

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	Master of Music
2	BCU Course Code	PT1245 (FT) PT1279 (PT)
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	N/A

6	Course Description
	<p>If you are an intending professional performer, postgraduate study at a conservatoire is an accepted part of your training. If you have another specialism – Composition, Music Technology or Experimental Performance – the conservatoire environment offers you a special context in which to develop your craft, with a multitude of opportunities to collaborate with each other, performers and musicologists.</p> <p>While it is a characteristic of conservatoire study (at any level) that the Principal Study area is at the heart of things, and that advanced skills in this specialist area are a pre-requisite for a successful career in the music profession, it is important that you are equipped with a range of additional essential attributes – especially given the likelihood that you will find yourself having a freelance, portfolio career which relies on self-motivation and good organizational skills.</p> <p>The principal aim of our Master of Music (hereafter MMus) courses is to send you out of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire with the knowledge, skills and confidence to succeed in your chosen branch(es) of the music profession, giving you a head-start in addressing the challenges involved in becoming a professional musician in the twenty-first century.</p> <p>A distinctive feature of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire’s postgraduate provision is that it will give you the opportunity to make choices within your course directly relevant to your future career aspirations, both within your Principal Study area and in your supporting studies. Alongside your work in your specialist area, you will select three options from a broad and varied menu of 20-credit ‘professional development options’, and a fourth from a list of 40-credit ‘research-based options’. We will spend a considerable amount of time at the start of your course introducing these choices, encouraging you to think about your future career plan and guiding you in your decision-making so that you complete the course well prepared to pursue your chosen career path. Our Career Development module is designed to help you make such plans.</p> <p>Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is a friendly, welcoming and highly supportive environment which enables our students get the most out of their time with us. Furthermore, we belong to Birmingham City University’s Faculty of Arts, Design and Media, which provides many opportunities for collaboration and interdisciplinary projects that can be factored into your course or undertaken as part of your wider professional development alongside your formal studies.</p>

7 Course Awards			
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Master of Music Master of Music with Professional Placement <i>The final award will indicate a specialism in one of the following, depending on the pathway chosen:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Vocal Performance 2) Instrumental Performance 3) Orchestral Performance 4) Choral Conducting 5) Orchestral Conducting 6) Composition 7) Jazz 8) Music Technology 9) Experimental Performance 10) Brass Band Conducting 	7 7	240 300
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Master of Arts Vocal Performance Master of Arts Instrumental Performance Master of Arts Orchestral Performance Master of Arts Choral Conducting Master of Arts Orchestral Conducting Master of Arts Composition Master of Arts Jazz Master of Arts Music Technology Master of Arts Experimental Performance Master of Arts Brass Band Conducting	7	180
	Postgraduate Diploma Vocal Performance Postgraduate Diploma Instrumental Performance Postgraduate Diploma Orchestral Performance Postgraduate Diploma Choral Conducting Postgraduate Diploma Orchestral Conducting Postgraduate Diploma Composition Postgraduate Diploma Jazz Postgraduate Diploma Music Technology Postgraduate Diploma Experimental Performance Postgraduate Diploma Brass Band Conducting	7	120
	Postgraduate Certificate Vocal Performance Postgraduate Certificate Instrumental Performance Postgraduate Certificate Orchestral Performance Postgraduate Certificate Choral Conducting Postgraduate Certificate Orchestral Conducting Postgraduate Certificate Composition Postgraduate Certificate Jazz Postgraduate Certificate Music Technology Postgraduate Certificate Experimental Performance Postgraduate Certificate Brass Band Conducting <i>N.B. The titles of the above PgCert exit awards are predicated on the successful completion of a Principal Study module.</i>	7	60
	Postgraduate Certificate Music <i>N.B. The above award is achieved if a total of 60 credits has been passed, but these credits do not include a Principal Study module.</i>	7	60

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compensation of marginal failure is not permitted on Principal Study modules 2. Condonement of failed modules is not permitted for Principal Study modules 3. Compensation of marginal failure is not permitted for 'The Emerging Researcher' suite of 40 credit option modules 4. Condonement of failed modules for 'The Emerging Researcher' suite of 40 credit option modules is not permitted 5. Compensation of marginal failure is not permitted for the 'Reflective Practitioner' suite of modules 6. Condonement of failed modules is not permitted for the 'Reflective Practitioner' suite of modules 7. For Principal Study modules with more than one item of assessment, all items of assessment must be passed in order to pass the module 8. For modules with more than one item of assessment, resits that are allocated a grade are capped at the item level 9. The final calculation for MMus awards is based on a weighted average of the best 180 credits out of a total of 240 credits required for the award

9	Delivery Patterns		
Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
Full Time	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire	2 years	PT1245
Part Time	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire	3 years	PT1279
Full Time with Professional Placement	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (and placement provider)	4 years	

10	Entry Requirements
	<p>The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/.</p>

11 Course Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
1	You will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced and current knowledge base in relation to all aspects of your Principal Study area.
2	You will be able to show a significantly expanded portfolio of professional skills and knowledge that is complementary to your Principal Study area.
3	You will be able to show an increased understanding of the context in which the 21st-century professional musician operates, and an awareness of where you fit within this context.
Cognitive and Intellectual Skills	
4	You will be able to employ self-directed research in relation to your Principal Study work and to use your findings to underpin your decision-making in that context.
5	You will be able to engage intellectually in areas complementary to your Principal Study area, deploying appropriate investigative techniques and/or practical skills, and employing critical thinking.
6	You will be able to situate your own practice as an informed musician within a broader context through critical engagement with relevant scholarship and/or theory.
7	You will be able to critically evaluate your own practice and that of others, and apply that judgement to your own learning.
Practical and Professional Skills	
8	You will be able to practise your Principal Study specialism with technical assurance and artistic independence, aspiring to professional levels of presentation.
9	You will be able to initiate, manage and complete projects independently and/or collaboratively.
10	You will be able to communicate ideas and/or arguments clearly, accurately and effectively in a medium appropriate to the context and/or audience.
11	You will be able to demonstrate a professional attitude to all aspects of your work, including a willingness to engage in ongoing personal and professional development.
Key Transferable Skills	
12	You will be able to employ a well-developed sense of autonomy and self-reliance.
13	You will be able to demonstrate effective organizational skills, including self-organization.
14	You will be able to demonstrate skills of reflection and self-reflection.
15	You will be able to employ problem-solving and decision-making skills.

12	Course Requirements																																																																																				
12a	<p><u>Master of Music (240 Credits)</u></p> <p>Level 7:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete THREE CORE modules (totalling 140 credits):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Career Development module (20 credits), and</i> • <i>Both Principal Study 1 and 2 modules (each 60 credits, chosen according to the specialism – see below).</i> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MUS7119</td> <td>Career Development</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Students must complete one of the Principal Study modules below:*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7120</td> <td>Principal Study 1: Instrumental and Vocal Performance</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7121</td> <td>Principal Study 1: Percussion</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7170</td> <td>Principal Study 1: Global Traditional Music Performance</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7122</td> <td>Principal Study 1: Orchestral Performance</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7123</td> <td>Principal Study 1: Choral Conducting</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7124</td> <td>Principal Study 1: Orchestral Conducting</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7125</td> <td>Principal Study 1: Brass Band Conducting</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7126</td> <td>Principal Study 1: Jazz Performance</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7127</td> <td>Principal Study 1: Jazz Instigator</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7128</td> <td>Principal Study 1: Composition</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7129</td> <td>Principal Study 1: Music Technology</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7130</td> <td>Principal Study 1: Experimental Performance</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Students must complete one of the Principal Study modules below:*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7131</td> <td>Principal Study 2: Instrumental and Vocal Performance</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7132</td> <td>Principal Study 2: Percussion</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7171</td> <td>Principal Study 2: Global Traditional Music Performance</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7133</td> <td>Principal Study 2: Orchestral Performance</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7134</td> <td>Principal Study 2: Choral Conducting</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7135</td> <td>Principal Study 2: Orchestral Conducting</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7136</td> <td>Principal Study 2: Brass Band Conducting</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7137</td> <td>Principal Study 2: Jazz Performance</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7138</td> <td>Principal Study 2: Jazz Instigator</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7139</td> <td>Principal Study 2: Composition</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7140</td> <td>Principal Study 2: Music Technology</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUS7141</td> <td>Principal Study 2: Experimental Performance</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>*Principal Study areas chosen will be dependent upon the specialist pathway chosen by the student. Refer to section 7b: “Exit Awards and Credits Awarded” for full corresponding list.</i></p>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MUS7119	Career Development	20	Students must complete one of the Principal Study modules below:*			MUS7120	Principal Study 1: Instrumental and Vocal Performance	60	MUS7121	Principal Study 1: Percussion	60	MUS7170	Principal Study 1: Global Traditional Music Performance	60	MUS7122	Principal Study 1: Orchestral Performance	60	MUS7123	Principal Study 1: Choral Conducting	60	MUS7124	Principal Study 1: Orchestral Conducting	60	MUS7125	Principal Study 1: Brass Band Conducting	60	MUS7126	Principal Study 1: Jazz Performance	60	MUS7127	Principal Study 1: Jazz Instigator	60	MUS7128	Principal Study 1: Composition	60	MUS7129	Principal Study 1: Music Technology	60	MUS7130	Principal Study 1: Experimental Performance	60	Students must complete one of the Principal Study modules below:*			MUS7131	Principal Study 2: Instrumental and Vocal Performance	60	MUS7132	Principal Study 2: Percussion	60	MUS7171	Principal Study 2: Global Traditional Music Performance	60	MUS7133	Principal Study 2: Orchestral Performance	60	MUS7134	Principal Study 2: Choral Conducting	60	MUS7135	Principal Study 2: Orchestral Conducting	60	MUS7136	Principal Study 2: Brass Band Conducting	60	MUS7137	Principal Study 2: Jazz Performance	60	MUS7138	Principal Study 2: Jazz Instigator	60	MUS7139	Principal Study 2: Composition	60	MUS7140	Principal Study 2: Music Technology	60	MUS7141	Principal Study 2: Experimental Performance	60
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In order to complete this course, a student must successfully complete at least 100 credits from the following indicative list* of OPTIONAL modules:

- ***THREE Professional Development modules (20 credits each), and***
- ***ONE MMus optional module (40 credits)***

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
Professional Development Modules – Students must complete THREE		
Conservatoire Based Modules		
MUS7142	Concepts in Musicology	20
MUS7143	Contemporary Music Concepts and Practice	20
MUS7144	Creative Interactive Music Technology Performance	20
MUS7145	Critical Editing Techniques	20
MUS7146	Documentation	20
MUS7147	Experimental Performance in Context(s)	20
MUS7148	Historical Instrument Performance	20
MUS7149	Historical Performance Practice	20
MUS7150	Independent Scholarship in Music	20
MUS7151	Music and Ideas	20
MUS7152	Music Technology Contexts	20
MUS7153	Orchestration	20
MUS7154	Performing and Producing in the Studio	20
MUS7155	Professional Music Criticism	20
MUS7156	Self-Promotion Project	20
MUS7157	Teaching Matters: Principles and Practice	20
ADM7001	Work Placement	20
MUS7158	Writing Music for Media	20
MUS7163	Conference Paper	20
MUS7168	Preparation for Research	20
MUS6095	Music, Community and Wellbeing (BMus module)	20
School of Art Based Modules		
ART7899	Art and Ecologies	20
ART7877	Contemporary Philosophy and Aesthetics	20
ART7880	Discourses in Art and Design	20
ART7881	Models and Methods of Curatorial Practice	20
ART7900	Queer Strategies in Practice	20
ART7883	Small Arts Business Set Up	20
ART7901	Social Practice in the Visual Arts	20
School of Media Based Modules		
MED7339	Live Events and Festival Management	20
MED7325	Social Media as Culture and Practice	20
Students must complete ONE of the following 40-credit MMus optional modules		
The Emerging Researcher:		

MUS7159	Research Project	40
MUS7160	Critical Edition	40
MUS7161	Lecture-Recital	40
MUS7162	The Reflective Practitioner There are two pathways through this module: 1. Professional Placement 2. Creative Interdisciplinary Artist	40

** Please note that the above list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.*

Level 6:

In order to qualify for the award of MMus with Professional Placement, a student must successfully complete all of the Level 7 modules listed above as well as the following Level 6 module:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PLA6003	Professional Placement	60

12b Structure Diagram
Year 1

Semester 1	Semester 2
Principal Study 1 (60 credits) [CORE] [Specific module will be determined by the pathway]	
Career Development (20 credits) [CORE]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	

Year 2

Semester 1	Semester 2
Principal Study 2 (60 credits) [CORE] [Specific module will be determined by the pathway]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	
MMus Option (40 credits) [CORE-OPTION]	

Year 3

Semester 1	Semester 2
Professional Placement (60 credits)	

There is some room for negotiation in how the course unfolds for a part-time MMus student over three years. While Principal Study activities will be ongoing from the start of the course, we would expect the Principal Study 1 module to be taken in the second year, and Principal Study 2 in the third. The Career Development module should normally be taken in the first year.

The following two examples provide a guide:

Example 1

Part-Time MMus Year 1, 60 credits

Semester 1	Semester 2
Career Development (20 credits) [CORE]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	

Part-Time MMus Year 2, 100 credits

Semester 1	Semester 2
Principal Study 1 (60 credits) [CORE] [Specific module will be determined by the pathway]	
MMus Option (40 credits) [OPTION]	

Part-Time MMus Year 3, 80 credits

Semester 1	Semester 2
Principal Study 2 (60 credits) [CORE] [Specific module will be determined by the pathway]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	

Example 2

Part-Time MMus Year 1, 60 credits

Semester 1	Semester 2
Career Development (20 credits) [CORE]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	

Part-Time MMus Year 2, 80 credits

Semester 1	Semester 2
Principal Study 1 (60 credits) [CORE] [Specific module will be determined by the pathway]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	

Part-Time MMus Year 3, 100 credits

Semester 1	Semester 2
Principal Study 2 (60 credits) [CORE] [Specific module will be determined by the pathway]	
MMus Option (40 credits) [OPTION]	

In the case of the 12-month route (with credit for advanced standing), a student will take all the modules except the one(s) for which credit for prior learning or experience (RPL) has been granted. There will be some negotiation of the standard assessment dates so that the workload is spread manageably across the period of study.

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	480
Directed Learning	480
Private Study	1440
Total Hours	2400

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Practical Examination OR Equivalent Principal Study Assessment	50%
Coursework [which may involve practical examination / in-person assessment]	50%