

Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for an undergraduate award
BMus Music (W302)

Section 1 – Introduction to your course

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

Your degree course in Music is delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which you must follow modules to the value of 120 credits. The courses provide progressive structures in which you are able to gain ever-wider knowledge and understanding, and appropriate skills. Stage one modules concentrate on fundamentals. Thereafter, increasing freedom of choice of modules from intermediate (I) and honours (H) level modules in stages two and three allows you, 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 courses 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. A particular pathway is available to students, named 'Music and Sound Design for Film, Television and Interactive Media'. Students who opt for this pathway take a specifically curated set of modules from the BMus degree alongside modules from Media Arts. It culminates in a Special Study module that is dedicated to writing music for a media project.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is a brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree course – May also be referred to as 'degree programme' or simply 'programme', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.

Module – May also be referred to as 'course', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree course. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise a combination of modules in multiples of 15 credits to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	January 2023	Location of study	Egham Campus
Course award and title	BMus Music	Level of study	Undergraduate
Course code	1320	UCAS code	W302
Year of entry	2023/24		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Department of Music School of Performing and Digital Arts	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	Media Arts
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time or part-time	Duration of the course	Three years full-time, six years part-time
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/	For queries on admissions:	https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery

Section 3 – Degree course structure					
3.1 Mandatory module information					
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study					
Year	Module code	Module title	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (Mandatory Condonable MC or Mandatory Non-Condonable MNC)
1	MU1110	Theory and Analysis	15	4	MC
<p>This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules each year. Mandatory modules fall into two categories: 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.</p> <p>In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module before you can proceed to the next year of your course, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example: where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.</p>					
3.2 Optional modules					
<p>In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection; please contact the Department for further information.</p> <p>Year one: You must take eight modules (120 credits) in total: Mandatory modules: MU1110 Theory and Analysis (15 credits) (mandatory condonable) MU1111 Fundamentals of Music Theory (15 credits) compulsory for Required Intensive Theory entry (mandatory condonable).</p>					

Students on Required Intensive Theory entry then choose 90 credits, including at least 15 credits from each list, while other students choose 105 credits, including at least 15 credits from each list below

List A

MU1112 Creative Composition Skills (15 credits)

MU1120 Introduction to Composing with Music Technology (15 credits)

List B

MU1114 A Very Short History of Music (15 credits)

MU1115 Introduction to Historical Musicology (15 credits)

List C

MU1116 Introduction to World Music (15 credits)

MU1117 Contemporary Debates in Music (15 credits)

List D

MU1118 Solo Performance (15 credits)

MU1119 Creative Ensemble Performance (15 credits)

Year two:

Students choose level 5 Music modules to the value of 120 credits from the six Lists of modules provided by the Department, including at least one module from four different Lists.

Year three:

You must take 1 Special Study from:

MU3390 Composing with Music Technology (30 credits)

MU3391 Dissertation (30 credits)

MU3392 Theory and Analysis (30 credits)

MU3393 Performance (30 credits)

MU3394 Composition (30 credits)

and options to the value of 90 credits taken from Level 6 modules (one of which may be a second Special Study).

For the BMus course, part-time students must take:

Stage one (a):

MU1110 Theory and Analysis (15 credits) (mandatory condonable)

MU1111 Fundamental of Music Theory (15 credits) compulsory for Required Intensive Theory entry (mandatory condonable).

Students on Required Intensive Theory entry then choose 30 credits, selecting two 15 credit modules from the lists below. Only one module can be chosen from each list.

Students who are not required to take MU1111 must choose 45 credits, selecting three 15 credit modules from the lists below. Only one module can be chosen from each list.

List A

MU1112 Creative Composition Techniques (15 credits)

MU1120 Introduction to Composing with Music Technology (15 credits)

List B

MU1114 A Very Short History of Music (15 credits)

MU1115 Introduction to Historical Musicology (15 credits)

List C

MU1116 Introduction to World Music (15 credits)

MU1117 Contemporary Debates in Music (15 credits)

List D

MU1118 Solo Performance (15 credits)

MU1119 Creative Ensemble Performance (15 credits)

Stage one (b):

Students who take MU1111 in stage one must choose two 15 credit modules, one from each of the lists not selected in stage one. Students must then choose options to the value of 30 credits.

Students who did not take MU1111 must choose one 15 credit module from the list they did not select in stage one.

Stage two (a):

Students choose level 5 Music modules to the value of 60 credits from the six lists provided by the department, including at least one module from two different lists.

Stage two (b):

Students choose level 5 Music modules to the value of 60 credits from the six lists provided by the department, including at least one module from two different lists. These lists must be different from those used in Stage two (a).

Stage three (a):

You must choose options to the value of 60 credits from Level 6 modules, 30 of which may be a Special Study.

Stage three (b):

You must take 1 Special Study from:

MU3390 Composing with Music Technology (30 credits)

MU3391 Dissertation (30 credits)

MU3392 Theory and Analysis (30 credits)

MU3393 Performance (30 credits)

MU3394 Composition (30 credits)

and options to the value of 30 credits taken from Level 6 modules.

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#).

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

All first year students on single, joint or combined honours courses offered all or in part by the School of Humanities, School of Performing and Digital Arts, or department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy 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.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course 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 your 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.
- specifically for the BA Music and Sound Design pathway: to equip graduates with an understanding of how to produce professional-quality work for the film, TV and games industries.

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*))

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. knowledge of selected repertoires, cultures, problems or themes in depth (K); 2. an understanding of the relationship between music and broader cultural, social, political and economic environments (K); 3. 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 (K); 4. an understanding of musical works in terms of coherent bodies of theory and tested analytically (K); 5. an understanding of the complex linkages between the many aspects of a culture, repertory, problem or theme (K); 6. an understanding of the nature of professional musical and musicological activity at the highest national and international levels (K); 7. an understanding of music in relation to or in contrast with another discipline (K*); 8. the opportunity to explore interdisciplinary aspects of music and another discipline (K*); 9. 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 (S); 10. to manipulate both words and musical notation in the service of advanced creative or interpretive tasks (S); 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. to evaluate and express the advantages and disadvantages of different critical and interpretive techniques (S); 12. to contribute to the understanding of at least one complex musical work, problem or theme by way of advanced independent study (S); 13. 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 (S); 14. to expose the epistemological issues encountered in the study of such materials (S); 15. to understand in depth the criticism and/or sources pertaining to one or more musical works, problems or themes (S); 16. to assimilate and comprehend complex bodies of information perceived through the eye and the ear (S*); 17. to organize and take responsibility for learning (S*); 18. to work to timetables and deadlines (S*); 19. to participate in collective debate and analysis (S*); 20. to plan and produce a body of work or performance based on independent research and/or creative activity (S*); 21. to engage in social communication, team-working, collaborative problem-solving, organization and presentation (S*); 22. to develop practical skills for making music in an interdisciplinary context (S*); 23. to understand the various roles for musicians, composers and sound professionals in the creative industries (K).
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Section 7 - 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 modules can be obtained from the [Department](#).

Contact hours come in various forms and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff.

The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary, however, the assessments listed above are all 'summative', which means you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular module

More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Module Catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Section 8 – Additional costs

There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree course.

These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	4-6
Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent courses of study.	
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	

Section 10– Intermediate exit awards (where available)		
You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.		
Award	Criteria	Awarding body
Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)	Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE)	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College