

MA in Musicology

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Music
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	Programme length: 1 year (2 yrs PT)
For students entering in October 2004	Date of specification: September
2003	
Programme Director: Dr S. Fuller	
Programme Adviser:	
Board of Studies: Music	
Accreditation: None.	

Summary of programme aims

This programme aims to provide teaching and learning in modern musicological studies. Students will be able to develop and demonstrate their capacity for critical and original thought, as well as handling a variety of musical and bibliographical sources. Independent study is promoted and teaching is geared toward the individual development of students to provide an underpinning for further development in musicological studies at doctoral level or its equivalent as well as offering a satisfying and rewarding experience those who take the MA as an end in itself.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving and use of information technology.

Students will also be:

- Able to assimilate and think critically about complex texts and issues.
- Able to assess the legitimacy of an argument and to formulate, both in written and oral form, critical defences of their own with an awareness of the relevance and consequences of their formulations and assertions.
- Aware of ways and resources to develop their knowledge and understanding further as part of an ability to learn independently.
- Able to communicate clearly to others their own thinking and the reasons for it.

Programme content

The programme consists of 180 credits: 90 in the Musicology dissertation (MUMMUD), 30 in the compulsory Criticism module (MUMCRT) and 60 (30 + 30) chosen from Aesthetics (MUMAES), Composition Exercises (MUMCOE), Historical Performance Practice (MUMHPP), History of Theory (MUMHOT) or Notation (MUMNOT).

The Musicology module will include advanced studies in historiographical issues, source studies, bibliography, and contemporary themes in the so-called 'new musicology'.

See also the Criticism and optional module descriptions.

Compulsory Modules

MUMMUD	Musicology Dissertation	90 credits	Level M
MUMCRT	Criticism	30 credits	Level M

Optional Modules (students choose two options)

MUMAES	Aesthetics	30 credits	Level M
MUMCOE	Composition Exercises	30 credits	Level M
MUMHPP	Historical		
	Performance Practice	30 credits	Level M
MUMHOT	History of Theory	30 credits	Level M
MUMNOT	Notation	30 credits	Level M

Part-Time/Modular arrangements

The programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student will normally complete the compulsory Criticism module and two optional modules; in the second year of study, a student will be required to complete the Musicology Dissertation. The programme may not be completed over more than two years.

Progression requirements

Students can earn a Certificate for satisfactory completion of 60 credits but less than 120 credits in which case 30 credits must be in Criticism MUMCRT; and a Diploma for 120 credits but less than 180 in which case at least 90 credits must be in the Musicology Dissertation MUMMUD.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

<u>Mark</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
70 – 100%	Distinction
60 – 69%	Merit
50 – 59%	Good standard (Pass)
<u>Failing categories:</u>	
40 – 49%	Work below threshold standard
0 – 39%	Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degrees

To pass the degree of Master students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation *and have no mark below 40 in modules XX and YY*. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.*

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 70 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be awarded a Merit.

For Postgraduate Diplomas

To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more *and a mark of at least 40 in Criticism*. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.*

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more and have no mark below 40 will be awarded a Merit.

For Postgraduate Certificate

To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more *and have no mark below 40 in the dissertation or the Criticism module*. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.*

*The provision to permit a candidate to be passed overall with a profile containing marks below 40 is made subject to the condition that there is evidence that the candidate applied himself or herself to the work of those modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching methods will vary from module to module but teaching will primarily be by means of lectures, individual and group tutorial and seminars.

The Musicology Dissertation module will be assessed by a dissertation not exceeding 20,000 words to be submitted by September of the final year.

The Criticism module will be assessed by one coursework exercise and an essay or project equivalent to 5,000 words to be submitted in June.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained an undergraduate honours degree in music normally at upper second class level.

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and Music may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

Admissions Tutor: Prof. J.M. Dunsby

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

Within Music, personal and academic tutors will provide help and guidance on academic, and where appropriate, other matters. Music offers the provision of a specialist Music Library including scores and recordings of Western Music from the medieval period to the present as well as some holdings of popular and world musics. We also offer on-site computing including MIDI equipment and notation software such as Sibelius®.

Career prospects

A postgraduate music degree provides and excellent training in intellectual and organizational skills of interest to a wide variety of potential employers. It also enables the student to proceed to higher-degree research in music and related fields (eg music psychology, music therapy).

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

The programme does not involve study abroad.

Educational aims of the programme

The overarching aim is to provide a programme of study which affords a conceptual framework for the study of musicology. As well as specific knowledge of music history and musicological method, students should acquire the intellectual and presentational skills expected of students with a postgraduate qualification.

Programme outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a range of research-oriented approaches in musicological study;• advanced topics in Western classical, popular and world musics, including cultural, social and historical issues.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminars and individual tutorials), guided independent research and the writing of essays and reports.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> knowledge and understanding are tested through a combination of 20,000-word dissertation, essays and written and verbal reports.</p>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills: able to: Demonstrate a capacity for advanced independent thought and critical writing. Use complex musical and historical resources as evidence. Assimilate and communicate historiographical issues and methodologies.</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies Intellectual skills are acquired through lectures, independent musical study, seminar preparation and discussion, essay writing, and individual tutorials.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> As above</p>
<p>C. Practical skills: able to: Conduct a critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches. Demonstrate information retrieval skills. Apply appropriate conventions in the presentation of all assessed work.</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies As above.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> As above.</p>

D. Transferable skills – able to:

- Identify and use IT (including word-processing, standard notation software and databases).
- Use library and archival resources.
- Write fluently and critically.
- Give effective oral and skills-based presentations.
- Work as part of a team.
- Solve problems effectively.
- Manage time.
- Assimilate cultural issues.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
Transferable skills are developed integrally in all modules.

Assessment
As above.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.