

Programme Specification

Postgraduate Programmes

Awarding Body/Institution	University of London
Teaching Institution	Goldsmiths, University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	MSc Music, Mind and Brain
Name of Interim Award(s)	N/A
Duration of Study/Period of Registration	1 year full-time or 2 years part-time
UCAS Code(s)	N/A
QAA Benchmark Group	Psychology, Neuroscience
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	N/A
Date Programme Specification last updated/approved	August 2017
Primary Department/Institute	Psychology

Departments which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme
Not Applicable

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:

Knowledge and Understanding		Taught by the following modules
A1	Demonstrate awareness of the structure and function of the auditory system	PS74001C, PS74005D
A2	Describe basic psycho-acoustics and principles governing our perception of patterned sound	PS74001C
A3	Discuss higher order aspects of music: memory, emotion, imagery and expectation	PS74002C
A4	Discuss the relationship between music and other cognitive domains	PS74002C
A5	Outline the development of musical competencies in the listener and performer	PS74001C, PS74002C
A6	Demonstrate awareness of developmental disorders of music processing; musical processing in developmental disorders	PS74002C
A7	Demonstrate awareness of the neuropsychological basis of musical perception and cognition	PS74002C
A8	Discuss the use of music in clinical settings	PS74002C
A9	Demonstrate knowledge of the main brain structures and major phases of brain development	PS74005D
A10	Outline the relationship between brain areas and their main functions	PS74005D
A11	Explain the physiological basis of the neuroscientific techniques covered	PS74005D

Cognitive and Thinking Skills		Taught by the following modules
B1	Appreciate the interdependence of theory and experiment in research	PS71020D, PS71054D, PS74010B, PS74011B
B2	Understand the role of cognitive models in neuroscientific research	PS74002C
B3	Understand the principles of good experimental design and statistical analysis	PS71020D, PS71054D, PS74011B
B4	Critically evaluate scientific journal articles	PS74001C, PS74002C, PS74011B
B5	Formulate coherent and persuasive interpretations	

	and arguments	PS74001C, PS74002C, PS74010B, PS74011B
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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

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	Distinction (Outstanding/Exceptional)	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.
70-79%	Distinction	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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
60-69%	Merit	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

		<p>synthesised within a clear argument/structure; most issues are identified and contextualised using appropriate theoretical frameworks</p> <p>A mark of 60% - 69% is likely to be awarded to work that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. attempts to address the topic or answer the question 2. has a detectable structure which is adhered to for the most part 3. has relationships between statements that are generally easy to follow 4. has a good quality line of argument 5. supports claims by reference to relevant literature 6. Within this category, the mark awarded will depend on how successfully the work is judged to meet the above-mentioned criteria.
50-59%	Pass	<p>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.</p> <p>A mark of 50% - 59% is likely to be awarded to work that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Within this category, the mark awarded will depend on the extent to which the work is judged to meet the above-mentioned criteria.</p>
30-49%	Fail	<p>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.</p> <p>A mark of 30-49% is likely to be awarded to work that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 The mark awarded will depend on the extent to which the work is judged to meet the above-mentioned criteria.
10-29%	Bad fail	Overall inadequate level of response to the set task; the work does not utilise a sufficient range of processes and materials; level of response is not always appropriate or consistent. The range of sources in the work is very limited, there is little interpretation or analysis and it lacks breadth or awareness of a contextual framework. A mark close to 30% might be awarded to an answer that contains some indication that the student can recall something relevant to the question. 20% might be awarded to an answer that contains something that shows that the student has attended the relevant lecture module, even if there is little in the answer that is of direct relevance to the question. A 10% answer contains no evidence that the student knows anything from the literature that is relevant to the question.
1-9%	Very bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment

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

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Music Perception	PS74001C	30	7	Core	1
Cognitive Neuroscience of Music	PS74002C	30	7	Core	2
Foundations of Neuroscience	PS74005D	15	7	Core	1
Research Skills	PS74011B	15	7	Core	1- 2
Statistical Methods	PS71020D	15	7	Core	1
Research Project	PS74010B	60	7	Core	1 - 3
Research Design and Analysis	PS71054D	15	7	Core	tbc

Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in number of ways by departments and College support services who work collaboratively to ensure students get the right help to reach their best potential both academically and personally.

Students are allocated a personal tutor and a Senior Tutor in each department has overall responsibility for student progress and welfare. Departments arrange regular communication to students in the form of mailings and meetings as well as regular progress reports and feedback on coursework and assignments. This is in addition to scheduled seminars, tutorials and lectures/workshops.

Personal tutors will invite students to meet in the first two weeks of a new term and regularly throughout the duration of a programme of study. These meetings aim to discuss progress on modules, discussion of the academic discipline and reports from previous years if available (for continuing students). This way progress, attendance, essay/coursework/assessment marks can be reviewed and an informed discussion can be about how to strengthen learning and success.

Students are sent information about learning resources in the Library and on the VLE so that they have access to programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance. Timetables are sent in advance of the start of term so that students can begin to manage their preparation and planning.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of coursework themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Coursework essays build on lectures and seminars so students are encouraged to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

In depth feedback is provided for written assignments and essays via written feedback forms and formative feedback with module tutors/leads is provided to endure that students' work is on the right track. Feedback comes in many forms and not only as a result of written comments on a marked essay. Students are given feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops and placements.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is clearly provided on the College Website and as new students join Goldsmiths through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning & teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The Inclusion & Learning Support and Wellbeing Teams maintain case loads of students and provide on-going support.

The Careers Service and the Academic Success Centre provide central support for skills enhancement and run the Gold Award Scheme and other co-curricular activities that can be accredited via the higher education achievement award (HEAR).

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.

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/>).