

MASTERS OF STUDIES IN MUSIC COURSE OVERVIEW

The **Master of Studies in Music** is a one-year taught course that offers an introduction to a broad range of current methodologies and approaches in music scholarship through a programme of seminars. Students specialise in musicology, composition or performance.

Teaching consists of Core Seminars, Elective Seminars and Presentation Seminars. All students are expected to participate in at least two Core and Elective seminars and take part in the Presentation Seminars. The seminars will involve a mixture of material presented by the seminar leaders, short presentations by students taking the seminar, and whole group discussions; and will feature target reading that must be regarded as required reading for each session. The Presentation Seminars are held in Trinity term. Each student will prepare a presentation on their own research and will be asked to respond to another student's presentation; further feedback on presentation skills is provided by the seminar convenor. Attendance at this seminar is a compulsory requirement. The main Masters teaching and coursework occupies the first two terms; the third term is reserved for completion and preparation of final submissions.

SEMINAR TOPICS

Core Seminars:

- Aesthetics
- Historical Musicology
- Epistemologies of Music Theory and Analysis
- The Social and Cultural Study of Music

Elective Seminars:

- Music and Race
- Pitch, Amplitude, Timbre
- London in 1832
- Music and Non-Religion
- Distributed Creativity in Composition and Performance
- Gender and Sexuality in Popular Music Studies
- Music and Islamic Culture
- Brazilian Music
- Beethoven between History and Myth
- Trouvères

There are additional specialist seminars for Composition and Performance students.

MSt IN MUSICOLOGY

Teaching for the MSt in Musicology consists of:

- Core Seminars
- Elective Seminars
- Presentation Seminars
- Individual supervision for the Dissertation
- Research Colloquium series

Assessment for the MSt in Musicology

FORMATIVE ASSIGNMENT

This assignment provides an opportunity early on in the course for students to produce a piece of writing, and receive feedback, but which receives no marks.

SUMMATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

- 1a** (25%) **an essay of 6,000 words** (or equivalent, including notation, visual documentation, or analytical diagrams) in response to one of the Core seminars you have attended in the Michaelmas Term.
- 1b** (25%) **an essay of 6,000 words**, in response to an elective seminar.
- 1c** (10%) **an annotated bibliography** of not more than 4,000 words, explicitly related to the dissertation topic.
- 2** (40%) **a dissertation** of not more than 13,000 words in musicology or ethnomusicology, or an editorial exercise (edition).

MSt IN PERFORMANCE

Teaching for the MSt in Performance consists of:

- Core Seminars
- Elective Seminars
- Presentation Seminars
- Performance workshops
- Individual Performance Tuition

- Research Colloquium series

Assessment for MSt in Performance

FORMATIVE ASSIGNMENT

This assignment provides an opportunity early on in the course for students to produce a piece of writing, and receive feedback, but which receives no marks.

SUMMATIVE ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1a** (20%) a 30 minute **lecture-recital** (10 minutes speaking, 20 minutes performance) that explores a research topic related to the repertoire performed, such as historically-informed performance, a new edition, a particular style or genre, or a particular performance attitude.
- 1b** (20%) **an essay of 6,000 words**, in response to an elective seminar.
- 1c** (20%) **an essay of 6,000 words**, on a topic of the candidate's choice (normally performance related).
- 2** (40%) **A recital of not more than forty-five minutes' duration**, vocal or instrumental. The recital should be accompanied by **programme notes of 1200 words**. The programme notes can frame the performance and inflect how the examiners and the audience respond to it, but will not be separately marked.

MSt IN COMPOSITION

Teaching for the MSt in Composition consists of:

- Composition Seminar
- Core Seminars
- Elective Seminars
- Presentation Seminars
- Research Colloquium series
- Composition Workshops
- Individual supervision for the composition portfolio

Assessment for Composition

FORMATIVE ASSIGNMENT

This assignment provides an opportunity early on in the course for students to produce a piece of

writing, and receive feedback, but which receives no marks.

SUMMATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

- 1a** (20%) **a composition** of not more than 8 minutes duration in response to techniques presented in composition seminars.
- 1b** (20%) **an essay of 6,000 words**, in response to an elective seminar.
- 1c** (20%) **EITHER an essay of 6,000 words** on a topic of the candidate's choice, **OR an 8 minute composition** in response to composition seminars.
- 2** (40%) **a portfolio of compositions**, of not more than twenty-five minutes duration in total.

SUPERVISION

Each MSt candidate is assigned a supervisor by the Convenor at the start of the academic year. Their supervisor's role is to advise about choice of subjects and any problems relating to academic work; to help arrange for special tutorials (instrumental tuition, language skills) and to oversee/direct the student's work on particular topics as necessary. Students should expect to have two or three supervisions per term. You should agree the scheduling of those meetings individually, and it may on occasion be the case that meetings are virtual (by email or Skype or the equivalent) rather than in person.

Seminar leaders for Core and Elective topics may be consulted about essay subjects for Parts 1a and 1b, but will not read drafts of essays. Supervisors will normally read an essay plan and a draft for each essay. Composition students will receive academic supervision from the Elective Seminar leader(s) with whom they are studying.