

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Postgraduate Diploma in Music Performance**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2014**.

The aims of the programme are:

- to develop specific techniques, skills and knowledge relevant to the musical performance interests of individual students;
- to equip students for performance at an advanced/professional level;
- to allow for both contextualised study and distinct specialism within the field of performance.

The programme is delivered over one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or two years of part-time study (104 weeks). On successful completion of the programme a student should have an understanding of the area of the programme at a level appropriate for a postgraduate qualification.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- a critical understanding of the nature of professional musical activity at the highest national and international levels;
- familiarity with the most important and sophisticated issues, techniques and literature relevant to musical performance;
- an awareness of and ability to critically engage with new thinking in musical performance.

Skills and other attributes

Students will be invited to choose two from a range of electives that enable them to:

- discuss the broad contexts for and significance of musical performance;
- explore types of music-making that are new to them;
- handle, describe, edit or analyse sources of information (including IT sources) at a professional level;*

- relate musical sources to their social, political or economic contexts;
- analyse or evaluate critically a musical score or performance;
- communicate complex ideas, in writing, oral presentations and group discussion;*
- demonstrate skills of reflection in reading and learning, and skills in information handling and retrieval;*
- articulate knowledge and the understanding of texts, concepts and theories at an advanced level, demonstrating self-direction and originality;*
- present logical and coherent written and oral arguments of varying lengths;*
- comprehend and develop sophisticated concepts and original critical ideas;*
- demonstrate enhanced interpersonal skills, involving recognising and respecting the viewpoints, and interacting constructively with other people;*
- demonstrate enhanced time management and organisational skills including working to deadlines, prioritising tasks, organising work-time;*

In addition, the programme fosters the development of a range of personal attributes that are important in the world of work, and that strengthens our postgraduates' abilities to engage in lifelong learning and contribute to the wider community. These include personal motivation; the ability to work autonomously and with others; self-awareness and self-management; empathy and insight; intellectual integrity; awareness of responsibility as a local, national and international citizen; interest in lifelong learning; flexibility and adaptability; creativity.*

Finally, students will develop skills in managing a large-scale individual project taking the form of a recital.

* transferable skills

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Teaching, learning and assessment

The programme exploits a modular format to permit an effective combination of both general and specialised courses, giving students flexibility to create a programme suited to their own skills, interests and ambitions. Methodological, technical and practical training is provided across a broad range of sub-disciplines to support or complement work towards the largest component of the programme, the Special Study Recital. Courses are delivered and most coursework tasks submitted during terms one and two, enabling students to focus on preparation for their Special Study Recital for the remainder of the programme.

Teaching and learning contexts take a variety of forms including lectures, seminars, group visits, workshops, individual or group tutorials, and individual supervision of special study research, as well as individual instrumental or vocal tuition. Students are allocated both a supervisor and an advisor. Department-sponsored concerts, research seminars, study days and public lectures also provide important stimuli to advanced level study and learning. Learning also takes place through practice, private study, individual research, in addition to Department-sponsored (and other) musical activities and performances. Students are expected to demonstrate both initiative and commitment in terms of developing independent learning strategies.

The assessment of the elective courses is based variously on performances and coursework essays, mostly completed during terms one and two. Special Study Recitals are assessed at the end of the programme. All summative assessment is subject to double marking. Several courses include unassessed formative tasks or assignments (such as presentations). These enable students to appreciate the expected standards and acquire feedback in advance of submitting assessed assignments that will contribute towards the final award. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

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Details of the programme structure(s)

The brief outline of the programme is shown below; however students can obtain further details from the Programme Handbook. **Credits are indicated in brackets, and indicate proportional weighting towards the PGDip classification grade.**

Students work towards a Special Study Recital (worth 80 credits): MU5509 Special Study: Performance

They must also take two electives (20 credits each) from the Department of Music (one of these may be MU5500 Skills in Advanced Musical Studies, the MMus Core Course, if the student wishes).

A full list of elective courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [Department](#).

Part-time programme structure

The part-time programme lasts 104 weeks, beginning in September of year one. Part-time students normally take two electives in their first year, and work towards the Special Study Recital in their second year.

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Progression and award requirements

Progression throughout the year(s) is monitored through coursework assignments. Part-time students must pass the electives (taken in the first year) in order to progress to a second year. To pass the **Postgraduate Diploma** programme a student must achieve an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. Failure marks between 40-49% can be condoned in courses which do not constitute more than 25% of the final assessment, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50.00%.

The Postgraduate Diploma with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above, with no mark in any course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

The Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any course. In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

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Student support and guidance

Beyond the systems of teaching and learning to support academic development, students are supported and guided by various departmental and College systems and services, including the following:

- MMus Programme Director and Director of Graduate Studies oversee the running of the programme, and work in an advisory and pastoral capacity;
- The allocation of a Special Study supervisor from the academic staff of the Department, who may also work in a pastoral capacity;
- Dedicated 'office hours' when all members of academic staff are available to students without appointment, and access to members of staff at other times by appointment;
- The Department's Postgraduate Induction session for incoming students in the first week of the Autumn term, aligned with the College Induction process;
- The annual Department *Postgraduate Student Handbook*, issued to all PG students, and various College publications;
- Elected student representatives on the Department Postgraduate Committee, Composition Committee, Performance Committee and Student-Staff Committee;
- The Department Careers Liaison service, allied to the College Careers Service;
- Central College support services, including the Student Counselling Service, the Health Centre, Royal Holloway International, the Disability and Dyslexia Services, the Careers Service, the Students' Union and the Chaplaincy.

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Admission requirements

For details of admissions requirements please refer to the [Course Finder](#).

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Further learning and career opportunities

The programme provides a firm foundation for students wishing to embark upon professional work in a range of areas of the music profession. These include the media, research, academia, teaching, performing and arts administration. For more details on further learning and career opportunities please refer to the [Careers Service](#).

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Indicators of quality and standards

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the RAE 2008 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 60% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent, outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 16th in the UK for research of 4* standard and 18th for 3* and 4* research. The Department of Music is the top Music department in the UK, further recognition of its world-leading research excellence.

The excellence of the Department's research informs its teaching, since many of the courses of the MMus programme are able to present the latest advances in those areas. The Department continually monitors and assesses the quality and standards of its activities through various systems such as students' evaluation questionnaires on courses and programmes, peer review of teaching, postgraduate student representation on Department committees, and the rigorous processes of scrutiny and annual reports by the Visiting Examiners and the Annual Review.

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List of programmes with details of awards, teaching arrangements and accreditation

The programme is taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and leads to an award of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. Programmes in Music are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The Banner programme code is given in parentheses.

Postgraduate Diploma in Music Performance

PG Diploma in Music Performance (2754)

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