

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Master of Music, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Musical Studies**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2017**.

The aims of the programme are:

- to provide a flexible series of advanced level courses that engage with a range of more generalised issues and themes relevant to the study of music;
- to enable students to acquire systematic understanding and critical appreciation of problems, insights, techniques and knowledge drawn from the forefront of current musical research and performance;
- to develop specific techniques, skills and knowledge relevant to the interests and/or research needs of individual students;
- to equip students for independent research, analysis, writing or performance at an advanced/professional level;
- to allow for both breadth of study and distinct specialism;
- to develop key communications, IT and management skills relevant for postgraduate work.

The programme is delivered over one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or two years of normal part-time study (104 weeks). In addition to this, students can study the MMus over a period of between 3 and 5 years part-time Continuing Professional Development Mode (CPD Part-time). On successful completion of the programme a student should have an understanding of the area of the programme at a level appropriate for a postgraduate qualification. While being a self-contained degree in its own right, the programme provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to PhD study in a number of sub-disciplinary fields of Music.

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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 programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- a critical understanding of the nature of professional musical, musicological and/or compositional activity at the highest national and international levels;
- familiarity with the most important and sophisticated issues, techniques and literature relevant to the chosen area of musical enquiry/expertise;
- an awareness of and ability to critically engage with new thinking in music, musicology and/or compositional practice;
- a critical understanding of the complex linkages between the many aspects of a period, problem or theme;
- enhanced understanding of the contingency of musical assumptions and judgements;
- an advanced knowledge of a variety of critical and new technology approaches applicable to the specific field.

Skills and other attributes

Students will be able to:

- handle, describe, edit or analyse sources of information (including IT sources) at a professional level;*
- relate musical sources to their social, political or economic contexts;
- analyse or evaluate critically a musical score or performance;
- communicate complex ideas, in writing, oral presentations and group discussion;*
- take initiative in constructing a reading programme of relevant literature on given topics;*
- conduct independent research at an advanced level and employ developed writing skills;*
- analyse and problem-solve in the process of musical composition;
- demonstrate skills of reflection in reading and learning, and skills in information handling and retrieval;*
- articulate knowledge and the understanding of texts, concepts and theories at an advanced level, demonstrating self-direction and originality;*
- present logical and coherent written and oral arguments of varying lengths;*
- comprehend and develop sophisticated concepts and original critical ideas;*
- demonstrate enhanced interpersonal skills, involving recognising and respecting the viewpoints, and interacting constructively with other people;*
- demonstrate enhanced time management and organisational skills including working to deadlines, prioritising tasks, organising work-time;*
- In addition, the programme fosters the development of a range of personal attributes that are important in the world of work, and that strengthens our postgraduates' 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

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Teaching, learning and assessment

The programme exploits a modular format to permit an effective combination of both general and specialised courses, giving students flexibility to create a programme suited to their own skills, interests and ambitions. Methodological, technical and practical training is provided across a broad range of sub-disciplines which prepare students for a wide choice of Special Studies based on guided individual study/research/practice. In addition, a common mandatory course provides a general grounding in the discipline as a whole. Courses are delivered and most coursework tasks submitted during terms one and two, enabling students to focus on their individual Special Study for the remainder of the programme.

Teaching and learning contexts take a variety of forms including lectures, seminars, group visits, workshops, individual or group tutorials, and individual supervision of special study research, as well as individual instrumental or vocal tuition (for students taking courses with a Performance element, such as Special Study Performance or Documenting Performance on Performance courses). Students are allocated both a Special Study supervisor and an advisor. Department-sponsored research seminars, study days and public lectures also provide important

stimuli to advanced level study and learning. Learning also takes place through private study, individual research, practice and Department-sponsored (and other) musical activities and performances. Students are expected to demonstrate both initiative and commitment in terms of developing independent learning strategies.

The assessment of the mandatory and elective courses is based on coursework essays or other assignments, mostly submitted during terms one and two. Special study dissertations, portfolios and performance examinations are assessed at the end of the programme. All assessment is subject to double marking. Several courses include unassessed formative tasks or assignments (such as presentations). These enable students to appreciate the expected standards and acquire feedback in advance of submitting assessed assignments that will contribute towards the final award. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

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Details of the programme structure(s)

Credits are indicated in brackets, and indicate proportional weighting towards the MA, PGDip and PGCert classification grade. The programme structure for the PgDip is as below, with the exception that students are required to pass courses worth 120 credits only, while that for the PG Cert is that students are required to pass courses worth 60 credits only.

The Masters programme is structured around four pathways:

Composition Pathway

Students on this pathway must take:

MU 5549 Special Study: Composition (60 credits) **[non-condonable – must be passed for the award]**

MU5500 Skills in Advanced Musical Studies (20 credits) **[non-condonable – must be passed for the award]**

Plus three elective courses in Composition (each worth 20 credits)

Plus two further electives from the Department of Music, or by arrangement, one Masters level course from another Department (40 credits).

Ethnomusicology Pathway

Students on these pathways must take:

MU5599 Special Study: Dissertation (60 credits) **[non-condonable – must be passed for the award]**

MU5500 Skills in Advanced Musical Studies (20 credits) **[non-condonable – must be passed for the award]**

One elective related to their pathway (20 credits)

Plus four further elective from the Department of Music (each worth 20 credits). By arrangement, up to two elective courses may be replaced by two Masters level courses (20 credits each) or one course of 40 credits in another Department.

Musicology Pathway

Students on these pathways must take:

MU5599 Special Study: Dissertation (60 credits) **[non-condonable – must be passed for the award]**

MU5500 Skills in Advanced Musical Studies (20 credits) **[non-condonable – must be passed for the award]**

One elective related to their pathway (20 credits)

Plus four further elective from the Department of Music (each worth 20 credits). By arrangement, up to two elective courses may be replaced by two Masters level courses (20 credits each) or one course of 40 credits in another Department.

Performance Pathway

Students on these pathways must take:

MU5539 Special Study: Performance (60 credits) **[non-condonable – must be passed for the award]**

For students first registered in or after September 2017

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MU5500 Skills in Advanced Musical Studies (20 credits) [**non-condonable – must be passed for the award**]

One elective related to their pathway (20 credits)

Plus four further elective from the Department of Music (each worth 20 credits). By arrangement, up to two elective courses may be replaced by two Masters level courses (20 credits each) or one course of 40 credits in another Department.

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

Part-time programme structure

The part-time programme lasts 104 weeks, beginning in September of year one. Part-time students normally take mandatory course MU5500 Skills in Advanced Musical Studies plus 3 electives in their first year, and three further electives and the Special Study in their second year.

CPD part-time students study for the MMus over a minimum period of three years and a maximum period of five years. CPD part-time students will accumulate credits towards the MMus by studying one or more MMus courses each year. CPD part-time students will normally do the Special Study during their final year; they will also normally take the core course MU5500 Skills in Advanced Musical Studies in their first year, and at any rate at least two years before they plan to undertake their Special Study (i.e. by year 3 if studying for 5 years; by year 2 if studying for 4 years).

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Progression and award requirements

For further information on progression and award requirements, please refer to the College's [Postgraduate Taught Regulations](#).

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Student support and guidance

Beyond the systems of teaching and learning to support academic development, students are supported and guided by various departmental and College systems and services, including the following:

- MMus Programme Director and Director of Graduate Studies oversee the running of the programme, and work in an advisory and pastoral capacity;
- Informal progress Review in January and formal progress Review in May;
- The allocation of a Special Study supervisor and Personal Adviser from the academic staff of the Department, who may also work in a pastoral capacity;
- Dedicated 'office hours' when all members of academic staff are available to students without appointment, and access to members of staff at other times by appointment;
- The Department's Postgraduate Induction session for incoming students in the first week of the Autumn term, aligned with the College Induction process;
- The annual Department *Postgraduate Student Handbook*, issued to all PG students, and various College publications;
- Elected student representatives on the Department Postgraduate Committee, Composition Committee, Performance Committee and Student-Staff Committee;
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College and University libraries, as well as the Computer Centre;
- College Careers Service and Departmental Employability Lead officer;
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre, Students' Union and students with additional learning needs also have access to Disability and Dyslexia Services (DDS).

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Admission requirements

For details of admissions requirements please refer to the [Course Finder](#).

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Further learning and career opportunities

The programme provides a firm foundation for students wishing to embark upon MPhil/PhD research and for professional work in a range of areas of the music profession. These include the media, research, academia, teaching, performing and arts administration. For more details on further learning and career opportunities 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 Excellence Framework (REF 2014) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The scoring system for the REF 2014 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 and 3* indicating research that is internationally excellent. 81% of the College's research profile was deemed to be within the 4* or 3* categories, an increase of over 20% since 2008. This result placed Royal Holloway 31st overall in the UK for 4* and 3* research and 33rd based on an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) score.

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List of programmes with details of awards, teaching arrangements and accreditation

The programme is taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and leads to an award of the University of London. The Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate lead to awards of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. Programmes in Music are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The Banner programme code is given in parentheses.

Master of Music Programme in Advanced Musical Studies

MMus in Advanced Musical Studies (2346)

Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Musical Studies

PG Dip in Advanced Musical Studies (XXXX)

Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Musical Studies

PG Cert in Advanced Musical Studies (XXXX)

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