Definitive Programme Document

MRes COMPOSITION

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)	Composition
Qualification (final award)	MRes
Intermediate awards available	PGDip, PGCert
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	
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

MRes creates a space for composers to undertake a significant extended project, supported by academic research. It concentrates on using practice-led research methods to create a portfolio of compositions that articulate a clear research focus. Through weekly seminars, tutorials and workshops, it presents composers with current models and develops their awareness of the contexts in which their work might exist. This is reinforced by visits from leading composers, as well as workshops with visiting professional musicians.

In the Professional Practice module, you will develop your understanding of professional contexts, producing funding applications, promotional materials, and pitching a project to a visiting festival director. This is supported by visits from industry professionals active in publishing, royalties and performing rights, project development, and education and outreach.

You will receive performance of your work by visiting professional musicians, allowing you to hear your work played to a very high standard and to learn how to interact with players in rehearsal situations, as well as presenting your work effectively. Research Methodologies and Context introduces a range of research skills, including practice-led research methods. You will develop an extended research paper and annotated bibliography on a topic of your choice. This is supported by attendance at seminars organised by University research groups and centres.

These settings underpin the main focus of the MRes, the Research Project. This comprises an extended portfolio of compositions and a contextual commentary.

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 community music, workshop leading, teaching, commercial work and doctoral study.

Programme Aims
Throughout the course, the curriculum aims to:

1. Foster an understanding of current compositional contexts
2. Extend individual creative practice in relation to critical, analytical, historical and interdisciplinary contexts.
3. Engender a critical facility, both written and oral, in evaluating personal work and that of others.
4. Develop an understanding of suitable research methodologies to support to both artistic practice and academic research.
5. Foster professional skills to support the development and dissemination of practice.
6. Provide an environment in which to conduct an enquiry leading to the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research and practice
7. Enable the production of a portfolio of new compositions with associated documentation, supported by a critical commentary

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   Conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge at the forefront of music practice, including the capacity to adjust the project design in the light of emergent issues and understandings
B2   Judge issues and ideas in the field of research and/or practice independently and communicate and justify that judgement to appropriate audiences
B3   Systemic understanding of suitable research methodologies as a support to both your artistic practice and academic research
B4   Critical and analytical commentary on compositions, in both oral and written contexts

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, A5, B2, B3, B4, C1, C2, C3, C4

PgDip Intended Learning Outcomes
Not attainable with this programme

Programme content
This programme comprises the following modules

Key:
Core = C
Compulsory = R (ie 'required')
Optional = O

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Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	PM7001	Research Methodologies & Context	30	C	
7	PM7020	Professional Practice	30	C	
7	PM7060	Research Project	120	C	

PGCert COMPOSITION				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	PM7001	Research Methodologies & Context	30	C	
7	PM7020	Professional Practice	30	C	

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 will be 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 aimed at professional performance contexts throughout the MRes. 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 equips 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 will also work with visiting professional musicians who rehearse and perform their compositions. This develops 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	● 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 and research skills when working with other creative practitioners and arts organisations.
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	● Understanding current research, 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	● Producing individual research and creative outputs that demonstrate independent thinking.
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	● 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	● 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, including online.
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	● Developing independent research and 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	● Understanding current issues in music research and 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	● 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

Programme-level modifications

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

TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 3

PM7060 - RESEARCH PROJECT

CORE

120 CREDITS

PM7001 - RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES AND CONTEXT

CORE   30 CREDITS

PM7020 - PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

CORE   30 CREDITS

FULL-TIME PROGRAMME MAP – MRes COMPOSITION

YEAR 1

TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 3

PM7060 - RESEARCH PROJECT

CORE   120 CREDITS

PM7001 – RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES AND CONTEXT

CORE   30 CREDITS

PM7020 - PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

CORE   30 CREDITS

YEAR 2

TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 3

PM7060 - RESEARCH PROJECT

CORE   120 CREDITS

PART-TIME PROGRAMME MAP – MRes COMPOSITION

Map of Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) against modules

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Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O)	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	PM7020	Professional Practice	C	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
7	PM7060	Research Project	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

Map of summative assessment tasks by module

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Most word counts below are indicative, they often combine practical and written elements. There are no examinations in any Music and 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	PM7020	Professional Practice	C				7,500 words						
7	PM7060	Research Project	C		30,000 words								