

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Programme name	MA Music by Research
Award	MA
School	School of Arts and Social Sciences
Department or equivalent	Music
Programme code	PSMUSI
Type of study	Full Time or Part Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MA Music by Research programme develops skills within the broad fields of music, including contemporary composition and sound practices (encompassing notated and digital music, sound arts, and interdisciplinary practices), performance (including classical, jazz, improvisation, popular, and other musical traditions), and scholarship (including historical musicology, ethnomusicology, music analysis, and sound studies). The course embraces music and sound in all its plurality and provides a critical context for exploring key topics and issues that bridge its increasingly overlapping sub-disciplines.

Engagement with professional practice lies at the core of the course taught by world-leading artists and scholars who are active creators and researchers. You also will have opportunities to work with external visitors with whom you will collaborate on your work, in which you are encouraged to respond creatively to present-day issues in music and sound practices. The programme is focused and rigorous, and designed to enhance your creative, critical, and technical skills as well as develop your thinking about contexts of composition, sound practices, performance practices, music research, and the broader humanities. It provides ideal training for those wishing to proceed to a research degree, and prepares students for the professional world.

The MA programme provides exceptional training in a research-oriented environment externally validated as one of the leading centres for musical research in the country. You receive training in fundamental research skills which are not only relevant to the MA programme, but also provide a strong platform to progress to doctoral study should you wish to do so. The programme also helps you understand and evaluate the traditions and trajectories of music and sound as disciplines, and appreciate how our own perceptions and values in relation to them are shaped by a wide range of contextual, historical and aesthetic influences.

The programme accords with City, University of London's declared aim to encourage research and enterprise activities which add to disciplinary understanding, while also providing a high standard of curricular content, particularly in providing academically-excellent education for the business and professions. It is informed by the School of Arts Learning and Teaching Strategy, as well as by external guidelines and frameworks, including the QAA 'Master's Degree Characteristics' (March 2010) and the framework for higher education qualifications. The MA is closely linked with the Music Department's research strategy, and the wide-ranging research and related professional activities of academic staff.

Exit Qualifications

Following successful completion of the MA, you will be able to demonstrate a systematic and comprehensive understanding of advanced scholarship and a critical awareness of issues within the broad area of music, sound, performance and/or composition studies. You will demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, and an advanced understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline. You will be able to evaluate, critique and apply research methodologies, deal with complex issues in a systematic and creative fashion, and

communicate your conclusions to non-specialist audiences. You will demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems.

Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

- develop your creative and critical thinking and imagination as well as technical skills to a professional level
- develop advanced thinking about issues related to the contexts of music and sound
- provide the necessary training to pursue advanced research in an area related to your interests
- develop the professional skills required to make informed, relevant and valuable contributions to contemporary intellectual and musical life

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of the MA programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Identify and critically evaluate theories and contexts that inform music and sound practice in areas such as analysis, aesthetics, historiography, interpretation, cultural theory, literature and other art forms, and computer science.
- Establish links between research into music, sound practice, and other disciplines.
- Contribute to research-based knowledge pertinent to the current concerns of, and developments within, your discipline.
- Collect concepts, concerns and methods driving current musical practice, as evidenced in scholarship, other theoretical writings, and repertoires.
- Investigate a range of documentary and oral evidence relevant to the study of music and sound (historical documents, music scores, recordings, iconographic evidence, instruments, technology, oral testimonies, etc.) and demonstrate a sophisticated awareness of the implications of the contexts and consequences for their evaluation.
- Assess the cultural conventions and symbolic meanings associated with selected repertoires, styles, genres, instruments and voices, and other musical technology.
- Apply methods and strategies relevant to interpretation and performance, and how these can be informed by historical and pedagogical understanding.

Skills:

- Employ a wide range of imaginative strategies in the production of creative and scholarly work through experiment, speculation and rigorous investigation
- Apply rigorous techniques to musical and sonic materials – notated, recorded, or orally-transmitted – using acoustic or technological tools as appropriate to your creative or research focus
- Design and execute a series of independent creative and/or research projects using appropriate methods, opportunities and resources.
- Work in a variety of collaborative or interdisciplinary contexts.
- Identify and solve complex technical and interpretative problems with flexibility and resourcefulness.
- Demonstrate self-motivation and initiative in planning and implementing tasks, as well as organisation and management of a personal schedule of learning.
- Demonstrate the ability to self-evaluate and analyse critically, and exercise independent thought.
- Demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively, effectively and creatively with your peers and other professionals, employing social skills in the conduct of research when appropriate, and develop skills of communication and persuasion.

Values and attitudes:

- Respect and acknowledge the ideas and work of others
- Conduct research that is sensitive to the cultural and ethical implications of musical practice.
- Exercise a professional attitude to scholarship, creative work and performance.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The educational aims are achieved through a combination of seminars, interactive sessions, practical workshops and one to one tutorials, and are further supported by a personal tutorial system. Learners are encouraged to undertake extensive reading and listening in order to understand the topics covered in lectures and classes and to broaden and deepen their knowledge of the subject. The work contributing to the final portfolio submission, including refining the topic, background research and methodology, and final write-up and presentation, are developed throughout the programme through a combination of individual tutorials, group tutorials, workshops, and masterclasses.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Summative assessment of the programme outcomes occurs across the coursework module (30 credits) and the major project component (150 credits)

The methods for the major project component are either:

1) creative portfolio (80% of mark) and commentary (20% of mark) that demonstrate ability to undertake, analyse, and evaluate a substantial assessed practical task (e.g. live or recorded performance, improvisation, series of notated, studio-based, or moving-image compositions or sound practice projects) and write a critical evaluation (c. 5,000 words). The portfolio format, length, and documentation are determined in agreement with your supervisor. The relative lengths and marking weights of the portfolio and commentary may also be adjusted in agreement with your supervisor. A collaborative element may be permitted in agreement with your supervisor.

2) dissertation (80% of mark, c. 20,000 words) and a related methodological or background research essay (20% of mark, c. 5,000 words) on a topic of current professional interest in music scholarship, including historical musicology, analysis, aesthetics, ethnomusicology, sound studies, and related disciplines. The relative lengths and marking weights of the dissertation and research essay may also be adjusted in agreement with your supervisor.

Formative assessment occurs in class discussion of tasks set, tutorial review of your progress as well as written and oral feedback.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured.

Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module assessments, feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:

https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/365292/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy-Senate-October-2016-2.pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits. The Pass mark for each module is 50%. If you fail an assessment component or a module you will normally be offered one resit attempt. However, if you did not participate in the first assessment and have no extenuating circumstances, you may not be offered a resit. If you are successful in the resit, you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The mark used for the purpose of calculation towards your Award shall be calculated from the original marks for the component(s) that you passed at first attempt and the minimum pass mark for the component(s) for which you took a resit.

If you do not satisfy your resit by the date specified, or otherwise fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, you will not progress and the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme. If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master's Degree:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Major Project	7	150	83	With Distinction	70
Taught	7	30	17	With Merit	60
				With Pass	50

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Taught component: Core Module
MUM117 Contexts of Music and Sound Practice (30 credits)

Research component:
MUM122 MA Major Project (150 credits)

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Contexts of Music and Sound Practice	MUM117	30	C	N	7

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Major Project	MUM122	150	C	N	7

You are normally required to complete all the taught modules successfully before submitting the Major Project.

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

Music MA alumni have gone on to compose, perform, and research music in a wide variety of settings, and are also employed in music publishing, teaching, broadcasting, music management, arts administration, and further musical study at MPhil or PhD level.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

N/A

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

N/A

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

Applicants should normally have a first or upper second class honours degree in music or cognate discipline. A high standard of creative or performance skills will also be expected for the relevant pathways. An equivalent qualification from an overseas university or relevant professional experience will be considered.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT For students whose first language is not English, the following qualifications will meet the English language requirement for entry to a postgraduate course of study:

- * A first degree from a UK university or from the CNA.
- * A first degree from an overseas institution recognised by the University as providing adequate evidence of proficiency in the English language, for example, from institutions in Australia or the USA.
- * GCE O-level/GCSE English language or English literature, grade C minimum.
- * Cambridge ESOL CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English) at grade C or above.
- * An overall score of 6.0 in the English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum of 5.5 for each subtest.
- * Satisfactory standard in the verbal section of the Princeton Test (GMAT).
- * US SAT with 500 in verbal performance.
- * Warwick English Language Test (WELT) with pass grades of BBC minimum.
- * Other evidence of proficiency in the English language which satisfies the board of studies concerned.

OVERSEAS QUALIFICATIONS Equivalent qualifications from an overseas university will be considered.

IT SKILLS All students are expected to be computer literate.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES The Programme is committed to equal opportunities. The admissions decision will rest on the qualifications, needs and aspirations of the applicant.

Version: 1.0

Version date: April 2020

For use from: 2021/22