

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Joint Honours Degree programme in Music and English**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2014**.

The aims of the Joint Honours Degree programme in Music and English are:

- to engage students imaginatively in the process of reading and analysing literary texts, while enabling them to develop independent critical thinking and judgement;
- 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, practical and creative abilities;
- to promote the study of music and literature in their historical and social contexts;
- to produce graduates equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for the undertaking of further study of music and/or literature at postgraduate level, if desired, and with personal attributes and professional skills relevant to the wider world beyond the academic study of music and literature.

The programme is 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 programme provides progressive structures in which students are able to gain ever-wider knowledge and understanding, and appropriate skills. Stages one and two of the programme contain core courses that introduce students to fundamentals of each discipline. In stages two and three students can develop their own interests through informed choice among specialist options.

Further information

[Learning outcomes](#)

[Teaching, learning and assessment](#)

[Details of the programme structure\(s\)](#)

[Progression and award requirements](#)

[Student support and guidance](#)

[Admission requirements](#)

[Further learning and career opportunities](#)

[Indicators of quality and standards](#)

[List of programmes, with details of awards, degree titles, accreditation and teaching arrangements](#)

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 a range of literary genres and in music from a wide range of historical periods and geographical regions. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- the principal literary genres (fiction, poetry and drama) over the centuries;
- selected musical repertoires, cultures, problems or themes;
- The range of cultural, social, political and historical contexts in which music and literature are created

- and used, and how music and literature are shaped by cultural change;
- a range of contemporary critical and theoretical approaches to English literature and to music;
- some of the ways in which music and literature relate to each other and to other disciplines

Skills and other attributes

- critical skills in the analysis and critical interpretation of literary texts and musical scores;
- skills in manipulating both words and musical notation in the service of creative or interpretive tasks;
- the ability to conduct literary and musicological research independently using traditional and electronic resources, and develop habits of reflection on study, reading, learning and research;*
- command of a wider vocabulary and appropriate critical and theoretical terminology;
- planning and execution of essays and project-work, bibliographical skills, developing a reasoned argument;*
- advanced written and oral communication skills, including the ability to present logical and coherent written and oral arguments of varying lengths;*
- the ability to organise and interpret complex information in a structured and systematic way, and to comprehend and develop sophisticated concepts;*
- the capacity for independent thought and judgement, along with skills in critical reasoning;*
- information technology skills (including word processing, email, WWW, information handling and retrieval), and the ability to engage with the textual use of new media, video, TV, DVD and electronic;*
- interpersonal skills, involving recognising, respecting and responding to the viewpoints of others;*
- time management and organisational skills including working to deadlines, prioritising tasks, organising work-time;*
- in addition, this programme fosters the development of a range of personal attributes that are important in the world of work, and that strengthen the graduates' abilities to engage in lifelong learning and contribute to the wider community. These include personal motivation; the ability to work autonomously and with others; self-awareness and self-management; empathy and insight; intellectual integrity; awareness of responsibility as a local, national and international citizen; interest in lifelong learning; flexibility and adaptability; creativity.

* transferable skills

[Back to top](#)

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, essay consultations, oral presentations and guided independent study. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by formal examinations, coursework, examined essays, oral presentations, recitals, portfolios of compositions, and the dissertation or long essay. In addition, students may be involved in workshops and may produce various forms of creative work. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Music Department](#) and [English Department](#).

[Back to top](#)

Details of the programme structure

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 [Music Department](#) and [English Department](#).

Joint Honours Degree programme with Music and English as equal components:

Stage one:

Students take four courses in the Music Department, 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 (½ unit)

MU1111 Practical Musicianship (½ unit)

List B

MU1112 Creative Composition Techniques (½ unit)

MU1113 Practical Composition Skills (½ unit)

List C

MU1114 A Very Short History of Music (½ unit)

MU1115 Introduction to Historical Musicology (½ unit)

List D

MU1116 Introduction to World Music (½ unit)

MU1117 Contemporary Debates in Music (½ unit)

List E

MU1118 Solo Performance (½ unit)

MU1119 Creative Ensemble Performance (½ unit)

Students take the following two core units in the English Department:

EN1112 Introduction to Poetry (1 unit)

EN1107 Inventing the Novel (1 unit)

Stage two:

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

MU2000 Studies in Music Analysis (½ unit)

MU2001 Studies in Composition (½ unit)

MU2002 Studies in Music History (½ unit)

MU2003 Studies in Ethnomusicology (½ unit)

MU2004 Studies in Music, Media & Technology (½ unit)

MU2205 Practical Performance (½ unit)

and Music options drawn from Stage 2 and Stage 3 courses with a maximum of 1 unit of Stage 3 courses.

In English, students choose courses to the value of 2 units, to include at least one course from the following list:

EN1106 Shakespeare (1 unit)

EN1001 Medieval Literature (1 unit)

The remaining English unit is to be made up from the range of whole and half-unit Stage 2 options available in English.

Students are advised that over the course of their second and third years in English, they must take at least 0.5 unit of pre-1780 literature, excluding all Shakespeare options, but including all Medieval Literature whole and half units.

Stage three:

Students choose Music courses to the value of 2 units drawn from Stage 2 and Stage 3 courses, with a maximum of 1 unit of Stage 2 courses.

Students choose English courses to the value of 2 units drawn from the range of Stage 3 options available.

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 English curriculum may be decreased or increased by up to 1 unit to give the permitted minimum of 5 and maximum of 7 units in English. Likewise 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 stage 2 or stage 3 courses in other Departments may be substituted for courses listed above, consistent with the instructions given above.

(iii) Prerequisites may apply to optional courses.

[Back to top](#)

Progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. 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 (see programme structure above).

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%.

[Back to top](#)

Student support and guidance

- Personal Advisers: All students are allocated a personal adviser in each Department who meets with them regularly through the programme. The adviser's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. Students meet with their personal advisers regularly during the first term of study. Subsequently, responsibility for meetings is placed on the student.
- All staff available and accessible through dedicated office hours system.
- Representation on the Staff-Student Committee.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and Computer Centre.
- College Careers Service and Departmental Employability Lead.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Educational Support Office for students with special needs.

[Back to top](#)

Admission requirements

The Department's standard conditional offer is available on the [Course Finder](#) web page. However, the Department also has considerable 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. It may also be helpful to contact the [Admissions Office](#) for specific guidance on the entrance requirements for particular programmes.

[Back to top](#)

Further learning and career opportunities

Graduates from the degree programmes in Music and in English have successfully progressed into a wide range of professions, while some have continued onto Postgraduate studies. For further details please refer to the [Careers Service](#).

[Back to top](#)

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. 65% of the English Department's research profile is of 3* and 4* standard. 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.

[Back to top](#)

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 and English are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statements in Music and English describe 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).

Joint Honours Degree programmes with Music and English as equal components

BA Music and English (WQ33)

[Back to top](#)