

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

for the award of

MA in Music

Managed by the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment

delivered by School of Arts

Date approved:	Date approval confirmed, on recommendation of University validation panel or other authorised body.
Applies to students commencing study in:	September 2017

RECORD OF UPDATES

Date amended*	Nature of amendment**	Reason for amendment**
July 2016	Transferred to new template, update graduate attribute from global to active citizenship	CMA Compliance, Update to graduate attribute
October 2016	Checked for errors and amended by Subject Coordinator and Programme Lead.	Subject specialist knowledge.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awarding body:	Oxford Brookes University
Teaching institution and location:	Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus
Language of study:	English
Final award:	MA
Programme title:	Music
Interim exit awards and award titles available:	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma
Brookes course code:	VA50 - MA-MD/PGD-MD/PGC-MD
UCAS code:	P38305
JACS code:	W300
HECoS code:	100070
Mode of delivery:	Full-time (face to face/on-campus) Part-time (face to face/on-campus)
Mode/s and duration of study:	Normal duration 12 months full time and 24 months part time. Maximum duration for all modes is 5 years.
QAA subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:	Music (2016) http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-Music-16.pdf
Professional accreditation attached to the programme:	NA
University Regulations:	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/

SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

This programme offers students a thorough grounding in advanced musical studies while enabling them to focus on one of two specialisms; musicology or composition. Within the field of musicology, students may further specialise selecting from music in nineteenth-century culture, music for the stage and on screen, or music in popular culture. The composition pathway provides a practice-based contemporary composition curriculum that encourages students to push the boundaries of their practice and thinking, to develop an understanding of creative agency, to be ambitious in the creation of new work and to develop a voice as an engaged and creative composer.

A distinctive feature of the programme is the opportunity for students to develop a robust academic understanding within these fields while also engaging in practical experience in a range of endeavours. Students join the programme with a range of knowledge and music backgrounds. The taught modules which draw on staff research and the research units lead onto opportunities for independent research in students' own areas of interest. In this way, the degree can be a foundation for subsequent doctoral research. Equally important are opportunities that will enhance career development in the music industry or in teaching. The professional experience module provides access to a range of work experience; this may be in an academic environment, arts organisations, teaching or other components of the music industry. The culmination of the programme is a dissertation or a composition project in which students demonstrate their independent research or practice within either musicology or composition.

The MA/PgDip/PGCert in Music will:

- Equip students with appropriate research methodologies, academic resources and skills, by providing a stimulating learning and teaching environment, specialist expertise and supervision
- Enable students to develop their research skills in the fields of either musicology or composition
- Offer fully resourced specialised routes through an academic framework of musicology or composition modules
- Engage students in and develop their understanding of recent and current critical debates in music
- Offer experiences of career enhancing or reflective practice in a relevant sector of the music industry

Additionally, the MA in Music will:

- provide a supported environment for a substantial research endeavour (either a written dissertation or a portfolio of compositions)
- prepare students to transition to further research at MPhil or PhD level
- foster a critical awareness of developments in software, sound diffusion, notation, creative strategies and the role of the audience in relation to researching and realising a major creative project

Please refer to the following link to view the staff profiles within the School of Arts:

<http://arts.brookes.ac.uk/staff/index.html>

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY

1. Evaluate and contribute to recent debates concerning either musicology or composition
2. Critically engage with the scholarly musicology or compositional literature
3. Build an in-depth knowledge and critical understanding of musical repertoires appropriate to fields within musicology or composition

3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY

Updated May 2016

4. Evaluate and select appropriate research methodologies to create original and/or interpret existing knowledge in the discipline
5. Employ research strategies to conceptualise, articulate and shape a study leading to a written dissertation or to a major project/portfolio of compositions.

3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY

6. Appraise and assess his/her own work as an independent and self-critical learner, individually and in groups.
7. Apply knowledge, understanding and experience to identify and deal with novel problems in unpredictable and complex situations.

3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

8. Select and effectively employ a wide range of digital resources with discrimination, confidence and agility.
9. Demonstrate appropriate specialist skills and apply skills in new technologies relevant to their own creative practice.

3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

10. Select and effectively employ a wide range of digital resources with discrimination, confidence and agility.
11. Demonstrate appropriate specialist skills and apply skills in new technologies relevant to their own creative practice.

SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status	Coursework: Exam ratio
P66000/ MUSC7001	Research skills and applied research	30	7	Compulsory. PG Cert, PG Dip, MA	100% coursework
P66009/ MUSC7003	Professional experience	30	7	Compulsory. PG Dip, MA	100% coursework
P66097/ MUSC7007	Dissertation/Major project	60	7	Compulsory MA	100% coursework
P66010/ MUSC7004	Advanced musicology I	30	7	Alternative compulsory. PG Cert, PG Dip, MA	100% coursework
P66012/ MUSC7006	Approaches to experimental composition and sound arts	30	7	Alternative compulsory. PG Cert, PG Dip, MA	100% coursework
P66011/ MUSC7005	Advanced musicology II	30	7	Alternative Compulsory. PG Dip, MA	100% coursework
P66003/ MUSC7002	Approaches to electroacoustic and live electronic composition	30	7	Alternative Compulsory. PG Dip, MA	100% coursework

4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Students select to study either musicology or composition. Within musicology modules they can further specialise in Music and Popular Culture, Music on Stage and on Screen or Music in 19th-Century Culture. The composition choice offers further specialism in song writing and electronic composition.

Updated May 2016

4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

None.

SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

Information about the learning experience is provided in the course entry. Include information here about:

- typical contact/independent study mix across the programme – how student time is divided between different teaching and learning methods;
- how the assessment strategy is informed by the Brookes Assessment Compact, and how it has been designed to enable students to achieve the programme learning outcomes;
- an indication of the typical mix of coursework/examinations students will experience across the programme.

All modules use more than one learning and teaching method, ensuring that students experience a range of different learning opportunities, thereby maintaining student motivation and interest and promoting effective learning. This variety is offered because we recognise that, while some students excel in interactive small group work, others benefit from lectures followed by structured feedback exercises or from student-led seminars.

The modules relating to musicology (P66010/MUSC7004, P66011/MUSC7005) and composition (P66012/MUSC7006 Approaches to experimental composition and sound art and P66003/MUSC7002 Approaches to electroacoustic and live electric composition) have 2-hour sessions over a twelve week semester that employ the following teaching and learning methods (principal learning methods are highlighted in bold):

- **Lectures**, primarily used where there is a need to convey a considerable amount of factual information and theoretical knowledge about an area students will not be familiar with prior to starting the module
- **Seminars** designed to encourage students to engage in discussion with peers and tutors to develop their understanding, to enhance their graduate attributes, and to encourage deeper learning
- Skill-based **workshops** designed to develop a particular research or practical skill
- **Tutorials**, allowing students to work closely with a relevant member of staff
- **Colloquia** with visiting speakers
- Constructive **critique** of peers' work
- Oral **presentation** of on-going work
- **Autonomous research and writing**
- **E-learning**

The P66000/MUSC7001 Research skills and applied research module and the P66097/MUSC7007 Dissertation/Major Project modules are taught through

- individual tutorials
- workshops and discussion forums.

The P66009/MUSC7003 Professional experience module is delivered through a work experience placement with an external organisation, an in-house placement with one of our specialist research units or an independent research project. Students receive support both from a placement mentor and from a member of the academic staff. Students might, for example, work with a concert promoter, at an opera house, in journalism or in an educational setting, or organise a research-unit programme of events.

Assessment methods:

All modules are assessed by coursework which include

- Essays (ranging from short written exercises such as literature reviews to dissertations)
- Student oral presentations
- Compositions (for those following the Composition pathway)

Updated May 2016

- Project reports

In accordance with the Brookes Assessment Compact students are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning by seeking advice on formal feedback, which is provided for all coursework. Student learning is assessed either formatively or summatively (depending the module) around the semester mid-point. Formative feedback is given, for example, on project proposals, student-led seminars, and in student fora. Any summative feedback on an initial assessment, which is set at a lower percentage of the overall mark, serves as formative feedback for the final assignment. In addition, a student's progression through the programme enables them to draw on summative assessment in individual modules as valuable formative feedback for future modules, so that the formative feedback contributes to the student's understanding of the module as a whole and to the progress of their summative assignment(s).

The pass mark for each module and for the whole award is 50%.

Distinctions and Merits shall be awarded, where appropriate, for postgraduate Certificates, Diplomas and Masters degrees. A Distinction shall be equivalent to 70% or over. An Examination Committee may recommend an award with distinction if the following condition is met: normally the student must have achieved an average of 70% or more (ie. a Distinction) over the course of the programme, and for a Masters degree this must include a Distinction in the dissertation or project. A Merit shall be equivalent to 60% or over.

For all assessed work a percentage is double marked and moderated internally according to the University Moderation Policy. The assessment procedures are moderated by the External Examiners subject to the Oxford Brookes University Codes of Practice for External Examiners.

SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Prior qualifications necessary for entry to the programme, including English language requirements.

Admission is by application through UKPASS and then interview:

- Applicants are expected to have received an upper second class degree or above and this is usually, but not always, in Music. Applicants with equivalent professional experience may also be considered. Applicants may be asked to submit an appropriate piece or pieces of written work or a portfolio of compositions prior to the interview.
- See the university's general entry requirements: <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/how-to-apply/entry-requirements/postgraduate-courses/>

Applicants whose first language is not English, or who do not hold a degree that has been studied in English, should hold the following qualification:

- British Council (IELTS) Test: Overall score of 6.5 or better with level 6.0 for reading and for writing components. See the university's general English language requirements: <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/international/applying-to-arriving/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>

6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED

DBS checks will be necessary for any students undertaking work experience which involves working with children.

SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Updated May 2016

This MA course provides students with the skills and knowledge to embark upon a career in music, to enhance their current professional standing, or to prepare for a career in academia. The transferable skills acquired through studying for the course can also lead to careers in many other sectors, including teaching, lecturing, publishing, arts administration, journalism, museum work, fundraising, higher education management and business. These skills that are appropriate in the workplace are supported in the professional experience module.

Our programme provides the necessary research training for doctoral work and many MA students continue on into further research and pursue careers in academia.

Recent graduates of the MA have gone on to careers in the following areas:

- Television and film composition
- School teaching
- Instrumental teaching
- Musical retail management
- Further study (PhD level)

The course offers students many opportunities to establish links with contacts from the academic profession and the wider musical world. These links have been formalised in the Professional Experience module which offers students the opportunity to pursue a project with a range of institutions, arts organisations, teaching environments and research. As part of the Research skills and applied research module, students attend a seminar entitled 'Becoming an Academic', which outlines the skills and experiences students need to acquire in order to embark on a career in university lecturing and research. Students also have the opportunity to gain administrative experience through assisting with conference organisation. The regular conferences organised by our research units act as a further mechanism through which students embarking upon a research career can make useful contacts within the field.

Audiograft (the Sonic Art Research Unit's annual festival) brings composers and sonic artists to Brookes to give guest seminars. These professionals will often conduct workshops or participate in student projects.