

Course Specification

| Course Summary Information | | |
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| 1 | Course Title | Postgraduate Diploma Music |
| 2 | BCU Course Code | PT1246 |
| 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>The principal aim of our Postgraduate Diploma in Music course is to enable a period of focus on your Principal Study, so that you can graduate as a more assured practitioner, and to supplement that advanced training with knowledge and skills in complementary areas relevant to your professional development.</p> <p>You will thus graduate better prepared to address the challenges involved in becoming a professional musician in the twenty-first century, whether you enter the profession straight away, or after a further period of study.</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. All routes include a core Career Development module designed to get you thinking about your future professional plans, and a broad menu of optional Professional Development modules designed to help you work towards achieving your personal career aspirations.</p> <p>You will have the opportunity to study in one of several Principal Study areas, all of which also offer the option to study at MMus level.</p> <p>Instrumental Performance (MMus, PgDip, PgCert) This specialism prepares you for a solo, chamber or orchestral career. It is available to students pursuing orchestral instruments, keyboard instruments and other solo instruments such as recorder, guitar, and saxophone, with a route also offered for bowed string and guitar ensembles. We also welcome instrumentalists and singers who are developing fusions of folk music with other genres, students wishing to focus on songwriting, and woodwind players who do not wish to follow the traditional orchestral route but would prefer to pursue a career as a multi-instrumentalist in musical theatre.</p> <p>Vocal Performance (MMus, PgDip, PgCert) This route offers advanced-level training in singing. You're encouraged and enabled to increase your experience as a performer and to broaden your repertoire, though you can also take the opportunity to specialise if you wish. You'll enjoy regular opportunities to sing in a variety of contexts, both as a soloist and in ensembles with other performers.</p> |

Orchestral Performance (Strings) (MMus, PgDip)

Developed in partnership with the [City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra](#) (CBSO), this route is for advanced level string players considering professional orchestral auditions and on the brink of a professional career. You will spend a significant amount of rehearsal time in the CBSO alongside one or more dedicated host players who will act as mentors. You may also be offered opportunities to play at the back of the section to gain further experience. In addition to developing your technical facility, musicianship, interpretative skills, and stylistic awareness, you will expand your knowledge of orchestral repertoire, learn how to prepare for rehearsal in the most efficient way, develop strategies which will help you to integrate within your section, and build confidence in preparing for orchestral auditions.

Conducting (MMus, PgDip)

We offer the following:

- Brass Band Conducting
- Choral Conducting
- Orchestral Conducting

All our conducting pathways offer the technical training, collaborative opportunities, and podium time necessary to help you prepare for a career as a professional conductor. You will spend considerable time developing your directing techniques in rehearsals and will also have opportunities to demonstrate your skills in performance. In addition to attending and participating in scheduled ensemble activities, you will be encouraged to explore other opportunities to engage as conductor or observer. Students across all three pathways will also attend classes/workshops of their peers studying other conducting specialisms.

Jazz (MMus, PgDip, PgCert)

Designed for recent graduates and suitably qualified mature students, these programmes provide high quality advanced-level tuition, enabling you to specialise either as a Jazz performer or instigator. You will benefit from regular individual specialist tuition from professional jazz musicians active on today's scene. There will be an emphasis on the art of improvisation as well as regular opportunities to rehearse and perform with small and large jazz ensembles.

Experimental Performance (MMus, PgDip, PgCert)

Designed for emerging arts practitioners, this route provides you with a unique opportunity to undertake independent artistic projects in a fully supportive environment. Practitioners from a variety of disciplines (including, but not limited to, instrumental/vocal performance, composition, dance, choreography, theatre, visual and performance art, and creative writing) come together with likeminded people. The core of your study will be formed by your own artistic ideas, which are developed, through research and dialogue, into professional practical projects.

Composition (MMus, PgDip, PgCert)

Our composition route actively celebrates the diversity of today's musical genres, and fosters artists who challenge, innovate, and transform notions of artistic practice today. You'll spend most of your time writing music for professional and student ensembles, whether you choose to respond to our set briefs or work on your own projects. You'll be encouraged to express yourself in multiple musical and artistic genres. By studying composition within a thriving conservatoire setting, you'll have excellent opportunities to collaborate with performers and to have your works performed.

Music Technology (MMus, PgDip, PgCert)

This pathway offers an exciting opportunity for composers and composer-performers to experiment with and develop expertise in the creative application of established and new music technologies.

You will be based in our £57-million Conservatoire building, which features our Concert Hall, 150-seat Recital Hall, more than 70 practice rooms, ensemble rooms and workshops, seven recording studios, editing, and mastering suites, and our black-box performance space known as The Lab. All our spaces are acoustically designed to provide a world-class music-making environment.

We also benefit from being part of Birmingham City University's Faculty of Arts, Design and Media, which provides many opportunities for collaboration and interdisciplinary projects.

What's covered in this course?

- Regular individual tuition in your Principal Study area from leading UK and internationally renowned performers, practitioners, teachers, and researchers.
- Bespoke support classes in musicianship and repertoire.
- The opportunity to participate in a wide variety of creative projects, including interdisciplinary collaborations
- Frequent opportunities to perform, both within Departmental activities and in concerts.
- Access to forums, seminars and masterclasses with distinguished visiting artists, composers, and performers
- Access to the Conservatoire's broad range of ensemble activities, including chamber music, operatic productions, Brass Band, Wind Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, 'Repertoire' and 'Pops' Orchestras, Thallein (Contemporary Music) Ensemble, and the Folk Ensemble.
- The opportunity to tailor your course to your individual needs through wide-ranging Professional Development modules.
- A chance to network with leading professionals from around the world.

| 7 Course Awards | | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------|------------------------|
| 7a | Name of Final Award | Level | Credits Awarded |
| | Postgraduate Diploma Vocal Performance Postgraduate Diploma Instrumental Performance Postgraduate Diploma Orchestral Performance Postgraduate Diploma Choral Conducting Postgraduate Diploma Orchestral Conducting Postgraduate Diploma Jazz Postgraduate Diploma Composition Postgraduate Diploma Music Technology Postgraduate Diploma Experimental Performance Postgraduate Diploma Brass Band Conducting | 7 | 120 |
| 7b | Exit Awards and Credits Awarded | | |
| | Postgraduate Certificate Vocal Performance Postgraduate Certificate Instrumental Performance Postgraduate Certificate Jazz Postgraduate Certificate Composition Postgraduate Certificate Music Technology Postgraduate Certificate Experimental Performance <i>N.B. The above awards are predicated on the successful completion of a Principal Study module.</i> Postgraduate Certificate Music <i>N.B. The above award is achieved if a total of 60 credits has been achieved, but these credits do not include a Principal Study module.</i> | 7 | 60 |

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| 8 | Derogation from the University Regulations |
| | 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. For Principal Study modules with more than one item of assessment, all items of assessment must be passed in order to pass the module. |

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| 9 | Delivery Patterns | | | |
| | Mode(s) of Study | Location(s) of Study | Duration of Study | Code(s) |
| | Full Time | Royal Birmingham Conservatoire | 1 year | PT1246 |
| | Part Time | Royal Birmingham Conservatoire | 2 years | PT1247 |

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

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| 11 | Course Learning Outcomes |
| Knowledge and Understanding | |
| 1 | You will be able to demonstrate an enhanced and current knowledge base in relation to all aspects of your Principal Study area. |
| 2 | You will be able to show an enhanced portfolio of professional skills and knowledge that is complementary to your Principal Study area. |
| Cognitive and Intellectual Skills | |
| 3 | You will be able to employ self-directed research to broaden your contextual awareness in relation to your Principal Study work, and to use this to inform your decision-making in that context. |
| 4 | 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. |
| 5 | 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 | |
| 6 | You will be able to practise your Principal Study specialism with assurance. |
| 7 | You will be able to initiate, manage and complete projects independently and/or collaboratively. |
| 8 | 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 | |
| 9 | You will be able to employ a well-developed sense of autonomy and self-reliance. |
| 10 | You will be able to demonstrate effective organizational skills, including self-organization. |
| 11 | You will be able to demonstrate skills of reflection and self-reflection. |
| 12 | You will be able to employ problem-solving and decision-making skills. |

| 12 | Course Requirements | |
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| Level 7: <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete one of the following CORE modules (totalling 60 credits):</i> | | |
| Module Code | Module Name | Credit Value |
| Students must complete one of the Principal Study modules below:* | | |
| MUS7120 | Principal Study 1: Instrumental & 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 |
| <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> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 20 credits):</i></p> | | |
| Module Code | Module Name | Credit Value |
| MUS7119 | Career Development | 20 |
| <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.</i></p> | | |
| Module Code | Module Name | Credit Value |
| 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 |

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| 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 (Conservatoire Based (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 |

** Please note that the above list of optional modules is indicative only, as modules will normally only run if selected by 15 or more students. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.*

12b Structure Diagram

Please note 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.

Full-time 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] | |

There is some room for negotiation in how the course unfolds for a part-time PgDip student over two years. The following example provides a guide:

Part-time Year 1

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

Part-time Year 2

| Semester 1 | Semester 2 |
|--|------------|
| Principal Study 1 (60 credits) [CORE] | |

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. The Career Development module should normally be taken in the first year.

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 | 284 |
| Directed Learning | 676 |
| Private Study | 240 |
| Total Hours | 1200 |

Balance of Assessment

| Assessment Mode | Percentage |
|-----------------|------------|
| Coursework | 50% |
| Exam | |
| In-Person | 50% |