MUSIC

Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes from the School of Arts

arts.brookes.ac.uk/music
Welcome to music at Oxford Brookes!

Our University is internationally recognised as a centre of excellence in music teaching and research.

We offer a range of courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level that allow you either to pursue a broad, mixed programme of modules, or to specialise in a particular area, such as popular music, historical musicology, composition or music production.

There are numerous opportunities to get involved in performance at Brookes and in Oxford itself, a city with a very lively concert scene. We are also particularly proud of the work placement options we offer at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and our strong links with the cultural and creative industries.

Throughout your studies you will be taught by staff members who are leading figures in their fields, and our teaching – from undergraduate to PhD level – is informed by the latest research. Postgraduate students have the chance to participate in listening groups, study days and conferences in addition to their taught modules.

We are a close-knit and inclusive community: we value our students who come from many different walks of life and bring a diverse range of experiences to the subject. Teaching is often in small groups and students always say that they find our staff approachable, helpful and inspiring.

If you would like to know more about any of our courses, please get in touch. We look forward to meeting you soon.

DR PAUL DIBLEY
PRINCIPAL LECTURER AND PROGRAMME LEAD FOR MUSIC

Welcome to the School of Arts, where music students work alongside students in Fine Art, Film, Publishing and Media. This is a friendly and supportive school and as one of our students you will be taught by approachable and experienced lecturers who are leaders in their respective fields. We hope you are excited by the many opportunities our programmes in music offer and we look forward to welcoming you to the school.

ANGUS PHILLIPS
SCHOOL OF ARTS
**WHY STUDY MUSIC AT BROOKES?**

**Oxford has a dynamic musical and academic community**

Oxford is an ideal city in which to study music, with its thriving research culture and vibrant and varied concert life. The city boasts many venues for the performance of classical, jazz, rock and popular music. Venues range from the historic Sheldonian Theatre to the O2 Academy, attracting top international artists.

**Music at Brookes**

We offer a broad, flexible and dynamic approach to the study of music. Students have the opportunity to tailor courses to their personal interests, in performance, music history, popular music or composition.

As a Brookes music student you will have the opportunity to develop your performance skills by playing or singing in a wide range of venues around the city. Our courses also prepare you for the workplace: you can choose from a wide variety of work placements on our Professional Practice module. We take satisfaction from our investment in the training, support and guidance of the musicians, teachers and producers of the future.

**Support**

Our lecturers, learning support staff and librarians will ensure that you get the most from your time at Brookes and will support you both academically and pastorally. You will be well placed to advance using the school’s excellent facilities: our specialist studios, practice rooms and dedicated teaching spaces.

‘I can think of few if any other music departments in Britain or abroad able to match this responsible and expert breadth of provision.’

EXTERNAL EXAMINER
SPECIALIST FACILITIES

At Brookes you will have 24-hour access to our music facilities, which include seven practice rooms (one of which is a band rehearsal room), three acoustically isolated recording studios, two lecture rooms, a drama studio and a music technology room.

**Instruments and practice rooms**
All practice rooms are permanently equipped with grand or upright pianos, and other instruments are readily available: drum kits, percussion, guitar and bass amplifiers, synthesizers and digital pianos. There is an organ at Harcourt Hill campus.

**Studios**
We have two main recording studios which can be used independently as recording rooms, complete with isolation booths. They can also be combined as a multi-studio suite for large-scale recording. In addition we have a mixing and mastering studio available for surround sound and film sound post production.

Our studios are equipped with high spec Apple Macs running Sibelius, Pro Tools, Adobe Master Collection, Cycling 74’s Max, Logic X and Kontakt Complete 9. Hardware includes high-end Avid HD Omni Interfaces and excellent Genelec monitoring speakers.

**Digital suite**
As a Brookes music student, you will also be able to use the school’s digital suite where you can use the Adobe Creative Suite, Pro Tools, Sibelius, Logic Pro X, and other industry-standard music and video editing software.

**Drama studio**
You will have access to the drama studio, the University’s ‘black box’ theatre which is used for student productions.

**Library**
The University library has a comprehensive selection of music books, scores, CDs and DVDs. You will also have access to a wide range of e-books, electronic journals and subject-specific databases that can be accessed remotely.

Our dedicated subject librarian is always happy to help you in getting the most out of the library’s resources providing specialist training sessions for music students from first-year inductions to individual consultation about dissertations.
Opportunities to perfect your performance

There are a variety of opportunities to perform at Oxford Brookes and the range is truly impressive. A single year can see up to 60 concerts and gigs. Recent highlights include *The Beggar’s Opera*, the musical *Footloose*, Beethoven’s *Egmont Overture* and *Mass in C*, a barbershop quartet, a folk band and numerous rock music gigs.

As a new student you will be encouraged to become a member of our orchestra or choir: it’s a great way to meet and perform with others. There are several music societies including a jazz band and the musical theatre societies Fortune Players and Fortune Singers. You could also join the auditioning Chamber Choir, which has an ambitious repertoire, the Opera Society, the Early Music Society or the pop choir Glee.

We offer you the facilities and support to form your own ensemble or group, such as a string ensemble or wind band, enhancing the musical experience of everyone at Brookes.

We hold weekly lunchtime concerts as a forum for soloists, small groups and bands. You will have opportunities to perform at venues on campus, such as our popular Glass Tank gallery, and off campus: concerts of chamber music and classical recitals are held at the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building and the Holywell Music Room.

We host a ‘Big Night Out’ dedicated to providing a platform for our up-and-coming student pop and rock bands. You will have frequent opportunities to perform across Oxford: our bands have played at the Bullingdon and the O2 Academy. Some bands have gone on to perform in music festivals in Oxfordshire and venues in central London.

Some of this performance activity can be applied as academic credit in selected undergraduate modules. You can develop your skills in your principal study area or even learn a new instrument from scratch while being assessed on your first instrument or voice. Our ensembles, such as the jazz band, are much in demand at University events, such as the inauguration of the new Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. They make a vital contribution to the musical life of the University and the city.

‘The best bit was getting the opportunity to play and perform at the University and around Oxford, and being involved in a range of musical societies, specifically the Jazz Society and Fortune Players.’

LUKE MACKAY, BA MUSIC GRADUATE
Combined Honours

At Oxford Brookes you can combine the study of music with another subject. Such combined degrees are an excellent way to cultivate a wider range of interests, to develop the diverse skills and a broad knowledge that are sought-after in the creative industries and to give you an opportunity to socialise with students from across the University.

Popular combinations with music are:
- Education Studies
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- Fine Art
- History
- History of Art
- Maths
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Publishing.

On a combined degree course you will typically take four modules per year from each of your subjects, though more flexible combinations are possible (major / minor). You will be fully entitled to receive individual instrumental or vocal tuition if you participate in one of the performance modules. The Interdisciplinary Dissertation in the final year is only available to combined-honours students and is a very popular option.
MUSIC

BA (Hons) single honours or BA/BSc (Hons) combined honours

Discover new ways of thinking about music

We offer a broad-based course that enables you to build a programme of work around your own particular passions and interests. We cover popular music and contemporary composition, and take a fresh and challenging approach to classical music.

Why choose this course?
We are open-minded and embrace different kinds of music and sound, as well as engaging with contemporary debates. We approach teaching in a spirit of shared discovery and inquiry, and we'll encourage you to be open to new ideas, concepts and musical repertoires.

Our music students benefit from workshops with professional performers and ensembles. We encourage you to develop as performers and composers in a wide range of styles and genres, to showcase your music in many different venues, and to take it into the community.

Work placements are built into the course, helping you to launch your career in the music industry and beyond with a portfolio of professional and vocational skills.

Three subject areas
The music programme comprises three subject areas:

- **Musicology**, which involves reading, thinking and writing about different types of music
- **Composition**, which can include working with professional ensembles, composing for media and TV, and using the music studios
- **Performance**, including solo performance, small and large University ensembles.

The **first year** gives you a solid foundation in these three areas. It builds a bridge between students’ prior study and the advanced modules of years two and three.

In the **second and third years** you will focus on your own strengths and ideas to build a personalised degree. Much of the teaching will take place in small seminar groups, and you will benefit from individual supervision for independent and final projects.

**Work placements**
In our Professional Practice module you may take up a placement in a field of your choice, such as teaching, music therapy, arts administration or journalism. You can also use this module to develop your career as a performer or conductor.

**Field trips and studying abroad**
The Opera and Politics module includes a trip to a professional opera production, usually in London. Students will have the opportunity to attend and take part in our annual contemporary composition and sonic art festival, audiograft.

We have over 100 partner universities around the world, so you will have the chance to study abroad for a semester or an entire year. There’s also a European work placement programme, and you can benefit from our language courses, which are free for full-time students.

**Study modules**

**Examples of first year modules include:**
- Introduction to Western Music History: 1800 to the Present
- Introduction to Contemporary Composition
- Notation and Harmony
- Introduction to Popular Music
- Music Performance
- Case Studies in Music History: The Middle Ages to 1800
- Musicianship
- Sound and Recording.

**Examples of second and third year modules include:**
- Creative Approaches to Contemporary Composition
- Electroacoustic Composition and Sonic Art
- Creative Approaches to Electronic Music
- Composition for Visual Media
- History, Music and Ideas
- Popular Music in Society
- Film Music
- Opera and Politics
- Words and Music
- Special Study in Musicology
- Music Theatre Practice
- Ensemble Performance
- Music Independent Study
- Intermediate and Advanced Solo Performance
- Music Analysis: Case Studies, Concepts, Critique
- Professional Practice
- Dissertation
- Composition Portfolio.
Typical offers

- **A-level**: BCC or equivalent
- **IB Diploma**: 29 points
- **BTEC**: DMM.

Offers can also include music qualifications that attract UCAS Tariff Points (e.g. ABRSM, Trinity / Guildhall, Rock School) in place of an A level.

**Other typical offers include:**

- **BC at A-level (including Music) and CC at AS-level**
- **BC at A-level and Music Grade exams of 7 in Practical and 5 in Theory**.

For combined honours, normally the offer will lie between the offers quoted for each subject.

If you do not meet the standard entry requirement, it is possible to consider your application based on other relevant personal or professional experience, the support of your referees and examples of written work/composition or performance at audition.
Creative approaches to technology in music

Creative Music Production at Brookes gives you the chance to explore musical ideas using the latest professional production technology. You will immerse yourself in a studio environment designed to nurture and inspire the composers and producers of the future.

As well as practical live and studio production methods, you will explore the theory behind the cultural context of popular music and build your knowledge of professional, legal and ethical issues relevant to the creative industries.

Why choose this course?
The studio production modules are at the core of the Creative Music Production course. They will support you in developing your own innovative ideas for creative music in performance, theatre, film, television, video games and mobile apps.

You will learn how cutting-edge technology is used in live performance and recording studios. You will have opportunities to build valuable experience by working on real-world projects both within the University and off campus in the local community.

In the first year you will take modules in a wide range of areas including music composition, musicology, technology, sound and acoustics.

Studio recording and production modules run throughout the first and second years, enhancing your understanding of the technology and processes of sound manipulation and production.

In the second and third years we offer a variety of modules and projects that aim to strengthen your own interests, skills and ambitions. You can choose from a range of specialisms to build your experience in the areas of musicology, live and interactive technologies, acoustics, creative composition and studio production.

Work placements
Work placements form an integral part of Creative Music Production. Our Professional Practice module lends context to your studies by offering a placement in a music, media or events organisation.

You can gain further experience by providing technical support for a variety of charity and cultural events such as the Oxford Jazz Festival, Oxford Folk Weekend, The International Gypsy Guitar Festival, Oxfam Oxjam Takeover and many others.

You will gain professional experience in areas such as studio recording, live sound systems and location recording, which can lead directly to a career in these areas.

Studying abroad
You will have the option to study abroad at one of our selected partner universities for a semester in the second year. You can take advantage of our language courses, which are free for full-time students.

Study modules
Examples of first year modules include:
- Sound and Recording
- Introduction to Popular Music
- Digital Audio
- Sound Synthesis
- Audio Production
- Introduction to Contemporary Composition
- Sound for Picture
- Notation and Harmony
- The Film Industry
- Musicianship.

Examples of second and third year modules include:
- Professional Practice
- Music Production and Mixing
- Professional, Legal and Ethical Issues
- Composition Portfolio
- Media Technology Project
- Popular Music in Society
- Electroacoustic Composition and Sonic Art
- Live Sound Systems
- Composition for Visual Media
- Interactive Music
- Performance Technology
- Creative Approaches to Electronic Music
- Film Music
- Integrated Project – Live Event
- Ensemble Performance
- Creative Approaches to Composition
- Acoustics and Recording
- Studio Design
- Audio Signal Processing
- Sound System Design and Optimisation.
Discover more about this course at arts.brookes.ac.uk/music

Typical offers

- A-level: BCC or equivalent
- IB Diploma: 29 points
- BTEC: DMM.

You may be considered for a second year or final year entry if you have an HND in Music Technology or Music Production, depending on the relevance of the HND modules you have taken.

Specific entry requirements

- GCSE: Five GCSEs at grade C or above.

Further study

Your opportunities after graduation include continuing to postgraduate taught and research degrees at Master’s or PhD level in areas such as music composition, production, music technology and acoustics.
CAREER PROSPECTS
for undergraduate students

Graduate opportunities

Our graduates have an excellent record of securing employment in the music industry and in a wide range of other professions. Following graduation, they have embarked upon careers as performers, arts administrators and teachers or taken up positions in the recording industry, media, civil service or business world. Others have continued their study at Master’s level and beyond.

Music
Your degree will provide you with specialist training in music and also develop skills useful for a variety of careers. Graduates leave equipped with lively, questioning and organised minds, with leadership and team player qualities.

Brookes music graduates have entered careers with organisations including:
- BBC Radio
- The Royal Opera House
- Oxford Contemporary Music
- Faber Music.

Creative Music Production
Your degree will give you a solid grounding in the skills needed to move into creative and technology positions. You will find routes into working in music studios and live event production, as well as broadcasting and composition for media.

On this course you will develop skills that will equip you for careers such as sound design, editing, video game audio and music engineering. You could also find work in live events, teaching, arts management or music technology.

90% of our Music BA students are in employment or further study six months after graduation.
Daniella Rossi
Music BA

Before you came to Brookes what did you study and where?
I was studying A-levels at Akeley Wood Senior School: Music, English Literature and Psychology.

What made you choose Brookes as a place to study?
I love the city of Oxford and this course was my preferred out of my chosen five as the choice of modules is so varied, covering a vast area of both practical and theoretical themes.

What do you think of the course now you’re here?
I think the course is very enjoyable and can be suited to all individuals as there is flexibility in module choice. It also allows students the opportunity to explore their own interests.

What are your plans for when you’ve completed your course, for work or further study?
I do not know yet what I plan to do, however it will definitely be something to do with music. Maybe performing, or managing concerts or music therapy.

What are the best bits of studying at Brookes?
The lecturers are very approachable and all resources available to Brookes music students are within close proximity of each other, whether in town or situated in the University. Also the night life in Oxford is really good.

What advice do you have for others?
My advice to others would be to immerse yourself in as many activities in the university, either music or non-music societies. It means you get to meet lots of new people when you start so it will be easier to make friends outside of your lectures.

‘The choice of modules is so varied, covering a vast area of both practical and theoretical themes.’

DANIELLA ROSSI
MUSIC MA

A rigorous academic education combined with innovative vocational training

The Music MA at Brookes is an exciting and flexible opportunity for you to pursue a broad general programme or to specialise in your chosen area with either a musicology or composition pathway.

The MA in Music provides a thorough grounding in advanced musical studies, with pathways in musicology or composition. The course is distinctive among music MAs in offering students the opportunity to take a work placement alongside their studies.

Students on the musicology pathway can choose between modules in popular music, film music, opera or music in nineteenth century culture.

Students on the composition pathway study a contemporary practice-based curriculum to push the boundaries of your creative thinking and develop creative agency as a unique and engaged composer. There are modules in experimental composition, electroacoustic and live electronic composition.

Why choose this course?
Our MA programme offers you:
- An exciting and flexible course combining taught modules with independent research, which can be tailored to your specialist interests
- Research-led teaching by academics who are leading figures in their respective fields and whose work is regularly featured in the media
- An opportunity to enhance your employment prospects in music by undertaking a work placement
- Membership of one of our specialist research units (in opera, popular music and sonic art. See page 18)
- Opportunities to participate in listening groups, study days, conferences, festivals and a student-led graduate forum
- A supportive and friendly department
- Easy access to world-renowned research libraries and a thriving cultural life in Oxford and London.

The course can be taken either full time or part time, and can be flexible to fit around work or family commitments.

Entry requirements
- For UK students, a degree such as a 2.1 or 1st (not necessarily in music)
- For EU/international students, a qualification equivalent to the above
- IELTS: 6.5.

If you don’t meet the standard entry requirement, we may be able to consider your application based on evidence of relevant personal and professional experience, the support of your referees and examples of written or composition work.

Field trip
The opera module includes a trip to a professional opera production, usually in London.

‘This programme clearly enables students to excel... Very good preparation is given for independent research, which means students can really flourish in the final stages of the course.’

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Study modules
Compulsory modules for MA and PG Dip:
- Research Skills and Applied Research
- Professional Experience.

Compulsory module for MA:
- Dissertation / Major Project.

Composition pathway:
- Approaches to Experimental Composition and Sound Arts
- Electroacoustic and Live Electronic Composition.

Musicology pathway:
- Advanced Musicology (Semester 1): 19th-Century Music Studies
- Advanced Musicology (Semester 1): Film Music Studies
- Advanced Musicology (Semester 2): Popular Music Studies
- Advanced Musicology (Semester 2): Opera Studies.
Discover more about this course at arts.brookes.ac.uk/music

Professional development

As part of the Research Skills and Applied Research module you will learn how to give conference papers and promote your research effectively to a variety of audiences through journalism, broadcasting and social media. Students taking Advanced Musicology in semester 2 will review a live performance as one of their assessments.

Composers have the opportunity to have their compositions performed at professional venues in Oxford and beyond.

Membership of one of our research units (see page 18) will offer you the chance to network with industry professionals such as composers, performers, publishers, journalists and opera house personnel.

You can benefit from Brookes language courses, which are free for full-time students.
Our Music MA will help you to stand out from the crowd

Our course will provide you with the skills and knowledge to develop your career whether you have just graduated from a first degree or if you are already in employment and seeking professional development or a career change.

Our course is distinctive among music MAs in offering an integrated professional experience module. You will have the opportunity to take up an external work placement with an organisation of your choice, such as an opera house, concert promoter, recording studio, broadcasting company, museum, magazine publisher or school.

Alternatively, you can choose to undertake a project working for one of our research units, for example helping to run the annual audiograft festival or organising a listening group. Those wishing to pursue an academic career can shadow a lecturer or undertake a research project.

Some of our graduates have gone on to careers in the music industry as performers, journalists, arts administrators or teachers, or are pursuing further research. However, an MA in Music also provides valuable transferable skills that can lead to careers in a wide variety of sectors such as publishing, the heritage industry, management or fundraising.

Our programme provides an excellent foundation for doctoral work. Students are given advice on applying for PhDs and entering the academic profession. Our graduates have an excellent track record of securing funded PhD places.

‘The subject-specific and transferable skills developed on the course would be highly valued in a wide range of professional settings.’

EXTERNAL EXAMINER
Miles Hancock is a Music MA graduate who has gone on to become a composer, writing music predominantly for film, television and video games.

“The interdisciplinary nature of the school was a big benefit to my composition.”

MILES HANCOCK
98% of the research activity carried out in Music was considered to be worthy of International Recognition with 26% of the research activity assessed as World Leading (4*) – the highest possible category – by the HEFCE Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014. Particular areas of expertise identified by the REF include Opera Studies, Historical Musicology, Popular Music and Composition.

**Opera Research Unit (OBERTO)**

Established by Dr Alexandra Wilson and Dr Barbara Eichner, OBERTO provides a forum for the investigation of opera in all its interdisciplinary richness. We explore the history, performance and reception of opera, its political, social and cultural contexts, and critical debates about both historical and contemporary opera. We provide a hub for the rich programme of opera-related research and teaching at the university, from undergraduate to doctoral levels.

We integrate postgraduate students into our activities and undertake active collaborations with scholars, performers, directors and critics. We aim to raise the profile of opera by undertaking public engagement work, and we use the OBERTO blog [www.obertobrookes.com](http://www.obertobrookes.com) to engage with a wider public interested in opera.

OBERTO’s activities have included:

- Annual conferences since 2011 on matters of current debate in opera studies
- Talks by visiting speakers, such as opera director Sam Brown and John Snelson (Head of Publishing at the Royal Opera House)
- Residencies by visiting academics
- Books on opera published by Cambridge University Press and Boydell
- A special issue of *Cambridge Opera Journal*
- Talks for BBC Radio 3
- Programme essays for the Royal Opera House, Welsh National Opera, Opera North and Bavarian Radio
- Public study days in Oxford and London.
Popular Music Research Unit (PMRU)

Founded by Dr Jan Butler and Dr Dai Griffiths, PMRU is a focus for popular music research at Brookes. We have particular expertise in words in songs, the art of record production, popular music history, journalism, and the musical analysis of popular song.

PMRU supports research in popular music at various levels: internationally through publications both as authors and editors; nationally through conferences and study days, and regionally by supporting local events and working with the media.

PMRU’s projects and collaborations are many and varied and include the following activities:

- **Looking back, moving forward**, a half-day symposium which explored different perspectives on the current state of popular music studies and discussed the opportunities of setting up a regional group for popular music scholars
- **Punk Study Day** which brought together academics and practitioners from around the UK
- **Shifting Ground** gathered musicians, journalists, industry representatives and academics to explore relationships between music and publishing. The first two **Shifting Ground** study days divided into studies of contemporary music publishing and music journalism, while the third was a study of copyright issues raised in the film **Anyone Can Play Guitar**
- Commissioning the short film **Anyone Can Clear Music: Seven Things you Need to Know about Music Clearance**
- **Editions of You**, an exhibition of the work of 22 independent artists and 17 independent record labels.

Sonic Art Research Unit (SARU)

SARU builds on a long-established creative dialogue between the University’s fine art and music departments to provide a forum for exploring experimental composition and sound arts. We examine acousmatic, collaborative, electroacoustic, experimental, interdisciplinary and site-specific practices as well as engaging with field recording and soundscape studies.

SARU’s activities include the following activities and collaborations:

- **Consumer Waste**, a low-impact imprint that publishes contemporary experimental music. It documents and disseminates the collaborative work of Stephen Cornford and Samuel Rodgers, as well as projects from their peers and contemporaries
- **grist**, a collaboration between SARU practitioners Efthymios Chatzigiannis, Stephen Cornford, Paul Dibley and Paul Whitty and flautist Jos Zwaanenburg resulted in live events at audiograft and STEIM and the release of a CD (Metier MSV28542)
- **audiograft** is an annual festival of experimental music and sound art located in Oxford. audiograft aims to develop new audiences and an awareness of the auditory through the presentation of internationally acclaimed, ground breaking performances and installations, educational and public engagement projects in concert halls, galleries, public spaces and online (www.audiograft.co.uk).

The SARU blog has the latest news on projects, shows and exhibitions, plus a gallery of images and sounds from the unit’s practitioners – discover more at www.sonicartresearch.co.uk.
Oxford Brookes promotes equality of opportunity for all who study, work and visit here. For more details please visit www.brookes.ac.uk/services/hr/eod or phone +44 (0) 1865 485929.

To obtain a large-print copy of (or sections of) this publication or to enquire about other formats please contact +44 (0) 1865 484959 or email arts-enquiry@brookes.ac.uk

All information is correct at the time of going to press (February 2016). Please refer to the University’s website for the most up-to-date details.