

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
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>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 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>Not everyone wishes, or is able, to embark on the significant commitment that a Masters course requires. The principal aims of our Postgraduate Diploma (hereafter PgDip) courses – available in all of our specialist areas – are 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. 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>The nature of your Principal Study work will be such that you can mould it, with expert help, to suit you, your needs, interests and ambitions. The remainder of your course is made up of a Career Development module, and two ‘Professional Development Option’ modules, these last chosen from a broad and varied menu. We will spend a considerable amount of time at the start of your course introducing these choices in the context of your professional development, encouraging you to think about your future, and guiding you in your decision-making so that you complete the course well prepared to pursue your chosen career path. Allowing our students to make choices in line with their individual professional aspirations is the rationale that underpins all our postgraduate provision at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.</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
	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 Orchestral Performance Postgraduate Certificate Choral Conducting Postgraduate Certificate Orchestral Conducting Postgraduate Certificate Jazz Postgraduate Certificate Composition Postgraduate Certificate Music Technology Postgraduate Certificate Experimental Performance Postgraduate Certificate Brass Band Conducting <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

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.

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

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

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
Level 7:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete one of the following CORE modules (totalling 60 credits):

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
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

****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.***

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 20 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
MUS7119	Career Development	20

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

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
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%