Programme overview

This unique programme combines music psychology with neuroscience, focusing on both the biological and cognitive aspects of musical behaviour.

The MSc is highly interdisciplinary and draws on expertise from leading figures in the field, in areas ranging from music cognition, cognitive neuroscience, computational modelling, music education and music therapy.

Programme content
As a student on the MSc, you will learn about topics in music psychology (from perception to cognition) and the cognitive neuroscience of music, and will acquire all the necessary skills to pursue your own high-quality research.

Teaching staff
Programme directors Dr Maria Herrojo-Ruiz and Dr Daniel Müllensiefen are joined by an expert teaching faculty, all of whom have international profiles within the fields of music psychology and/or the neuroscience of music.

The programme benefits from good links with institutions such as the Institute of Education, the Royal College of Music, and the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery.

Our Eminent Invited Speaker Series brings world-leading researchers to Goldsmiths to present their latest research to our students.

Programme entry requirements
You should either have (or expect to be awarded) an undergraduate degree of at least upper second class standard in Psychology OR a background in music plus demonstrable knowledge and/or experience of empirical research. Because the programme is highly interdisciplinary, we appreciate that some candidates may not have a strong background in all the key areas (psychology, neuroscience, research methods). However, we expect all applicants to be familiar with some of the music psychology literature and concepts in empirical research.

You might also be considered for some programmes if you aren’t a graduate or your degree is in an
unrelated field, but have relevant experience and can show that you have the ability to work at postgraduate level.

In exceptional circumstances, other degrees and professional qualifications may be considered. Applications from overseas students are welcome. Students whose first language is not English will be asked to provide evidence of their English language skills. An IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent is required.

Aims of the programme

This one year full time or two years part time MSc programme in Music, Mind and Brain aims to equip you with a thorough understanding of the neural and cognitive bases of musical behaviour and to provide you with the research skills necessary to conduct a high-quality piece of independent research in this area.

What you will be expected to achieve

Students who successfully complete the programme will gain an understanding of, and will learn to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and Understanding</th>
<th>Taught by the following modules</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1 Demonstrate awareness of the structure and function of the auditory system</td>
<td>PS74001C, PS74005D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2 Describe basic psycho-acoustics and principles governing our perception of patterned sound</td>
<td>PS74001C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3 Discuss higher order aspects of music: memory, emotion, imagery and expectation</td>
<td>PS74002C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 Discuss the relationship between music and other cognitive domains</td>
<td>PS74002C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5 Outline the development of musical competencies in the listener and performer</td>
<td>PS74001C, PS74002C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6 Demonstrate awareness of developmental disorders of music processing; musical processing in developmental disorders</td>
<td>PS74002C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A7 Demonstrate awareness of the neuropsychological basis of musical perception and cognition</td>
<td>PS74002C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A8 Discuss the use of music in clinical settings</td>
<td>PS74002C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A9 Demonstrate knowledge of the main brain structures and major phases of brain development</td>
<td>PS74005D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A10 Outline the relationship between brain areas and their main functions</td>
<td>PS74005D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A11 Explain the physiological basis of the neuroscientific techniques covered</td>
<td>PS74005D</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cognitive and Thinking Skills</th>
<th>Taught by the following modules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B1 Appreciate the interdependence of theory and experiment in research</td>
<td>PS71020D, PS71054D, PS74010B, PS74011B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2 Understand the role of cognitive models in neuroscientific research</td>
<td>PS74002C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B3 Understand the principles of good experimental design and statistical analysis</td>
<td>PS71020D, PS71054D, PS74011B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4 Critically evaluate scientific journal articles</td>
<td>PS74001C, PS74002C, PS74011B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B5 Formulate coherent and persuasive interpretations and arguments</td>
<td>PS74001C, PS74002C, PS74010B,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subject Specific Skills and Professional Behaviours and Attitudes | Taught by the following modules
--- | ---
C1 | Replicate key experiments from a range of different disciplines in music research
| PS74001C, PS74002C, PS74011B, PS71054D
C2 | Design and conduct an original piece of research in the field
| PS74010B, PS71054D
C3 | Use online resources to search for relevant published literature and databases
| PS74001C, PS74002C, PS74010B, PS74011B
C4 | Use statistical concepts and software such as SPSS to analyze results
| PS71020D, PS74010B, PS74011B, PS71054D
C5 | Communicate the results of their own research and that of others to their peers
| PS74010B, PS74011B
C6 | Produce high quality written reports demonstrating intellectual rigour
| PS74001C, PS74002C, PS74010B, PS74011B

Transferable Skills | Taught by the following modules
--- | ---
D1 | Critical analysis and evaluation of scientific material
| PS74001C, PS74002C, PS74010B, PS74011B
D2 | Synthesis of complex information into concise, digestible form
| PS74001C, PS74002C, PS74010B, PS74011B
D3 | Construction of logical argument in written form
| PS74001C, PS74002C, PS74010B, PS74011B
D4 | Oral presentation using visual aids, such as powerpoint
| PS74010B, PS74011B
D5 | Use of online resources for research
| PS74001C, PS74002C, PS74010B, PS74011B

How you will learn

The teaching and learning methods to which you will be exposed have been designed in recognition of: (a) the different knowledge routes to learning; (b) the learning requirements of different types of information and skills; and (c) the need for students to engage in a complementary range of learning activities leading to the synthesis of academic knowledge and professional skills/competencies.

To achieve the learning outcomes, you will experience a range of teaching/learning methods. You will attend lectures, tutorials, computer lab classes and workshops. You will also achieve the learning outcomes by undertaking practical research and work experience in clinical settings at a range of NHS facilities in London via contacts established by the programme teaching staff.

These teaching/learning methods are integral to the acquisition of subject specific skills and understanding, but also provide the opportunity for discussion and debate. An aim of the programme is to facilitate independent thought and enable you to develop a critical perspective.

You will receive feedback on written work (essays and coursework) in the form of structured numerical feedback, relating to the logic of arguments, their coherence, references, coverage of background literature, as well as in the form of written constructive criticism, highlighting the major strengths and weaknesses sufficient to allow you to know how to improve your work. During meetings with programme teaching staff, you will have a further opportunity to receive feedback and academic guidance.

The reliability and validity of these forms of assessments are assured by group meetings between teaching staff. In addition, all written work is either second marked or moderated. Detailed criteria for marking bands are provided for students in the Programme Handbook.
Learning support activities are chosen to meet the particular requirements of this MSc programme, as well as requirements as a member of the student body. You will attend lectures in order to provide the background theoretical knowledge that is then used in practical activities to develop the skills and competencies in the application of psychological knowledge.

How you will be assessed

Module components will be assessed via course-work (essays; dissertation), unseen written examination, a computer-based exam, multiple choice examination or assessment of oral presentation. Assessments will be double marked (anonymously) or single marked with moderation, depending on the size of the cohort.

All assessed work, including examinations, is marked on a percentage scale. Five attributes of students’ written work are considered when assigning marks on a 5-point scale. The scheme of marking is as follows:

1. Answer. (Does the work answer the question or address the issue?)
2. Structure. (Is the general structure of the work coherent?)
3. Flow. (Does each statement follow sensibly from its predecessor?)
4. Argument. (Is there a convincing quality of argument in the work?)
5. Evidence. (Are claims supported by relevant evidence from the literature?)

Marking criteria

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Specific Marking Criteria</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80-100%</td>
<td>Distinction (Outstanding/Exceptional)</td>
<td>In addition to the criteria for an excellent grade it will also have an exceptional or original line of argument that can be followed very easily.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Overall the work shows evidence of rigorous analytical research in its conceptualisation; an excellent level of response to the set tasks; the conceptual coherency of the work is strong and ideas are researched and deployed within a clearly defined contextual framework. The work shows ample evidence of sustained academic enquiry, draws on a wide range of sources all of which are critically evaluated; issues are readily identified and contextualised using appropriate theoretical frameworks; A mark of 70% - 79% is likely to be awarded to work that: 1. addresses the topic in an explicit manner 2. announces its structure at the start and stick closely to this announced structure 3. has relationships between statements that are very easy to recognise gives wide-ranging and appropriate evidential support for claims that are made The mark awarded will depend on how successfully the work is judged to meet the above-mentioned criteria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>Merit</td>
<td>Overall evidence of a very good level of response to the set tasks; the conceptual coherency of the work is good and ideas are researched and deployed within a defined contextual framework. The work shows evidence of sustained academic enquiry, draws on a wide range of sources most of which are critically evaluated and synthesised within a clear argument/structure; most issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59%</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Overall mainly adequate level of response to the set task; the conceptual coherency of the work is largely adequate and ideas are researched and deployed with an inconsistent recognition of the need for a contextual framework. The work shows some evidence of the identification of relevant issues; limited range of sources; evidence of some analytical and contextual skills but inconsistently employed. A mark of 50% - 59% is likely to be awarded to work that: 1. presents relevant material but fails to use it to answer the question or address the issue 2. has a structure, but one that is rather loose and unannounced 3. has relationships between statements that are sometimes hard to follow 4. has a fair quality line of argument (information drives argument, rather than other way round) 5. tends to make claims without sufficient supporting evidence Within this category, the mark awarded will depend on the extent to which the work is judged to meet the above-mentioned criteria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-49%</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Overall the work may not be without merit but not Masters standard. The concepts in question are realised inappropriately or under-developed. The work shows little evidence of the identification of relevant issues; limited and inadequate range of sources; little evidence of analytical and contextual skills, inconsistently employed. A mark of 30-49% is likely to be awarded to work that: 1. fails to adequately address the topic or to answer the question, either by reproducing material that is only partly relevant, or by inaccurately reproducing material that is relevant, or by reproducing only a very small amount of relevant material. 2. lacks a clear structure or framework 3. has relationships between statements that are often difficult to recognise 4. has a poor quality line of argument 5. makes poor use of evidence to support most of the claims that are made</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How the programme is structured

All aspects of the programme are compulsory. The content of one of the taught modules (PS74005D Foundations of Neuroscience) is drawn from selected lectures from two modules of the MSc in Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience (Biological Aspects of Brain Function; Methods and Techniques in Neuroscience). These modules have been chosen to give you a foundational background on which to build the subject-specific material covered later in the module. Similarly, the modules Statistical methods (PS71020D) and Research design and Analysis (PS71054D) are shared by other MSc programmes in the department. All other components are specific to this MSc module.

The programme is based on a credits system where the whole module is equivalent to 180 CATS. See below for the weighting of each module in terms of credit points.

Progression Requirements

Part-time students will normally be required to have passed all assessments in the first year before progressing to year two.

Academic Year of Study 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Status</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Music Perception</td>
<td>PS74001C</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive Neuroscience of Music</td>
<td>PS74002C</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations of Neuroscience</td>
<td>PS74005D</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Skills</td>
<td>PS74011B</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistical Methods</td>
<td>PS71020D</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>PS71051A</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Design and Analysis</td>
<td>PS71054D</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>tbc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Academic support

The Psychology Department recognises the importance of supporting students' learning with high quality teaching that is responsive to their individual and collective needs. Your learning will be supported by Departmental and college resources, as well as resources held centrally at the University of London library, which includes within it the world-class international journal collection of the British Psychological Society. In the Department, there is a Test Library where assessment materials are held; in the College Library there are books and journals specialising in a range of areas relevant to clinical psychology and health services.

There are various people in the psychology department who provide academic and pastoral support. Normally, the supervisor of your MSc project will also act as your personal tutor. The personal tutor is available to discuss any issues that may arise throughout your studies. The department also has a Postgraduate Senior Tutor who is available to deal with all masters' students academic and general welfare issues. Finally, all members of staff including the course directors have Office Hours each week for you to discuss any matters. Outside these hours you may arrange an appointment with any member of staff via email or telephone (you will be provided with your own email address).

The College provides counselling and student support services (e.g. English for overseas students, dyslexia). For students whose first language is not English, the English Language Centre provides courses in English language and English for academic purposes through tailor-made timetables of study skill sessions and in-sessional courses in collaboration with the programme. There is also tailor-made provision for those students who may be re-entering Higher Education after a period away -- or arriving to it for the first time -- which develops their critical and writing skills specifically for the written assessments in the subject area.

The College also provides a range of other student support services. Details can be found on the College web site (www.goldsmiths.ac.uk). Students have access to the College Library, Multi-media, Audio-Visual Study resources and Computer Services and Language Resources and these provide a substantial means of supporting other aspects of your learning. Postgraduate students also have access to a dedicated Postgraduate resource centre (Hatcham House), which houses a number of online resources and offers space for seminars and the informal exchange of ideas.

Support for disabled students:
Goldsmiths is committed to making any reasonable adjustment which allows, as far as possible, for equality of opportunity and access, and to ensuring that students are not substantially disadvantaged because of specific learning difficulties or disability. The Psychology Department is taking advantage of and pursuing the College's Disability Awareness policies. Students with specific needs in this regard are considered on an individual basis. The programme makes strenuous efforts to ensure that its teaching spaces are wheelchair accessible. Other specific needs are considered and taken up on an individual basis. The College also actively supports students with specific learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia), and provisions are made to ensure that all students, regardless of specific difficulty/disability, derive full benefit from the learning environment. In addition to specialist advice and assistance within the College, the Department ensures that teaching materials are suitable for all students and, where necessary, these are altered to meet the requirements of individual students. Where necessary, the location and length of examinations are individually tailored to ensure that no student is at a disadvantage as regards assessment.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and career prospects

The programme is designed with employability of its graduates in mind. It specifically aims to improve key skills that are highly rated in the private and public sector such as self-management, team working, client awareness / awareness of an audience, communication, problem solving, application of numeracy,
and application of information technology. The programme addresses these skills by training you in different working modes and styles, such as collaborative group work (blog writing, group discussion), individual work (research dissertation, formatively and summatively assessed coursework). Different skills are required to master methods sessions (application of novel software packages to a specific problem) and lab sessions (application of statistical concepts with real-world data). The training in different communication styles and addressing different audiences are key components of writing internet blogs vs. academic essays as well as the oral presentation vs. the write-up of the final research project.

From an employability perspective, therefore, the programme will be beneficial to students who are interested in pursuing doctoral research in this area, as well as to music professionals wishing to approach music from a more scientifically-informed perspective. In addition, graduates from the Music, Mind and Brain programme are also well equipped to work in a number of areas in the private and public sector. In fact, previous graduates from the programme have gone on to work in the following areas:

- academia: either pursuing a PhD, working in research position or engaged with university level teaching
- music and media industry
- music practitioner or performer
- music teacher

In addition to these areas, the programme would also inform career development in fields such as music therapy, neurorehabilitation, music consultancy and music and advertising.

**The requirements of a Goldsmiths degree**

**Master's Degrees**
All Master's degrees at Goldsmiths have a minimum value of 180 credits. Programmes are comprised of modules which have individual credit values. In order to be eligible for the award of a Master's degree students must have passed all modules on the programme.

**Intermediate Exit Points**
Some programmes incorporate intermediate exit points of Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma, which may be awarded on the successful completion of modules to the value of 60 credits or 120 credits respectively. Individual programmes may specify which, if any, combination of modules are required in order to be eligible for the award of these qualifications. The awards are made without classification.

**Final Classification**
There are four possible categories of final classification for Master's degrees: Distinction, Merit, Pass and Fail.

In order to be awarded an overall classification of Distinction, students should have obtained:

- a mark of at least 70% (or A grade) for the dissertation/project (or equivalent)
  AND
- EITHER a mark of 70% (or A grade) in at least half of the remaining credits.
  OR an overall weighted average mark (based on credit value) of at least 70%

In order to be awarded an overall classification of Merit, students should have obtained:

- a mark of at least 60% (or B grade) for the dissertation/project (or equivalent)
  AND
- EITHER a mark of 60% (or B grade) in at least half of the remaining credits.
  OR an overall weighted average mark (based on credit value) of at least 60%
Pass: In order to be awarded an overall classification of Pass must have passed all the modules on a programme but not have met the criteria for the award of an overall classification of Merit or Distinction

Fail: If any module on a programme has been failed on more than one occasion the programme will be failed

For further information, please refer to the Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Students, which may be found here: http://www.gold.ac.uk/governance/studentregulations/

Programme-specific rules and facts

N/A

How teaching quality will be monitored

Goldsmiths employs a number of methods to ensure and enhance the quality of learning and teaching on its programmes.

Programmes and modules must be formally approved against national standards and are monitored throughout the year in departmental staff / student forums and through the completion of module evaluation questionnaires. Every programme also has at least one External Examiner who produces an annual report which comments on the standards of awards and student achievement.

This output is considered with other relevant data in the process of Annual Programme Review, to which all programmes are subject, and which aims to identify both good practice and issues which require resolution.

Every six years all programmes within a department are also subject to a broader periodic review. This aims to ensure that they remain current, that the procedures to maintain the standards of the awards are working effectively and the quality of the learning opportunities and information provided to students and applicants is appropriate.

Detailed information on all of these procedures are published on the webpages of the Quality Office (http://www.gold.ac.uk/quality/).