PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme name</th>
<th>Music (Composing for Moving Images)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>School of Arts and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department or equivalent</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme code</td>
<td>PSMUMO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of study</td>
<td>Full time/Part time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total UK credits</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ECTS</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
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</table>

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MA programme offers intensive engagement with particular areas of the music studies field, in a research-oriented environment externally validated as being one of the leading centres for musical research in the country. The programme accords with City University’s declared aims to encourage research and enterprise activities which add to disciplinary understanding, while also providing a high standard of curricular content, particularly in relation to providing quality education for the businesses and the professions (City University Strategic Plan 2008-2012). 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 Centre for Music’s research strategy, and the wide-ranging research and related professional activities of academic staff.

The programme is designed with reference to the opportunities and intellectual demands presented by careers in music, in performance, contemporary composition, journalism, librarianship, arts administration, and more.

The programme offers you the opportunity to engage with a diverse range of musical repertoires, through pathways that reference Western art and popular music, world music, contemporary music and electronic music. The music studies field is both wide-ranging, complex, and constantly evolving, and the programme encourages you to develop both critical and creative approaches to musical practice and study. You have the opportunity to consider current issues and debates in contemporary musicology, whether these are focussed on musical cultures of the present or those of the past. You explore the complex interrelationships between music and other subjects, and between theory and creative practice. You receive training in fundamental research skills which are not only relevant to the MA programme, but also provide a sound platform to progress to doctoral study for those who wish to do so.

The programme helps you understand and evaluate the traditions and trajectories of Music Studies as a discipline, and appreciate how our own perceptions and values in relation to musical sound are shaped by wide range of contextual, historical and aesthetic influences.

The MA Music provides exceptional training in research skills, as well as introducing you to the latest critical thinking in music studies and musicology. The programme offers you a range of options to suit your particular interests, and also allows you to focus on a substantial piece of written research in an area of specific individual interest.

Three specialist pathways allow you to focus your programme of study in specific areas, and offer designated pathways leading to named awards.
The MA Music for Moving Images develops your ability to compose notated and/or digital music in relation to moving images, employing a wide range of technical procedures relevant to contemporary composition, and developing your understanding of related theories and concepts. You have opportunities to work with performers and/or other collaborators in creating music, and are encouraged to respond creatively to present day issues in composing for moving images. The programme also encourages you to develop links with various creative industries, and to understand the role music plays in such industries.

Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

- develop composers’ creative imagination and technical skills to a professional level.
- develop advanced thinking about issues related to the contexts of composition.
- provide the necessary training to pursue advanced research in an area related to the student’s compositional interests.
- develop the talents and 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 this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Understand theories and contexts that inspire and inform musical practice, in areas such as analysis, aesthetics, interpretation, cultural theory, literature and computer science.
- Know how coherent links can be established between practice-based research in music and in other disciplines.
- Know how to contribute to practice-based research relevant to the current concerns of, and developments within, your discipline.
- Understand concepts, concerns and technical methods driving current practice in composing for the moving image, evidenced in repertoires and theoretical writings.
- Understand the relationships between concept, form, material and temporal structure, and how these can be articulated effectively when composing for moving images.
- Understand the cultural conventions and symbolic meanings associated with selected repertoires, styles, instruments and genres.
- Know how to 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 work, through experiment, speculation and rigorous investigation
- Apply contemporary techniques in the creation of new work, which may reference pitch/rhythmic organisation, instrumentation, computer-based sound manipulation, performance interaction and recording techniques.
- Use appropriate analytical methods in the evaluation of contemporary audiovisual repertoire.
- Design and carry out a series of independent creative projects, imaginatively and expertly, using appropriate methods, opportunities and resources.
- Demonstrate an ability to work within a variety of narrative, non-narrative and/or collaborative contexts.
• Demonstrate the ability to identify and solve complex technical and interpretative problems with flexibility and resourcefulness.

• Demonstrate self-motivation and initiative in planning and implementing tasks, and organisation and management of a personal schedule of learning.

• Demonstrate the ability to self-evaluate and analyse critically, and exercise independence of thought.

• Demonstrate the organisation, articulation and presentation of ideas in a clear, systematic and professional manner, and the capacity to communicate these effectively both orally and in writing to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

• 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 which is sensitive to the cultural and ethical implications of musical practice.

This programme has been developed in accordance with the generic QAA document 'Master’s Degree Characteristics' (March 2010) and the Erasmus Network for Music 'Polifonia Learning Outcomes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd cycle studies in music'.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The educational aims are achieved through a combination of lectures, 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 in order to understand the topics covered in lectures and classes and to broaden and deepen their knowledge of the subject.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Summative assessment of the programme outcomes occurs across the four 30 credit modules and 60 credit dissertation/major project component. Individual modules deploy the most effective and appropriate assessment method according to the topic, and context within the given pathway.

The methods are either:

1) a 5000-word essay that demonstrates ability to apply critical reasoning to a set question, comparative or analytical task, conduct independent research and produce an academic argument that can be supported by evidence and examples

2) a project portfolio that demonstrates ability to undertake and analyse/evaluate an assessed practical task (e.g. a performance, an interview, a transcription, a series of notated or studio-based compositions) and write a critical evaluation

3) an extended creative task and accompanying commentary that demonstrates the ability to successfully conclude a set task, conduct independent research, and produce an intellectual rationale for creative work that can be supported by evidence and examples
The learning outcomes are achieved and demonstrated in their most extensive and comprehensive form in the 60 CAT dissertation/major project component that is compulsory for the programme. The methods are:

1) a critical discussion (c.15,000 words) of a problem in musicology or ethnomusicology, or based upon original field research, ranging over a coherent body of material, and including the evaluation of original source material where relevant

2) a major project comprising a film or performance element and dissertation (c. 7,500 words)

3) a portfolio of compositions Three substantial compositions, or equivalent. Collaborative work is permitted in agreement with your supervisor. A critical self-evaluative commentary (c.3,000 words), and other forms of documentation as appropriate.

4) a creative research project (e.g. extended composition, improvisation-based project, sound recording project, film scoring) and a closely related research essay of c.7,500 words accompanied by other forms of documentation as appropriate. A collaborative element may be permitted in the agreement with your supervisor.

5) a recital, either 40 (voice ) or 50 (other) minutes duration, presented in public.

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 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 examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), 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/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.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, the following will apply:

1. Compensation: where you fail up to a total of 20 credits at first or resit attempt (15 for a
Postgraduate Certificate), you may be allowed compensation if:

- Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the module specification), and
- It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Programme, and
- A minimum overall mark of 10 percentage points below the pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
- An aggregate mark of 50% has been achieved overall.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks shall be retained in the record of marks and the greater of the original module mark and the minimum pass mark for the module shall be used for the purpose of calculation towards the Award.

2. Resit: 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 you will not progress and the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, but satisfy the requirements for a lower-level Award, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table below. If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme and are not eligible for the award of a lower level qualification, 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](http://www.city.ac.uk/__data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc)

### WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

#### Master’s Degree:

<table>
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<th>HE Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>With Distinction</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>With Merit</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>With Pass</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taught</td>
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#### Postgraduate Diploma:

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<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>With Distinction</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>With Merit</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Pass</td>
<td>50</td>
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#### Postgraduate Certificate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HE</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Level | (%) | With Distinction | With Merit | With Pass
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Taught | 60 | 100

**WHAT WILL I STUDY?**

**Taught component**

**CORE MODULES**
MUM114 Studio/composition techniques
MUM104 Live projects
MUM100 MA Composition portfolio

**ELECTIVE MODULES (60 CREDITS FROM:)**
MUM111 Filmmaking
MUM108 Music on film
MUM112 Popular music and society
MUM116 Interdisciplinarity and collaborative process
AMM425 Professional Placement
AMM408 Audiences and Marketing
AMM421 Digital cultures

**Taught component**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>SITS Code</th>
<th>Module Credits</th>
<th>Core/ Elective</th>
<th>Can be Compensated?</th>
<th>Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Live Projects</td>
<td>MUM104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Studio / Composition Techniques</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinarity and collaborative process</td>
<td>MUM116</td>
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<td>Music on Film</td>
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<td>Filmmaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Popular Music and Society</td>
<td>MUM112</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
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<td>Audiences and Marketing</td>
<td>AMM408</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Cultures</td>
<td>AMM421</td>
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<td>Professional Placement</td>
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**Dissertation component**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>SITS Code</th>
<th>Module Credits</th>
<th>Core/ Elective</th>
<th>Can be Compensated?</th>
<th>Level</th>
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<td>Composition Portfolio</td>
<td>MUM100</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>7</td>
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</table>

You are not normally required to complete all the taught modules successfully before progressing to the dissertation.

**TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?**

Music MA alumni have on to teach, compose and perform music in a wide variety of settings, and are also employed in music publishing, broadcasting, music management, arts administration, music
retailing 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.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

Applicants should 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 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 CNAA.
* 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, Canada 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 6.5 in the English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum of 6.0 for each subtest.
* A score of 600 minimum (computer score 250, internet-based score 100) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).
* 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.