 unit)

and options drawn from intermediate (I) and honours (H) level courses with a maximum of 1 unit of H.

Stage three:

Students choose courses to the value of 2 units drawn from honours (H) and intermediate (I) level courses with a maximum of 1 unit of I.

Note:

(i) The curriculum above reflects the equal division of the 12 units of a Joint Honours programme into 6 units of each component. Over stages two and three the Music curriculum may be decreased or increased by up to 1 unit to give the permitted minimum of 5 and maximum of 7 units in Music.

(ii) Within stages two and three, and subject to the approval of the Departments concerned, up to 1 'elective' unit of intermediate (I) or honours (H) level courses in other Departments may be substituted for Music courses, consistent with the permitted maxima of H and I in stages two and three respectively, given above.

(iii) Prerequisites may apply to optional courses.

Combined Honours programmes with Music as the major component

(9 units or the equivalent in Music and 3 units or the equivalent in the minor component)

The curriculum in Music is as follows:

Stage one:

Students must choose six courses, to include at least one course from List A and no more than one course from List E:

List A

MU1110 Theory and Analysis (0.5 unit)

MU1111 Practical Musicianship (0.5 unit)

List B

MU1112 Creative Composition Techniques (0.5 unit)

MU1113 Practical Composition Skills (0.5 unit)

List C

MU1114 A Very Short History of Music (0.5 unit)

MU1115 Introduction to Historical Musicology (0.5 unit)

List D

MU1116 Introduction to World Music (0.5 unit)

MU1117 Contemporary Debates in Music (0.5 unit)

List E

MU1118 Solo Performance (0.5 unit)

MU1119 Creative Ensemble Performance (0.5 unit)

Stage two:

Students choose courses to the value of 3 units, to include at least two courses from the following list:

MU2000 Studies in Music Analysis (0.5 unit)

MU2001 Studies in Composition (0.5 unit)

MU2002 Studies in Music History (0.5 unit)

MU2003 Studies in Ethnomusicology (0.5 unit)

MU2004 Studies in Music, Media & Technology (0.5 unit)

MU2205 Practical Performance (0.5 unit)

and options drawn from intermediate (I) and honours (H) level courses with a maximum of 1 unit of H.

Stage three:

Students must take 1 Special Study from:

MU3391 Dissertation (1 unit)

MU3392 Theory and Analysis (1 unit)

MU3393 Performance (1 unit)

MU3394 Composition (1 unit)

and options to the value of 2 units drawn from honours (H) level courses (one of which may be a second Special Study) and intermediate (I) level courses, with a maximum of 1 unit of I.

Note:

(i) Within stages two and three, and subject to the approval of the Departments concerned, up to 1 'elective' unit of intermediate (I) or honours (H) level courses in other Departments may be substituted for Music courses, consistent with the permitted maxima of H and I in stages two and three respectively, given above.

(ii) Prerequisites may apply to optional courses.

Combined Honours programmes with Music as the minor component

(3 units or the equivalent in Music and 9 units or the equivalent in the major component)

The curriculum in Music is as follows:

Stage one:

Students must choose two courses from the following:

List A

MU1110 Theory and Analysis (0.5 unit)

MU1111 Practical Musicianship (0.5 unit)

List B

MU1112 Creative Composition Techniques (0.5 unit)

MU1113 Practical Composition Skills (0.5 unit)

List C

MU1114 A Very Short History of Music (0.5 unit)

MU1115 Introduction to Historical Musicology (0.5 unit)

List D

MU1116 Introduction to World Music (0.5 unit)

MU1117 Contemporary Debates in Music (0.5 unit)

Stage two:

Students choose course(s) to the value of 1 unit drawn from intermediate (I) and honours (H) level courses.

Stage three:

Students choose course(s) to the value of 1 unit drawn from intermediate (I) and honours (H) level courses.

Note:

(i) Courses in performance with attached instrumental/vocal lessons are not available in Combined Honours programmes with Music as the minor component.

(ii) The permitted maxima of honours (H) and intermediate (I) level courses in stages two and three respectively are subject to the approval of the Department of the major component.

(iii) The substitution of 'elective' unit(s) within stages two and three is drawn on the major component and is subject to the approval of the Department concerned.

(iv) Prerequisites may apply to optional courses.

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Progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway as outlined in the College's Undergraduate Regulations. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. Failing marks of 30 – 39% can normally be condoned in up to 30 credits across stages 1 and 2. In the final stage failing marks in up to 30 credits can normally be condoned. However, on some programmes there may be a requirement to pass specific courses in order to progress to the next stage or to qualify for a particular degree title and this will put restrictions on courses in which failing marks can be condoned (see programme structure above for details). Additionally there are requirements on the number of courses that must be passed in order to qualify for particular joint or combined Honours degrees.

Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stages two and three, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stage three. The College's Undergraduate Regulations include full details on progression and award requirements for all undergraduate programmes offered by the College.

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All first year students on single joint or combined honours programmes offered all or in part by departments or schools in the Faculty of Arts & Social Science are required to pass a Moodle-based writing skills quiz in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Certificates of Distinction are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the [College's Undergraduate Regulations](#) (Section: Conditions for progression to the next stage) but fail to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stages two and three, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stage three. In order to qualify for the award, students must gain a weighted average of at least 35%.

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Student support and guidance

- Personal Advisers: All students are allocated a personal adviser from the teaching staff of the Department, who meets with them regularly through the programme. The adviser's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. First-year students meet with their personal advisers weekly in a group of approximately eight to ten students. Subsequently, responsibility for meetings is placed on the student.
- All teaching staff available and accessible through dedicated office hours system.
- Department Induction Week for incoming first-year students in the first week of the Autumn term, aligned with the College induction process;
- Representation on the Student-Staff Committee and on the Department's Undergraduate Teaching and Assessment Committee.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and Computer Centre.
- College Careers and Employability Service and Departmental Careers and Employability Tutor.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Disability and Dyslexia Services for students with disabilities and Specific Learning Difficulties.

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Admission requirements

Details of the Department's typical offer for each programme of study is available on the [Course Finder](#) web page. However, the Department also has flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages applications from non-standard applicants. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. For further guidance it may be helpful to contact the [Recruitment and Partnerships Office](#).

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Further learning and career opportunities

The Department's programmes provide a firm foundation for postgraduate study at master's and research levels or for further vocational training. At the same time, given the range of discipline-specific skills and transferable social, technical, creative and verbal skills to be gained from the study of music to degree level, music graduates find employment in a wide range of careers, from those related to music, as in teaching, performing, arts administration and the media, to those across a broader field, for example, in commerce, accountancy, computing, publishing, the Civil Service, management and the legal profession. For further details please refer to the [Careers & Employability Service](#).

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Indicators of quality and standards

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the RAE 2008 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 60% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent, outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 16th in the UK for research of 4* standard and 18th for 3* and 4* research. The Music Department received the highest research rating of all Music Departments in the UK (with 90% of its research profile deemed to be of 3* or 4* standard), demonstrating its world-leading research excellence.

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List of programmes

All the programmes are taught by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and lead to awards of the University of London. Programmes in Music are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statement in Music describes the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the subject, and can therefore be used as a point of reference when reading this document (see www.qaa.ac.uk). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see www.ucas.ac.uk).

Single Honours Degree programme in Music

BMus Music (W302)

Combined Honours Degree programmes with Music as the major component

BA Music with French (W3R1)
BA Music with German (W3R2)
BA Music with Italian (W3R3)
BA Music with Philosophy (W3V5)
BA Music with Political Studies (W3L2)

BA Music with Spanish (W3R4)

Joint Honours Degree programmes with Music as an equal component

BA Drama and Music (WW43)
BA French and Music (RW13)
BA German and Music (RW23)
BA History and Music (VW13)
BA Italian and Music (RW33)
BA Mathematics and Music (GW13)
BA Music and Philosophy (WV35)

Combined Honours Degree programmes with Music as the minor component

BSc (Econ) Economics with Music (L1W3)
BA French with Music (R1W3)

BSc Physics with Music (F3W3)
BA Spanish with Music (R4W3)

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