

**MA IN MUSIC
PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

1	Awarding Institution	University of Newcastle upon Tyne
2	Teaching Institution	University of Newcastle upon Tyne
3	Final Award	MA
4	Programme title	Music
5	Programme Accredited by:	n/a
6	UCAS Code	n/a
7	QAA Subject Benchmarking Group(s)	n/a
8	Date of production/revision	November 2004
9	Programme Aims:	
	to enable students to:	
	(a) consolidate and extend the knowledge, skills and intellectual abilities acquired in their first degree	
	(b) to cultivate the skills and attitude necessary for advanced research and independent study	
	(c) to choose from a programme of advanced modules in analysis, popular music studies, cultural theory, historical musicology and world musics, and so to build a programme of study related to their individual requirements	
	(d) to produce a substantial dissertation on a subject of their own choice	
10(a)	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes:	
	The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills in the following areas:	
	A Knowledge and understanding	
	1	Musicological discourses, including those pertaining to one of the defined pathways
	2	Professional scholarly practice in musicology
	3	Detailed mastery of specific musicological topics, especially through the writing of a dissertation
	B Subject-specific/professional skills	
	1	Critical reception, engagement with and development of appropriate modes of musicological discourse
	2	Development of relevant historiographical, hermeneutic and analytical skills

3	Research skills in musicology
C	Cognitive skills
1	Critical evaluation of arguments and evidence
2	Extrapolating theories and concepts from detailed data and, conversely, applying theories and concepts to data
D	Key (transferable) skills
1	Competence in written and oral communication, presentation and computer literacy
2	Ability to work independently, through self-management of time and learning methods
3	Critical thought

10(b) Programme Intended Learning Outcomes:	Teaching and Learning Methods and Strategies
A Knowledge and understanding	The primary forum for the development of knowledge and understanding is the seminar. Students are encouraged to pursue an intensive programme of reading and other individual investigative work, the results of which are tested and brought together in the seminars. Project and dissertation research is supervised in one-to-one tutorials.
B Subject-specific/professional skills	Subject-specific skills are taught and practised in seminars and tutorials, having been first introduced in research-training classes, and then pursued through independent student work.
C Cognitive skills	Again these are taught, facilitated and encouraged in seminars and tutorials, since they are best tested and developed through one-to-one or small-group dialogue.
D Key (transferable) skills	These are introduced in research training modules. All students are required to produce written work to high standards of presentation, to give oral presentations, and to demonstrate critical skills and good self-management; feedback on students' development in these areas is given in seminars and tutorials.

10(c) Programme Intended Learning Outcomes:	Assessment Strategy and Methods
A Knowledge and understanding	Assessed through a combination of unseen examinations, essays, research projects and a dissertation.
B Subject-specific/professional skills	As A
C Cognitive skills	As A
D Key (transferable) skills	Written communication, presentation, IT skills, critical and independent thought and time-management are all assessed through a combination of unseen examinations, essays, research projects and the dissertation. Oral communication is assessed in the research training module – but only informally thereafter.

11 Programme Curriculum, Structure, and Features:

The programme is studied over one year full-time or two years part-time, and is based on attendance for a full academic year.

The programme requires completion of modules with a total credit value of 180; modules vary in size from 10 to 60. One hundred hours of student work are assumed for each 10 credits, encompassing attendance at classes, private study and completion of assessed work.

All students begin with 20 credits of research training and end with a dissertation, preceded by a literature review (normally relating directly to the dissertation topic). Students take forty credits of taught MA modules during semesters one and two, to a least one of which is attached a 10-credit research project. The remaining credits are assigned to modules drawn from masters programmes in music and/or undergraduate programmes in music and/or other programmes offered in the University.

The structure and requirements can be tabulated as follows:

Code	Module	Credits	Comp	Core
ART800	Faculty of Arts Research Training Module	10	Y	N
MUS801	Music Research Training	10	Y	N
MUS802	Dissertation	60	Y	Y
MUS859	Literature Review	10	Y	N
MUS876	Research project	10	Y	N

60 credits from the following:

MUS853	Studying Popular Musics	20	N	N
MUS854	Cultural Theories of Music	20	N	N
MUS855	Music and Historiography	20	N	N
MUS856	Studying World Musics	20	N	N
MUS858	Advanced Musical Analysis	20	N	N
MUS875	Research project 1	10	N	N
Other	From the above list or elsewhere	40	N	N

12 Criteria for Admission:

Normally a good first degree in music (i.e. 2:1 or above). But candidates with other profiles (degree in a different subject; degree lower than 2:1) are considered on their individual merits, bearing in mind fit with the programme and any work-related or professional experience the applicant may possess. Candidates whose first language is not English are expected to achieve IELTS 7.0 or equivalent prior to registration.

13 Support for Students and their Learning:

Students are:

- (a) offered an induction programme at the beginning of the year (and in the following year, for part-time students)
- (b) provided with information on the programme and ICMuS through handbooks and the School website
- (c) allocated to a personal supervisor who assists them with their academic programme, advises on module choices, and helps with any personal problems
- (d) provided with e-mail access to relevant members of staff
- (e) offered foundational sessions in key skills (IT; library)
- (f) provided with access to careers, counselling and IT services
- (g) encouraged to attend meetings of the ICMuS research forum
- (h) provided with access to the ICMuS library and audio-visual facilities, in addition to those of the Robinson Library, and to practice rooms and technology studios.

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning:

- (a) Programme and module questionnaires, and informal feedback, from students and staff
- (b) Regular review of the programme, constituent modules. Feedback and student progress and Board of Studies
- (c) Evidence from Examination Board, including external examiners' reports
- (d) Relevant discussions at Staff-Student Committee
- (e) Oversight by FTLC and UTLC

15 Regulation of Assessment

Most modules are assessed by a combination of unseen written examinations and coursework, although a few (depending on options chosen) are assessed solely through coursework. All assessment is double marked.

Information about assessment is available in the Postgraduate Degree Programmes Handbook and on the School website.

The taught component of the programme must be passed before a student may proceed to the dissertation. All modules must be passed for the award of a degree; students failing a proportion of their modules may be offered a Diploma in certain circumstances (see Regulations).

Final results are based on the weighted average of all module marks. The marking scale is as follows:

Pass	50
Merit	60
Distinction	70

External examiners are distinguished members of the academic community with specialist expertise appropriate to this programme. They are appointed by Faculty and their role is:

- (a) to approve examination papers, and assessment procedures and standards
- (b) to review samples of scripts and coursework, and every dissertation
- (c) to attend the Examination Board meeting
- (d) to report back to the University

16 Indicators of Quality and Standards:

Externally referenced standards for taught masters programmes in music do not yet exist, and this programme, in its present form, has not yet been subject to internal or QAA review. However, cross-institutional comparison via the external examiner system together with data on students going on to further postgraduate courses or into employment provide assurance that standards at least meet accepted professional norms.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

In addition, information relating to the course is provided in:

The University Prospectus

The ICMus Postgraduate Prospectus

The University and Degree Programme Regulations

The Degree Programme Handbook

QAA Subject Review Report

The School website (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sacs/about/music/>)