

Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) & MMus Composition

Apply Through: UCAS Conservatoires
 Institution Code: R59
 Application Fee: £24
 Audition Fee: £63

Applications Open for Entry 2019: 18 July 2018
 Applications Close for Entry 2019: 1 October 2018

This course overview provides a summary of the programmes offered from September 2018. Please note this may be subject to amendment and change in future years. Students are always consulted on such change and details are made available to applicants holding offers. For students to progress from year one to year two on a two year postgraduate course, students will *normally* have to pass all first year modules.

	Postgraduate Diploma	MMus
Core Modules	Composition 1	Composition 1
	Composition 2	Composition 2
	The Professional Musician	The Professional Musician
		Advanced Performance Analysis
		Research Project Or Reflecting on Performance
Optional Modules (select one from the list)	Advanced Teaching Skills	Advanced Teaching Skills
	Advanced Outreach Skills	Advanced Outreach Skills
	Advanced Sound Recording	Advanced Sound Recording
	Career Management	Career Management
	Creative Project	Creative Project
	Individual Project	Individual Project
	Orchestral Audition	Orchestral Audition
	Portfolio of Arrangements	Presenting at Conference
	Vocational Project	Portfolio of Arrangements Vocational Project

Composition 1
Core Module for PGDip & MMus
Credits: 40
Assessment: Portfolio (60%), Analytical Journal (40%)

Composition 2
Core Module for PGDip & MMus
Credits: 40
Assessment: Portfolio (80%) Viva Voce (20%)

These two modules will provide a framework within which each student may develop innovative creative work (both independently and in collaboration) across a wide variety of contexts. This work will be based on a broad knowledge of compositional techniques, current aesthetics and professional approaches, and a future-facing creative outlook which will equip each student with an aptitude to tackle developments and challenges as they arise. The creative ambition of the module is to produce new, stimulating public work to a standard of excellence which aspires to high-level professional achievement.

The Professional Musician
Core Module for PGDip & MMus
Credits: 20
Assessment: Portfolio of career development work (50%); Presentation (50%)

This module is concerned with issues relating to the establishment, maintenance and development of careers in music, creating a rounded, well-informed professional. The Portfolio element focuses on developing effective reflective techniques for career development. To support this, communication and networking as a professional musician and entrepreneur are explored through seminars covering issues of self-promotion. Elements of promotional material are discussed, including appropriate use of technology and media. Other classes are concerned with developing an advanced understanding of the breadth and depth of approach required to present oneself (and projects) within a professional environment and the need to embrace changing trends in the music business. In terms of sustaining a career, matters relating to health and wellbeing for musicians are explored, including topics such as injury prevention, hearing protection and resilience.

This module also seeks to develop informed performers; it thus involves a study of a wide range of western performance practices looked at from both practical and aesthetic standpoints. Lectures and presentations on a variety of informed practice issues ranging from early music to contemporary and electronic performance will introduce key concepts. Topics covered might include the changing role of music and musicians, the relationship between repertoire, instrumentation, ensemble size and venue, the evaluation of primary sources and performing editions, notation, ornamentation, articulation, and an assessment of the impact of recording on how we perform different repertoire. This element is assessed through a 15-minute presentation early in Term 2.

The Professional Musician (Composition): as above for the Portfolio. For the Presentation element, students will engage in a series of seminars discussing Repertoire and Aesthetics, and give a presentation outlining their own approach to a range of issues addressed through the classes.

Advanced Performance Analysis
Core Module for MMus
Credits: 20
Assessment: Essay and accompanying notated scores (100%)

This course takes the literature on Analysis and Performance as a starting point for considering the potential relationships between these two activities. Traditional analytical techniques will be looked at and consideration given as to the ways in which these may be employed within a performance framework. Attention will be focussed on investigating ways to analyse parameters of music that are of particular significance to the performer, for example texture and technique.

Reflecting on Performance

Core Module for MMus

Credits: 40

Assessment: Portfolio of Reviews (50%) and either a Lecture Recital (50%) or Pre-Performance Talk (50%)

Communication as a musician requires the use of high level and instantaneous critical skills. This module serves to develop a broad range of advanced reflective, critical and communication skills, both in terms of performances encountered by each student and one of their own performances. These skills are assessed through a portfolio of reviews. Advanced critical and research skills relating to a key aspect of performance will be explored and presented through a lecture recital or a pre-performance talk, scheduled before one of the College's public concerts. Once an option and topic have been chosen, through discussion with the PG Course Leader, an appropriate supervisor is appointed to work with the student on an individual basis.

Research Project

Core Module for MMus

Credits: 40

Assessment: This module is assessed through one component

- Dissertation (100%)
- Recorded radio programme of 30-minutes duration (100%)
- Scholarly edition of a substantial work prepared and edited by the student, with full critical commentary (100%)
- Fully documented portfolio of creative work relating to a specialist, research-based project (100%)

This module will guide and support the planning, preparation, production and presentation of research related to an area of special musical interest to the student. Initial workshops in advanced research methodology will be followed by individual tutorials and group seminars. Following submission of a 300-word abstract, topics must be discussed with and approved by the PG Course Leader; individual tutors will then be assigned and a schedule of supervisions established. Students will be required to present reports on their progress within designated postgraduate research seminars.

Advanced Teaching Skills

Optional Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Viva Voce (60%) and either an Essay (40%) or Substantial Online Teaching Resource (40%)

The module is concerned with the teaching of instruments, voices and/or composition. Throughout, students will be encouraged to view teaching as an activity demanding utmost concentration, skill and attention, and to regard students as individuals; acknowledging and nurturing them as people with unique and individual needs. Areas covered will include: a survey of the principal schools of pedagogy, developing criteria for the selection of teaching materials, covering technical and musical needs, a strategy encompassing the organisation and structure of lessons and practice sessions, and the development of advanced verbal and non-verbal communication skills.

Advanced Outreach Skills

Optional Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Practical Assessment (60%) and Portfolio of Written Work (40%)

This module is for students who already have practical experience of outreach projects. It aims to provide a framework within which students devise and complete an outreach project, enabling them to develop advanced skills in music leadership, the mentoring of creativity and self-reflective practice. It will embed advanced understanding of how their individual experience of outreach relates to the wider sector, keeping up to date with current research and trends. Issues of safeguarding, participation, inclusivity, autonomy and team-working will be considered through a series of seminars. Students will be expected to identify and negotiate with their chosen host organisation, eventually delivering a sustained project (5 visits), allowing for reflection and development throughout the process. Practical skills are assessed through a video submission, recorded during the final participatory activity of the project. The Portfolio will contain material relating to the workshops delivered, a mapping of change across the project and an evaluation of practice.

Advanced Sound Recording

Optional Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Portfolio of Recordings (60%) and Written Submission (40%)

This module is for students who already have experience of using sound recording equipment and relevant software. It aims to further students' critical understanding and appreciation of creative decisions required in sound and music recording practice, examining their own work and that of other practitioners. A series of seminars and classes will address a range of issues including: the use of DAWs and how they have affected the recording process; the aesthetics of plug-ins; multitrack vs. stereo recording; location recording practice; and approaches to "classical" and "popular" recording. Students will be required to submit a portfolio containing a selection of recordings undertaken in a variety of situations, as agreed with the module leader, who will provide individual supervision across the project. The written submission focusses on the individual's technical and aesthetic stance, evaluation and detailing decisions made during the recording, mixing and mastering process.

Career Management

Optional Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Portfolio (100%)

This module builds on work undertaken during The Professional Musician, exploring the potential of working as a self-employed artist, identifying and developing a range of resources needed to work as a freelance professional. The module also provides with an awareness and understanding of political and economic issues that impact on arts organisations, as well as developing an understanding of the context in which arts organisations operate. Delivered through a series of classes, students enhance their reflective practice, employing a range of industry-relevant techniques to create a portfolio of tailored promotional materials, including a marketing strategy relating to themselves as performers.

Creative Project

Optional Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Practical Assessment (60%) and Portfolio (40%)

This project aims to provide a framework within which students may devise and complete an independent performance project, taking responsibility for planning, organisation and delivery in line with professional expectations. Following a series of information seminars, students will identify their own performance venue and work directly with the promoter to put in place all of the elements fundamental for effective delivery of an agreed event. Creative and innovative performance ideas are welcomed. Practical skills are assessed through a video recording of the performance. The Portfolio will contain material relating to the event (promotional material, evidence of social media activity, programme & programme notes, etc) and a reflective critique of the overall project.

Individual Project

Optional Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Written Submission (100%)

This module will guide and support students in the planning, preparation, production and presentation of work relating to an area of special musical interest. Whilst the subject matter may vary, each project will be characterised by a balance of elements of research, creative reflection and/or applied professional practice. Examples of the type of activity involved may range from a formal, extended essay on a musicological topic, a scholarly edition of a selected work, or a fully documented business plan for a proposed area of professional activity. Topics must be discussed with and approved by the PG Course Leader; individual tutors will then be assigned and a schedule of supervisions established.

Orchestral Audition

Optional Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Orchestral Audition (60%) and Portfolio (40%)

This module is for students involved with BBCNOW or WNO Orchestral Experience schemes (or equivalent). It enables students to gain an advanced awareness of the requirements of a professional orchestral audition, supports the development of sophisticated instrumental skills across a wide range of orchestral repertoire and creates opportunities for embedding an understanding of professional orchestral etiquette and protocols. Following successful audition for the BBCNOW or WNO Orchestral Experience schemes, students will undertake side-by-side activity in these professional orchestras, receiving mentoring and feedback from their desk partners/sectional principals. Building on these skills, through a range of teaching methods, students will prepare for a formal orchestral audition; their Portfolio will contain appropriate professional materials (covering letter & CV) as well as a written reflection on their development across this module, incorporating mentor reports.

Portfolio of Arrangements

Optional Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Portfolio of creative work, with written critique (100%)

This module provides an opportunity for self-directed study in producing a portfolio of arrangements, taking responsibility for planning and developing the work in an innovative and creative manner. It offers the opportunity for students to develop further their arranging skills and produce a portfolio of original arrangements with accompanying recordings. Typically, the portfolio will consist of ONE major work and TWO smaller pieces. Students will be guided throughout by a supervisor, and will accompany their works with a written critique evaluating their creative processes and outcomes.

Presenting at Conference

Optional Module for MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Presentation (70%), Critical Reflection (30%)

The subject matter of the paper and the intended conference/symposium or similar event will normally be established by the student in consultation with the Module Leader. A Module Supervisor will be identified who will provide tutorial support in all aspects of the preparation of the paper. Papers intended for presentation within RWCMD Research Symposia will be assessed within this context, whilst those intended for external presentation will be assessed within a RWCMD Research seminar in advance of the intended event. Staff feedback following the presentation of the paper may be used to inform the student's critical reflection on the entire process.

Vocational Project

Optional Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Presentation (100%)

Following an initial negotiation with the Module Leader, each student will be assisted in identifying an appropriate industry-based experience for this project. Students are expected to be proactive in negotiating with the provider (where appropriate) and ensuring a smooth interface between the placement schedule and other College commitments. The precise nature of the placement, its requirements and any specific learning outcomes will be established on an individual case basis in advance. Students will need to submit a 500 word summary explaining why they are undertaking this particular project before commencing. This proposal should be accompanied by an ethics statement and will be subject also to appropriate health and safety clearance, where applicable. The placement will normally take place within a single term and should be equivalent to at least 10 days of work. On completion of the placement, students prepare and deliver a presentation lasting 25-30 minutes, which should reflect on the experience, outline the training benefits gained and place the activity within the context of the student's career development.

Studying Abroad: exciting opportunities to broaden your horizon

The College participates actively in the Erasmus + framework for student and staff mobility, with partnerships with over 30 European institutions. The College believes this is an exceptional opportunity for students to develop their musical and personal skills in a new environment, allowing for focused periods of study with particular principal study teachers, and enabling students to incorporate new styles and approaches into their learning. It is possible for students to undertake an exchange of at least 3 months as part of their BMus (in Year 3 or 4) or MMus course (in Year 2), receiving full academic credit for the experience.

Despite uncertainty generated by Brexit, the College remains committed to staying part of the student and staff exchange mechanism. To support this aim, the College is a member of the Association of European Conservatoires, whose website contains useful information about the

Erasmus scheme:

<https://www.aec-music.eu/services/students/faqs/erasmus>

In order to go on an Erasmus exchange, College students need to make an application in the year before they want to go (application completed by 1st March). The application process includes submission of video recordings and an application form to the potential host institution, with which the College should already have a partnership (you can apply to up to 3 places), and it is up to that institution to decide if it is able to offer the student a place for the following academic year.

All students applying for the exchange experience must be recommended by their Head of Department, principal study teacher and Course Leader. Level of achievement and engagement with the course will be taken into account as part of the selection process. Detailed information about Erasmus can be found on the College's VLE, after registration.

The College has also recently joined the European Opera Academy, which offers a network of vocal/operatic opportunities for focused projects and period of study. These can also be supported by Erasmus student mobility grants. More information on the opportunities available in this network can be found here: <http://www.europeanopera.academy/>

The list of partner institutions is updated on a regular basis. Our current partners, for 18/19, are:

Country	City	Institution
Norway	Oslo	Norwegian Academy of Music
	Bergen	Grieg Academy
Finland	Helsinki	Sibelius Academy / University of the Arts
Denmark	Copenhagen	Royal Danish Academy of Music
Estonia	Tallinn	Estonian Academy of Music
Lithuania	Vilnius	Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre
Latvia	Riga	Latvian Academy of Music
Poland	Lodz	University of Music
	Krakow	Music Academy
Czech Republic	Brno	Janacek Academy of Music and Theatre
Hungary	Budapest	Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music
Netherlands	Utrecht	Music Department, University of the Arts
	Amsterdam	Conservatorium van Amsterdam
	Maastricht	Conservatorium Maastricht
Belgium	Brussels	Royal Flemish Conservatory
	Antwerp	Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp
Germany	Leipzig	Hochschule fur Musik und Theater "Mendelssohn-Bartholdy"
	Trossingen	Hochschule fur Musik
	Karlsruhe	Hochschule fur Musik
	Hannover	Hochschule fur Musik und Theater
	Weimar	Hochschule fur Musik
Switzerland	Zurich	Hochschule fur Musik
	Bern	Hochschule fur Musik
	Geneva	Conservatoire de Geneve
Portugal	Porto	Escola Superior de Musica e das Artes Spectaculares
Spain	Madrid	Real Conservatorio Superior de Musica de Madrid
	Barcelona	Escola Superior de Musica de Catalunya
	Barcelona	Conservatori del Liceu
	Gran Canaria / Tenerife	Conservatorio Superior de Musica de Canarias
Italy	Turin	Conservatorio "G Verdi"
	Verona	Conservatorio di Verona
	Florence	Conservatorio di Musica "Luigi Cherubini"
Austria	Graz	University of Music and Performing Arts Graz
	Vienna	University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna

Information for Incoming Erasmus students

Please note that, at present, incoming applications can only be submitted by Music students at partner institutions, not from any other discipline.

The College welcomes applications from music students of partner conservatoires (link to list) to undertake a period of study with us (mostly one term, although occasionally a complete year can be agreed). Places are granted through competitive recorded auditions, and you are required to submit the following materials via email to admissions@rwcmd.ac.uk by March 31st of the academic year before you wish to study at the College:

- Completed AEC application form including proposed Learning Agreement
- Letter/email of support from your own institution
- Video recording of 10-15 minutes of music (URL for links via YouTube or similar platform) / composition portfolio containing 3 contrasting works (scores and recording shared via Dropbox or similar file-sharing mechanism)

The College will endeavour to send you a response to your application by the middle of May. We make decisions based on our capacity to offer you a quality experience. Please note that we do not accept exchange applications on to the MA in Advanced Opera Performance (except through

the European Opera Academy network), any PG Conducting pathway or the MA in Arts Management.

The main element of your exchange is your principal study, and this will form the core part of your studies. However, depending on your specialism, you will be able to get involved in chamber music, larger ensemble work, career development seminars, academic modules, performance opportunities, etc. We work carefully with each incoming student to ensure that study and assessment needs are met. Please note that each ECTS is worth 2 UK Credits.