



Definitive Programme Document

MA COMPOSITION

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|---|--|
| Awarding institution | Bath Spa University |
| Teaching institution | Bath Spa University |
| School | College of Liberal Arts |
| Department | Bath School of Music and Performance |
| Main campus | Newton Park |
| Other sites of delivery | NA |
| Other Schools involved in delivery | NA |
| | |
| Name of award(s) | Master of Arts in Composition |
| Qualification (final award) | MA |
| Intermediate awards available | PgCert, PgDip |
| Routes available | Single |
| Duration of award | 1 year full time / 2 years part time |
| Sandwich period | NA |
| Modes of delivery offered | Campus-based |
| Regulatory Scheme | Taught Postgraduate Framework |
| | |
| Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation | NA |
| Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year) | NA |
| Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year) | NA |
| | |
| UCAS code | NA |
| Route code (SITS) | |
| Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication) | There is no relevant Masters benchmark statement, but the BA honours Subject Benchmark Statement for Music (2016) has provided some context. |
| Date of most recent approval | 20 January 2017 |
| Date specification last updated | 20 January 2017 |

Programme Overview

MA Composition focuses on developing your skills as composers and deepening your understanding of current new music contexts, both artistically and professionally. Through weekly seminars and tutorials, supported by workshops with musicians, you will develop your creative, technical and academic skills, commenting critically upon your own and others' work.

We set this against a wider consideration of current music and developments in contemporary musical thought by looking at new work. There are opportunities to collaborate with other creative artists, such as choreographers, filmmakers, and theatre practitioners, as well as staff and students in other disciplines, through joint projects and seminar discussion. These developments in your creative practice are supported by practical consideration of professional and academic skills.

We aim to provide a foundation for your work as composers by helping improve the way you promote your work and plan projects, as well as understand the academic disciplines to which it relates. You will also engage with research groups and centres in Music and across the University where relevant to your work.

As with all of the Music and Performance Masters, this programme places you within a creative and vibrant artistic community dedicated to all aspects of music and the performing arts. Your programme therefore sits within a dynamic environment where we actively encourage you to work with other practitioners and scholars from other disciplines. You will also work with professional practitioners from a similar range of backgrounds who will bring differing perspectives to your work.

As well as teaching you how to compose, the programme also prepares you for a range of career opportunities in the arts. Including, but not limited to community music, workshop leading, teaching, commercial work and doctoral study.

Programme Aims

Throughout the course, the curriculum aims to:

1. Provide an environment in which to develop an understanding of current compositional contexts
2. Extend individual creative practice in relation to critical, analytical, historical and interdisciplinary contexts.
3. Develop your critical facility, both written and oral, in evaluating your own work and that of others.
4. Foster an understanding of suitable research methodologies as a support to both artistic practice and academic research.
5. Enhance professional skills to support the development and dissemination of your practice.
6. Produce a portfolio of new compositions with associated documentation

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

These ILOs reflect the level 7 descriptors of the FHEQ

A Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge

- A1 Critical understanding of developments in contemporary composition and related areas
- A2 Systemic understanding of how compositions exist within critical, analytical, historical and collaborative contexts
- A3 Critical facility, both written and oral, when evaluating your work and that of others
- A4 Advanced knowledge of technique and aesthetic appropriate to your work
- A5 Professional-level composition that draws on peer, tutorial and professional critique to identify contexts effectively
- A6 Retrieval, sifting and selection of information from a variety of sources with a view to applying that information in a range of creative, critical and evaluative contexts

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

- B1 Comment critically and analytically on compositions in both oral and written contexts
- B2 Interpret, analyse and develop appropriate responses to peer, professional and tutorial criticism
- B3 Advanced understanding of suitable research methodologies as a support to both your artistic practice and academic research
- B4 A critical faculty, both written and oral, in evaluating your own work

C Skills for Life and Work

- C1 Autonomous learning (including time management) that demonstrates the exercise of initiative, personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development
- C2 Team working skills necessary to succeed in the global workplace, with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively, as well as the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- C3 Communication skills that show the ability to communicate clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences knowledge at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice, and the conclusions drawn from dealing with complex issues systematically
- C4 IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the ability to develop new skills to a high level and to approach complex issues systematically and creatively

Intermediate awards

PgCert Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A2, A3, A4, A6, B1, B2, B4, C1, C3

PgDip Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, B1, B2, B4, C1, C2, C3

Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Compulsory = R (ie 'required')

Optional = O

| MA COMPOSITION | | | | Status | |
|----------------|--------|-------------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| Level | Code | Title | Credits | Single | Joint |
| 7 | PM7001 | Research Methodologies & Context | 30 | C | |
| 7 | PM7002 | Portfolio 1 | 30 | C | |
| 7 | PM7020 | Professional Practice | 30 | C | |
| 7 | PM7021 | Intercultural Musicology | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7022 | Portfolio 2 | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7023 | Performance 2 | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7024 | Sound Production Creative Project | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7025 | Intertextuality in Sound Production | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7026 | Sonic Architecture | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7027 | Visual Music | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7028 | Sound Design Practice | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7029 | Post Production | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7070 | Major Project | 60 | C | |

| PGCert COMPOSITION | | | | Status | |
|--------------------|--------|----------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| Level | Code | Title | Credits | Single | Joint |
| 7 | PM7001 | Research Methodologies & Context | 30 | C | |
| 7 | PM7002 | Portfolio 1 | 30 | C | |

| PGDip COMPOSITION | | | | Status | |
|-------------------|--------|----------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| Level | Code | Title | Credits | Single | Joint |
| 7 | PM7001 | Research Methodologies & Context | 30 | C | |

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|---|--------|-------------------------------------|----|---|--|
| 7 | PM7002 | Portfolio 1 | 30 | C | |
| 7 | PM7020 | Professional Practice | 30 | C | |
| 7 | PM7021 | Intercultural Musicology | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7022 | Portfolio 2 | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7023 | Performance 2 | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7024 | Sound Production Creative Project | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7025 | Intertextuality in Sound Production | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7026 | Sonic Architecture | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7027 | Visual Music | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7028 | Sound Design Practice | 30 | O | |
| 7 | PM7029 | Post Production | 30 | O | |

Assessment methods

A range of summative assessment tasks test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

You are supported in your development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities

You produce work that is aimed at professional performance contexts throughout the MA. While it is not an assessment criterion, there is an expectation that you will seek external opportunities to have your work programmed, either in self-generated events or organised series and festivals. Developing the necessary skills to succeed in disseminating work in these professional contexts is supported by PM7020 Professional Practice. This module will equip you with professional skills, such as formulating projects, pitching, making funding applications, running events, making websites, promotion and marketing, and understanding rights, royalties, and publishing. The module includes visits from arts professionals, such as festival directors, journalists, promoters, publishers, and rights experts.

You also work with visiting professional musicians who rehearse and perform their compositions. This develops your professional skills in relation to preparing scores and parts, rehearsal technique, and professional conduct.

Graduate Attributes

| | Bath Spa Graduates... | In Composition, this means... |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing core business skills for arts professionals, such as project planning and delivery, funding, marketing and promotion, publishing and rights. • Enhancing creative practice through increased individuality and autonomy as composers, allied to core practical skills when working with other creative practitioners and arts organisations. |
| 2 | Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding current professional and artistic contexts and how to relate these to their practice as composers. • To be able to work to brief and collaborate with others in order to work within professional and artistic constraints. |
| 3 | Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing individual creative outputs that demonstrate independent thinking. |
| 4 | Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing creative work that engages technology in appropriate ways. • To use digital tools to support practice through documentation and dissemination of outputs. |
| 5 | Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with international staff and students in Music and elsewhere in the University, as well as interacting with international visitors • Where appropriate, having work realised outside of the UK, |

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| | | including online. |
| 6 | Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing independent creative practice and realising this in appropriate ways. |
| 7 | Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding issues in current compositional thought and its related contexts, and to articulate this both through creative practice and academic writing. |
| 8 | Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the role of artists in society and their obligations when working with others. |

Modifications

Module-level modifications

| Code | Title | Nature of modification | Date(s) of approval and approving bodies | Date modification comes into effect |
|------|-------|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | |
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| | | | | |

Programme-level modifications

| Nature of modification | Date(s) of approval and approving bodies | Date modification comes into effect |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

TRIMESTER 1**PM7001 - RESEARCH
METHODOLOGIES AND
CONTEXT**

CORE 30 CREDITS

PM7002 - PORTFOLIO 1

CORE 30 CREDITS

TRIMESTER 2**PM7020 - PROFESSIONAL
PRACTICE**

CORE 30 CREDITS

PM7022 - PORTFOLIO 2

OPTIONAL* 30 CREDITS

TRIMESTER 3**PM7070 - MAJOR PROJECT**

CORE 60 CREDITS

*** OTHER AVAILABLE OPTIONAL
MODULES ARE****PM7021 - INTERCULTURAL
MUSICOLOGY****PM7023 - PERFORMANCE 2****PM7024 - SOUND PRODUCTION
CREATIVE PROJECT****PM7025 - INTERTEXTUALITY IN
SOUND PRODUCTION****PM7026 - SONIC ARCHITECTURE****PM2027 - VISUAL MUSIC****PM7028 - SOUND DESIGN PRACTICE****PM7029 - POST PRODUCTION****FULL-TIME PROGRAMME MAP – MA COMPOSITION**

YEAR 1

TRIMESTER 1

PM7002 - PORTFOLIO 1

CORE 30 CREDITS

TRIMESTER 2

PM7022 - PORTFOLIO 2

OPTIONAL* 30 CREDITS

TRIMESTER 3

YEAR 2

TRIMESTER 1

**PM7001 - RESEARCH
METHODOLOGIES AND
CONTEXT**

CORE 30 CREDITS

TRIMESTER 2

**PM7020 - PROFESSIONAL
PRACTICE**

CORE 30 CREDITS

TRIMESTER 3

PM7070 - MAJOR PROJECT

CORE 60 CREDITS

* FOR OTHER AVAILABLE OPTIONAL MODULES PLEASE SEE THE FULL-TIME MAP

PART-TIME PROGRAMME MAP – MA COMPOSITION

Map of Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) against modules

MA COMPOSITION



| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Status (C,R,O) | Intended Learning Outcomes | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|--------------------------|----|----|----|
| | | | | Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge | | | | | | Cognitive and Intellectual Skills | | | | Skills for Life and Work | | | |
| | | | | A1 | A2 | A3 | A4 | A5 | A6 | B1 | B2 | B3 | B4 | C1 | C2 | C3 | C4 |
| 7 | PM7001 | Research Methodologies & Context | C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 7 | PM7002 | Portfolio 1 | C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 7 | PM7020 | Professional Practice | C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | PM7021 | Intercultural Musicology | O | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | PM7022 | Portfolio 2 | O | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | PM7023 | Performance 2 | O | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | PM7024 | Sound Production Creative Project | O | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | PM7025 | Intertextuality in Sound Production | O | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | PM7026 | Sonic Architecture | O | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | PM7027 | Visual Music | O | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | PM7028 | Sound Design Practice | O | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | PM7029 | Post Production | O | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | PM7070 | Major Project | C | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |

Map of summative assessment tasks by module

MA COMPOSITION



Most word counts below are indicative, they often combine practical and written elements. There are no examinations in any Music Performance MAs

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Status (C,R,O) | Assessment method | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|--|
| | | | | Coursework | | | | | Practical | | | | | |
| | | | | Composition Portfolio | Research Project | Journal / Blog | Portfolio | Evaluation commentary | Essay | Performance Recital | Practical Project | Presentation | Skills Projects | |
| 7 | PM7001 | Research Methodologies and Context | C | | 7,500 words | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | PM7002 | Portfolio 1 | C | 1, 2 or 3 pieces | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | PM7020 | Professional Practice | C | | | | 7,500 words | | | | | | | |
| 7 | PM7021 | Intercultural Musicology | O | | | | | | 7,500 words | | | | | |
| 7 | PM7022 | Portfolio 2 | O | 1, 2 or 3 pieces | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | PM7023 | Performance 2 | O | | | | | | | 45 Mins | | | | |
| 7 | PM7024 | Sound Production Creative Project | O | | | | | 500 words | | | 3,750 words | 15 Mins | | |
| 7 | PM7025 | Intertextuality In Sound Production | O | 5,500 words | | | | 2,000 words | | | | | | |

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Status (C,R,O) | Assessment method | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | | | | Coursework | | | | | Practical | | | | |
| | | | | Composition Portfolio | Research Project | Journal / Blog | Portfolio | Evaluation commentary | Essay | Performance Recital | Practical Project | Presentation | Skills Projects |
| 7 | PM7026 | Sonic Architecture | O | | | | | 2,000 words | | | 5,500 words | | |
| 7 | PM7027 | Visual Music | O | | | | | 2,000 words | | | 5,500 words | | |
| 7 | PM7028 | Sound Design Practice | O | | | | | 1,850 words | | | 5,150 words | | |
| 7 | PM7029 | Post Production | O | | | | | 1,000 words | | | 1 project | 20 mins | |
| 7 | PM7070 | Major Project | C | | 15,000 words. | | | | | | | | |