

MMus Composition; MMus Performance and Related Studies; MMus Creative Practice; MMus Popular Music; MMus Sonic Arts

Programme Specification

Awarding Institution:

University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)

Teaching Institution: Goldsmiths, University of London

Name of Final Award and Programme Title:

MMus Composition

MMus Performance and Related Studies

MMus Creative Practice

MMus Popular Music

MMus Sonic Arts

Name of Interim Exit Award(s):

Postgraduate Certificate in Composition

Postgraduate Certificate in Performance and Related Studies

Postgraduate Certificate in Creative Practice

Postgraduate Certificate in Popular Music

Postgraduate Certificate in Sonic Arts

Postgraduate Diploma in Composition

Postgraduate Diploma in Performance and Related Studies

Postgraduate Diploma in Creative Practice

Postgraduate Diploma in Popular Music

Postgraduate Diploma in Sonic Arts

Duration of Programme: 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

UCAS Code(s): Not applicable

HECoS Code(s):

(100070) Music

(100695) Music Composition

QAA Benchmark Group: Not applicable

FHEQ Level of Award: Level 7

Programme accredited by: Not applicable

Date Programme Specification last updated/approved: December 2020

Home Department: Music

Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Not applicable

Programme overview

The programme addresses the evolving challenges presented in creating new music, sound art and technology, and/or concert performances. You develop systematic, critical and technical approaches to practice and research, exploring, as appropriate, contemporary or historical understandings of creative practice and musical performance. You investigate and appraise the contextual and technical basis of artistic and musical aims, helping you formulate an independent and original approach to your own work as a composer and/or performer. The programme explores the complex interrelationships between music and other disciplines, between theory and creative expression, and between composition, musical realisation and reception. It references a diverse range of music, focusing, as relevant, upon contemporary Western art music and popular music, the music of other cultures, computer music and historical repertoires.

Creative Practice (Pathway A) introduces you to strategies for developing creative work across a broad range of specialisms reflected in the programme modules available. You select an individual and coherent pathway that engages rigorously with a range of intellectual concerns, technical skills and understandings, leading to a clearly focused creative project. You may choose to specialise in popular music composition, music for moving image, experimental composition, improvised music or other forms of innovative creative practice. You have opportunity to work with musicians, performers and other collaborators, and are encouraged to respond creatively to present day issues in new music.

Composition (Pathway B) fosters your ability to compose music by employing a wide range of technical procedures relevant to contemporary composition. You have opportunity to work with performers and/or other collaborators in creating music, and are encouraged to respond creatively to present day theories, concepts and problems in new music.

Sonic Arts (Pathway C) develops your ability to create computer and studio-based music, engaging with contemporary ideas about sound art, electronic music and interactive/generative media. You explore a wide range of technical and experimental strategies, and develop a rigorous conceptual and critical framework for your creative work that engages with present day technologies and the arts. You also have opportunity to collaborate with other artists, composers and performers.

Performance and Related Studies (Pathway D) develops your abilities as a performer, informed by an understanding of style, genre, context and interpretation, as well as historical and theoretical issues relevant to your specialised repertoire.

Popular Music (Pathway E) offers you the opportunity to develop advanced popular music performance and composition skills, to reflect critically upon your own creative practice, to integrate theoretical perspectives from contemporary popular music studies, and to extend your own practice through options in sonic and studio art, advanced music technology, exploration in audiovisual media, and ethnomusicology.

Programme entry requirements

You should normally have, or expect to have, a first-class or upper second-class Honours degree in Music, or an equivalent qualification. Your qualification should comprise a substantial academic element relevant to the selected MA pathway and option choices. A detailed transcript of your degree is preferred.

If you are applying for one of the named specialist pathways you should write a detailed proposal explaining your areas of interest.

If you are applying for the MA in Music, but not one of the named pathways, you should include in your proposal possible module choices and explain how these choices provide a programme of study leading to dissertation or project. Advice can be given at interview or on enrolment about the suitability of the proposed choices.

We encourage applications from people without formal qualifications who can demonstrate equivalent professional experience, in which case you are advised to enclose with your application examples of your written work. Appropriate experience might take the form of careers in arts administration, music-related librarianship, journalism or broadcasting, or significant practical experience of music making in western or non-western music cultures.

You will normally be required to attend an interview, and you may be asked to submit examples of your written work in advance. If you wish to be exempted from interview, you should send at least one example of your written work in English (such as an essay of at least 1,500 words on a relevant topic), certified to be your own.

Applicants whose first language is not English must have received a score of 6.5 or more in the IELTS (or equivalent) examination for written English.

Aims of the programme

The MMus programme accords with Goldsmiths' declared aims to work beyond the boundaries of preconceptions, provide freedom to experiment, encourage individuality and nurture talent. The programme is informed by the Music Department's Learning and Teaching Strategy, as well as by external guidelines and frameworks, including the QAA

qualifications framework. The MMus is closely linked with the department's research strategy, and the wide-ranging research and practice-based activities of academic staff.

The programme is designed with careful consideration of the opportunities, challenges and intellectual demands presented by careers in music and the creative industries in general, such as professional performance, composition, film/TV composition, sound design, teaching, broadcasting and arts administration.

What you will be expected to achieve

Students who exit the programme at the Postgraduate Certificate stage will demonstrate an ability to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Understand some of the current theories and contexts that inspire and inform musical practice, in areas such as analysis, aesthetics, interpretation, cultural theory, literature and computer science. (ALL PATHWAYS)	Compositional Techniques, Material, Form and Structure, Interactive and Generative Music, Studio Practice, Sources and Resources in the Digital Age, Critical Musicology and Popular Music, Music Management, Advanced Music Studies
A2	Understand how coherent links can be established between practice-based research in music and in other disciplines. (ALL PATHWAYS)	Composition and Moving Image Media, Interactive and Generative Music, Sound Agendas, Popular Music Composition, Research through Musical Performance
A3	Understand some of the concepts, concerns and advanced technical methods driving current practice in composition/ sonic art/popular music creation, evidenced in repertoires and theoretical writings. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Compositional Techniques, Studio Practice, Strategies for Performance, Popular Music Composition
A4	Understand relationships between concept, form, material and temporal structuring, and how these can be articulated effectively in music and/or sonic art. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Compositional Techniques, Composition and Moving Image Media, Interactive and Generative Music, Material, Form and Structure, Studio Practice, Strategies for

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
		Performance, Popular Music Composition
A5	Understand approaches to musical notation, and the visual and numeric representations of sound, and how these can be evaluated in terms of their creative and analytic potentials. (PATHWAYS A, B and C)	Compositional Techniques, Material, Form and Structure, Analysing Contemporary Music: From Serialism to Spectral Noise, Sound Agendas, Studio Practice, Strategies for Performance
A6	Understand some of the complex interrelationships that can occur between composer/artist, performer and listener, and how these actively inform practice. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Popular Music & Cultural Theory, Popular Music Composition, Popular Music and its Critics
A7	Understand some of the major debates in present-day performance, such as the societal and cultural roles of music, problems of definition, meaning and the functions of criticism. (PATHWAY D)	Sources and Resources in the Digital Age, Research through Musical Performance

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Identify and solve complex technical and interpretative problems with flexibility and resourcefulness.	All taught modules
B2	Self-evaluate and analyse critically, exercising independence of thought.	All taught modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Employ with originality and expertise creative strategies in the production of creative work, through experiment, speculation and rigorous investigation. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Compositional Techniques, Composition and Moving Image Media, Interactive and Generative Music, Material, Form and Structure, Studio Practice, Strategies for Performance. Advanced Music Studies, Research through Musical Performance

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C2	Apply and critically evaluate contemporary techniques in the creation of new work, which may reference pitch/rhythmic organisation, instrumentation, computer-based sound manipulation, popular music production, performance interaction and algorithmic process. (PATHWAYS A, B and C)	Compositional Techniques, Composition and Moving Image Media, Interactive and Generative Music, Material, Form and Structure, Studio Practice, Strategies for Performance, Popular Music Composition
C3	Apply and evaluate analytical methods in the evaluation of contemporary repertoire such as post-tonal, spectral, electronic and popular music. (PATHWAYS A, B and E)	Analysing Contemporary Music: From Serialism to Spectral Noise, Sound Agendas, Strategies for Performance, Popular Music and its Critics
C4	Independently design and carry out a series of original and creative projects, imaginatively and expertly, using appropriate methods, opportunities and resources. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Popular Music and its Critics, Strategies for Performance, Critical Musicology and Popular Music, Music Management

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	The ability to work cooperatively, effectively and creatively with your peers and other professionals, employing social skills in the conduct of research when appropriate, and develop skills of communication and persuasion.	All modules

Students who exit the programme at the Postgraduate Diploma stage will demonstrate an ability to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Understand to an advanced level, some of the current theories and contexts that inspire and inform musical practice, in areas such as analysis, aesthetics, interpretation, cultural theory, literature	Compositional Techniques, Material, Form and Structure, Interactive and Generative Music, Studio Practice, Sources and Resources in the Digital Age, Critical Musicology and Popular

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	and computer science. (ALL PATHWAYS)	Music, Music Management, Advanced Music Studies
A2	Understand to an advanced level, how coherent links can be established between practice-based research in music and in other disciplines. (ALL PATHWAYS)	Composition and Moving Image Media, Interactive and Generative Music, Sound Agendas, Popular Music Composition. Research through Musical Performance
A3	Understand a range of concepts, concerns and advanced technical methods driving current practice in composition/ sonic art/popular music creation, evidenced in repertoires and theoretical writings. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Compositional Techniques, Studio Practice, Strategies for Performance, Popular Music Composition
A4	Understand relationships between concept, form, material and temporal structuring, and how these can be articulated effectively in music and/or sonic art. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Compositional Techniques, Composition and Moving Image Media, Interactive and Generative Music, Material, Form and Structure, Studio Practice, Strategies for Performance, Popular Music Composition
A5	Understand to an advanced level, approaches to musical notation, and the visual and numeric representations of sound, and how these can be evaluated in terms of their creative and analytic potentials. (PATHWAYS A, B and C)	Compositional Techniques, Material, Form and Structure, Analysing Contemporary Music: From Serialism to Spectral Noise, Sound Agendas, Studio Practice, Strategies for Performance
A6	Understand to an advanced level, some of the complex interrelationships that can occur between composer/artist, performer and listener, and how these actively inform practice. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Popular Music & Cultural Theory, Popular Music Composition, Popular Music and its Critics
A7	Understand to an advanced level, some of the major debates in present-day performance, such as the societal and cultural roles of music, problems of definition, meaning and the functions of criticism. (PATHWAY D)	Sources and Resources in the Digital Age, Research through Musical Performance

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Identify and solve complex technical and interpretative problems with flexibility and resourcefulness.	All taught modules
B2	Self-evaluate and analyse critically, exercising independence of thought.	All taught modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Employ with originality and expertise a range of creative strategies in the production of creative work, through experiment, speculation and rigorous investigation. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Compositional Techniques, Composition and Moving Image Media, Interactive and Generative Music, Material, Form and Structure, Studio Practice, Strategies for Performance, Advanced Music Studies, Research through Musical Performance
C2	Apply and critically evaluate contemporary techniques in the creation of new work, which may reference pitch/rhythmic organisation, instrumentation, computer-based sound manipulation, popular music production, performance interaction and algorithmic process. (PATHWAYS A, B and C)	Compositional Techniques, Composition and Moving Image Media, Interactive and Generative Music, Material, Form and Structure, Studio Practice, Strategies for Performance, Popular Music Composition
C3	Apply and evaluate analytical methods in the evaluation of contemporary repertoire such as post-tonal, spectral, electronic and popular music. (PATHWAYS A, B and E)	Analysing Contemporary Music: From Serialism to Spectral Noise, Sound Agendas, Strategies for Performance, Popular Music and its Critics
C4	Independently design and carry out a series of original and creative projects, imaginatively and expertly, using appropriate methods, opportunities and resources. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Popular Music and its Critics, Strategies for Performance, Critical Musicology and Popular Music, Music Management

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	The ability to work cooperatively, effectively and creatively with your peers and other professionals, employing social skills in the conduct of research when appropriate, and develop skills of communication and persuasion.	All modules

Students who successfully complete the full MMus programme will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Demonstrate systematic understanding of current theories and contexts that inspire and inform musical practice, in areas such as analysis, aesthetics, interpretation, cultural theory, literature and computer science. (ALL PATHWAYS)	Compositional Techniques, Material, Form and Structure, Interactive and Generative Music, Studio Practice, Creative Project, Sources and Resources in the Digital Age, Critical Musicology and Popular Music, Music Management, Popular Music Performance Project, Advanced Music Studies
A2	Demonstrate a systematic and comprehensive understanding of how coherent links can be established between practice-based research in music and in other disciplines. (ALL PATHWAYS)	Composition and Moving Image Media, Interactive and Generative Music, Sound Agendas, Creative Project, Popular Music Composition, Popular Music Performance Project, Research through Musical Performance
A3	Demonstrate a systematic and comprehensive understanding of opportunities to contribute to practice-based research relevant to the current concerns of, and developments within, your discipline. (ALL PATHWAYS)	Creative Project, Strategies for Performance, Recital, Popular Music Composition, Popular Music Performance Project
A4	Demonstrate a systematic and comprehensive understanding of concepts, concerns and advanced technical methods driving current practice	Compositional Techniques, Studio Practice, Creative Project, Strategies for Performance, Recital, Popular

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	in composition/ sonic art/popular music creation, evidenced in repertoires and theoretical writings. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Music Composition, Popular Music Performance Project
A5	Demonstrate a systematic and comprehensive understanding of relationships between concept, form, material and temporal structuring, and how these can be articulated effectively in music and/or sonic art. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Compositional Techniques, Composition and Moving Image Media, Interactive and Generative Music, Material, Form and Structure, Analysing Contemporary Music: From Serialism to Spectral Noise, Studio Practice, Creative Project, Strategies for Performance, Recital, Popular Music Composition, Popular Music Performance Project
A6	Demonstrate a systematic and comprehensive understanding of approaches to musical notation, and the visual and numeric representations of sound, and how these can be evaluated in terms of their creative and analytic potentials. (PATHWAYS A, B and C)	Compositional Techniques, Material, Form and Structure, Analysing Contemporary Music: From Serialism to Spectral Noise, Sound Agendas, Studio Practice, Creative Project, Strategies for Performance, Recital, Popular Music Performance Project
A7	Demonstrate a systematic and comprehensive understanding of the complex interrelationships that can occur between composer/artist, performer and listener, and how these actively inform practice. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Popular Music & Cultural Theory, Creative Project, Popular Music Composition, Popular Music: Listening, Analysis, Interpretation, Popular Music Performance Project
A8	Demonstrate a systematic and comprehensive understanding of cultural conventions and symbolic meanings associated with selected repertoires, styles, instruments and genres and a variety of methods and strategies relevant to interpretation and performance, and how these can be informed by historical and pedagogical understanding. (PATHWAY D)	Creative Project, Popular Music Performance Project
A9	Demonstrate a systematic and comprehensive understanding of the significance and relevance of	Creative Project, Popular Music Performance Project

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	physiological, cognitive and creative challenges needed in presenting live or recorded performances. (PATHWAYS D and E)	
A10	Demonstrate a systematic and comprehensive understanding of major debates in present-day performance, such as the societal and cultural roles of music, problems of definition, meaning and the functions of criticism. (PATHWAY D)	Creative Project, Sources and Resources in the Digital Age, Popular Music Performance Project, Research through Musical Performance

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Apply and synthesise intuitive and rational methods in the production of creative and/or performance-based work.	Creative Project, Recital
B2	Identify and solve complex technical and interpretative problems with flexibility and resourcefulness.	Creative Project, Recital
B3	Self-evaluate and analyse critically, exercising independence of thought.	Creative Project, Recital

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Collect and collate resources relevant to a research investigation, deploying IT skills as relevant, summarising and critically evaluating according to concepts.	Creative Project, Sources and Resources in the Digital Age, Critical Musicology and Popular Music
C2	Employ with originality and expertise a wide range of creative strategies in the production of creative work, through experiment, speculation and rigorous investigation. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Compositional Techniques, Composition and Moving Image Media, Interactive and Generative Music, Material, Form and Structure, Studio Practice, Creative Project, Strategies for Performance, Recital
C3	Apply and critically evaluate contemporary techniques in the creation	Compositional Techniques, Composition and Moving Image

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	of new work, which may reference pitch/rhythmic organisation, instrumentation, computer-based sound manipulation, popular music production, performance interaction and algorithmic process. (PATHWAYS A, B and C)	Media, Interactive and Generative Music, Material, Form and Structure, Studio Practice, Creative Project, Strategies for Performance, Recital, Popular Music Composition
C4	Apply and evaluate analytical methods in the evaluation of contemporary repertoire such as post-tonal, spectral, electronic and popular music. (PATHWAYS A, B and E)	Modernism and Post-modernism, Analysing Contemporary Music: From Serialism to Spectral Noise, Sound Agendas, Creative Project, Strategies for Performance, Recital, Popular Music: Listening, Analysis, Interpretation
C5	Independently design and carry out a series of original and creative projects, imaginatively and expertly, using appropriate methods, opportunities and resources. (PATHWAYS A, B, C and E)	Modernism and Post-modernism, Popular Music & Cultural Theory, Creative Project, Strategies for Performance, Recital, Critical Musicology and Popular Music, Music Management
C6	Present musical performances, through participation in concerts that culminate in a final recital, which demonstrate technical mastery of your instrument/voice, advanced powers of sustained concentration and recollection, and evidence of musical imagination, creative insight, and sympathetic interpretation. (PATHWAYS D and E)	Creative Project
C7	Critically evaluate music suitable to the creative and technical aims of your practice and to the performance context. (PATHWAYS D and E)	Creative Project
C8	Perform effectively as part of a duo or larger group, applying advanced ensemble and/or improvisational skills as necessary. (PATHWAY D)	Creative Project
C9	Demonstrate an understanding of the complex relationships between theory and practice in musical performance, by way of effective presentation and	Creative Project

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	appraisal of stylistic conventions and contemporary norms. (PATHWAYS D and E)	

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Demonstrate self-motivation and initiative in planning and implementing tasks, and organisation and management of a personal schedule of learning.	Creative Project, Recital
D2	Display the organisation, articulation and presentation of ideas in a clear, Systematic and professional manner, and the capacity to communicate these effectively both orally and in writing to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.	Creative Project, Recital
D3	Show the ability to work cooperatively, effectively and creatively with your peers and other professionals, employing social skills in the conduct of research when appropriate, and develop skills of communication and persuasion.	All Modules

How you will learn

The Department is committed to a diverse and stimulating range of learning and teaching methods that ensure the programme outcomes of each pathway are addressed rigorously. Each pathway provides a network of cross-referenced and cumulative knowledge across modules; this is further developed through your independent research and learning activities directed towards module assignments and the large-scale dissertation/project component. Similarly, each pathway affords opportunity to develop your academic skills in a structured, linear and coherent way. You achieve the outcomes relevant to your pathway through the experience of interconnected teaching and learning strategies across these various elements of the programme, in both group and individual settings, which foster new understandings and skills.

Lecture-seminar sessions, tutorials, and where relevant, workshops and performance events are designed to address the programme outcomes. All modules provide a weekly

lecture-seminar or other session, which reinforces knowledge and understanding gained through preparatory reading, and other related independent research.

Practical and subject-related skills are developed through class-based tasks, either individually or in groups, (including analytic, listening-based, or discursive exercises) or by setting up or reviewing follow-up tasks undertaken outside of taught sessions. The relative extent of a lecture, seminar or task-based component in any individual session depends on the material at hand. Class discussion and debate, whether staff- or student-led, encourages collaborative engagement with questions, issues, problems and exercises that help develop your individual learning. Cognitive and transferable skills are integral to your learning experiences across all elements of the programme.

These activities are supported by a wide range of ancillary activities that pertain to various aspects of the programme, including the Department's concert series, master classes, guest lectures, Music Research Forum, and research activities undertaken and promoted by our various research centres. The activities of the Graduate School at Goldsmiths also offer opportunities to improve and enhance your learning experience, providing additional intellectual and social contact between students and staff within and across programmes and departments.

Independent learning requires close and rigorous engagement with primary and secondary sources, as directed by module materials and online resources, including musical scores, recordings, film, historical documents and a range of other relevant materials.

The Departmental Postgraduate Handbook and relevant library resources are referenced to help develop research-based and IT related skills. Your learning development is supported and reviewed in one-to-one tutorial meetings that occur across the academic year with a special emphasis on Term 3.

How you will be assessed

Summative assessment of the programme outcomes occurs across the four 30 CAT modules and 60 CAT portfolio/performance component. Individual modules deploy the most effective and appropriate assessment method according to the topic, and context within the given pathway.

The methods are either:

- 1) a project portfolio that demonstrates ability to undertake a number of focused creative tasks (e.g. a notated or studio-based composition, a software design and performance) with a short evaluative statement (c.500-1500 words).

- 2) an extended composition and 3,000-word commentary that demonstrates ability to apply to a set task, conduct independent research, produce an academic argument and composition that can be supported by evidence and examples. The written element provides analytical, contextual and self-evaluative comment.
- 3) a 5,000-word essay that demonstrates ability to apply critical reasoning to a set question, comparative or analytical task, conduct independent research and produce an academic argument that can be supported by evidence and examples.

The learning outcomes are achieved and demonstrated in their most extensive and comprehensive form in the 60 CAT component that is compulsory for the programme pathway you select.

The methods are:

- 1) a portfolio of compositions Three substantial compositions, or equivalent. Collaborative work is permitted in agreement with your supervisor. A critical self-evaluative commentary (c.3,000 words), and other forms of documentation as appropriate.
- 2) a creative research project (e.g. extended composition, improvisation-based project, sound recording project) and a closely related research essay of c.7,500 words accompanied by other forms of documentation as appropriate. A collaborative element may be permitted in the agreement with your supervisor.
- 3) a performance event or recital, approx. 45 minutes duration, presented in public.

Formative assessment occurs in class discussion of tasks set, tutorial review of your progress, composition workshops and masterclasses, as well as written and oral feedback.

Marking criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	Distinction (Outstanding/ Exceptional)	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to an exceptionally accomplished level. Overall the work demonstrates the conceptualisation, coherency, contextual appropriateness, theoretical sophistication, critical evaluation, accuracy and, above all, originality necessary for it to be publishable as submitted. Any omissions that occur arise as a result of a deliberate, justified focus, rather than through any lack of awareness or incompetence. Research: The research shows independent thinking and methodological awareness to an exceptionally high standard;

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
		<p>the range of sources employed is comprehensive and directed towards further development of the research question; issues are discussed within appropriate theoretical frameworks which, in turn, are subjected to critical inquiry.</p> <p>Text-based assessment: the text is structured with exceptional clarity and cogency, the argument is compelling and the presentation and scholarly procedures employed are flawless.</p> <p>Edition-based assessment: the transcription is exemplary; editorial problems are negotiated in accordance with the best professional standards; editorial decisions are made with genuine understanding of all relevant factors.</p> <p>Performance: An exceptional, professional standard of music performance. Communication with the audience and verbal content and expression in the performance is exemplary. The performance shows a sophisticated and original interpretative understanding. The programme notes are excellent. Supplementary material demonstrates a thorough and comprehensive understanding of how performance illuminates research, and demonstrates evidence of original ideas and independent thought.</p> <p>Creative work: Works will demonstrate a fluency of approach and outstanding qualities with strong evidence of originality, individuality and conceptual coherence. They will demonstrate a sophisticated synthesis of technique, theoretical understanding and imagination. Works will be clearly address well articulated aims of contemporary relevance, and will demonstrate an incisive exploration of aesthetic and technical issues, with respect to notation, instrumentation, production and technology, as relevant. Scores, CDs or other relevant materials will be produced to a professional standard, with written commentaries that evidence a sophisticated and critical approach to contextual frameworks.</p>
70-79%	Distinction	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to an excellent level. Overall the work shows evidence of rigorous analytical research in its conceptualisation of the project; an excellent level of response

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
		<p>to the set tasks; the conceptual coherency of the work/project is strong and ideas are deployed within a clearly defined contextual framework.</p> <p>Research: The relevant research issues are convincingly identified and addressed; there is ample evidence of sustained academic inquiry; the research draws on a wide range of sources which are all critically evaluated; issues are readily identified and contextualised using appropriate theoretical frameworks.</p> <p>Text-based assessment: the text is extremely well structured, ideas are developed, articulated and synthesised to a high standard through cogent argument throughout. Correct scholarly procedures and theoretical frameworks are consistently employed with care, accuracy and an understanding of their purpose.</p> <p>Edition-based assessment: the transcription is correct throughout without any noticeable errors; editorial procedures and problems are reflected consistently and to a high standard; editorial decisions show good understanding of musical or notational conventions; editorial commentary and critical apparatus are detailed, accurate and clearly organised; all relevant sources are considered; the presentation is clear, tidy, well organised and with an excellent understanding of the notational/performance conventions of the given piece.</p> <p>Performance: A high standard of music performance with fluent playing. Any minor errors do not detract significantly from the overall performance. The programme is very well planned and executed. Communication with the audience and verbal content and expression in the performance is excellent. The performance shows an excellent interpretative understanding of the pieces performed. The programme notes are very informative and well presented. Supplementary material demonstrates a thorough understanding of how performance illuminates research.</p>

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
		<p>Creative work: Works will demonstrate an excellent standard with strong evidence of originality, individuality and conceptual coherence. They will demonstrate a convincing synthesis of technique, theoretical understanding and imagination. Works will be well conceived, within the terms of the idiom chosen, and will demonstrate an incisive exploration of aesthetic and technical issues, with respect to notation, instrumentation, production and technology, as relevant. Scores, CDs or other relevant materials will be produced to a professional standard, with written commentaries that evidence a sophisticated and critical approach to contextual frameworks.</p>
60-69%	Merit	<p>Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to a good level. Overall evidence of good analytical research in the conceptualisation of the project; a very good level of response to the set tasks; the conceptual coherency of the work/project is good and ideas deployed within a defined contextual framework.</p> <p>Research: The relevant issues are clearly identified; the range of sources is well developed and shows both sustained academic inquiry and some critical evaluation of the sources; issues are identified and contextualised using appropriate theoretical frameworks.</p> <p>Text-based assessment: the text is well organised, the main argument is clearly focused and constructed. Correct scholarly procedures are employed throughout with accuracy.</p> <p>Edition-based assessment: the transcription is correct with only minor or superficial errors; editorial procedures and problems are reflected consistently; editorial commentary and critical apparatus are detailed, accurate and clearly organised; the presentation is convincing and well organised.</p> <p>Performance: Fluent playing, with only minor errors. The programme is well planned and executed. Communication with the audience and verbal content and expression in the performance is good. The performance shows a good interpretative understanding of the pieces performed. The</p>

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
		<p>programme notes are informative and well presented. Supplementary material demonstrates understanding of how performance illuminates research.</p> <p>Creative work: Works will demonstrate a high standard with clear signs of conceptual coherence and individuality. They will demonstrate the confident and effective use of a range of techniques, with respect to notation, instrumentation, production and technology, as relevant. The approach will be informed by theoretical understanding and imagination. Scores, CDs or other relevant materials will be produced to a high standard, with written commentaries that demonstrate individual insight and assimilation of contextual frameworks.</p>
50-59%	Pass	<p>Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to an adequate level. Overall mainly adequate level of response to the set task; the conceptual coherency of the work/project is largely adequate.</p> <p>Research: Research shows evidence of the identification of relevant issues; the range of sources is limited but shows some initiative beyond the module bibliography; there is evidence of some analytic or contextual skills but these are mainly derivative.</p> <p>Text-based assessment: the text is structured around an argument, though not consistently focussed; scholarly procedures are employed throughout and are largely correct though routinely applied.</p> <p>Edition-based assessment: the transcription is mainly correct with no major mistakes and reflects the musical idiom accurately; reflection upon editorial procedures and problems is demonstrated, but not always consistently; editorial commentary and critical apparatus are sufficiently detailed and accurate; the presentation is generally tidy and organised.</p> <p>Performance: Generally fluent playing, although the performance will be less polished and with some noticeable errors. The programme shows evidence of planning, but is limited in scope. Communication during the performance is</p>

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
		<p>adequate, although verbal content and expression in the performance is limited and hesitant at times. A basic interpretative understanding of the pieces performed. The programme notes are brief and communicate little. Supplementary material demonstrates limited understanding of how performance illuminates research.</p> <p>Creative work: Works will demonstrate an overall satisfactory standard showing some degree of originality or potential. They will demonstrate technical competence, with respect to notation, instrumentation, production and technology, as relevant, as well as relevant knowledge and understanding, a degree of imaginative thinking and conceptual coherency. Scores, CDs or other relevant materials will be adequately produced, with written commentaries that show awareness of contextual frameworks.</p>
30-49%	Fail	<p>Represents an overall failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes at Masters standard.</p> <p>Research: Research shows little evidence of the identification of relevant issues. The range of sources is inadequate, with little interpretation or analysis and there is no independent attempt to find relevant sources and resources. Awareness of methodological problems or contextual framework is not sufficiently demonstrated.</p> <p>Text-based assessment: The text lacks structure and / or sound argument; the focus is not clear; there are major inconsistencies and mistakes in the usage of scholarly procedures and their presentation.</p> <p>Edition-based assessment: many errors in transcribing the music which will make the edition unusable in performance; limited awareness of editorial procedures and problems, editorial decisions not reflected upon and/or inconsistent; editorial commentary and critical apparatus inadequate and underdeveloped; presentation untidy and unorganised.</p> <p>Performance: A weak performance with a basic level of organisation and revealing some significant errors. Poor</p>

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
		<p>programme planning. Communication during the performance is poor, and verbal content and expression in the performance is expressed in very basic terms. Inadequate interpretative understanding of the pieces performed. Minimal programme notes. Supplementary material demonstrates little understanding of how performance illuminates research.</p> <p>Creative work: Works will not be without merit, but fail to meet M level standards: they will demonstrate inadequate technical competence, imaginative thinking or conceptual coherency. Scores, CDs or other relevant materials will be inadequately produced. Minimal written commentaries.</p>
10-29%	Bad fail	<p>Represents a significant overall failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes at Masters standard.</p> <p>Research: Research shows hardly any evidence of the identification of relevant issues, and is very incompetent and incomplete. The range of sources and resources consulted is very limited and inadequate, with little interpretation or analysis. No awareness of methodological problems or contextual framework is demonstrated.</p> <p>Text-based assessment: the organisational structure is weak and unfocused, lacking argument, understanding or relevant examples. Scholarly procedures are misunderstood or employed incorrectly.</p> <p>Edition-based assessment: major errors in transcribing the music; weak grasp of notational systems; no awareness of editorial procedures and problems; lack of adequate editorial commentary and critical apparatus; presentation untidy, ill-organised and inappropriate to the musical idiom, genre or style.</p> <p>Performance: Very poor and revealing many obvious errors. Little sense of programme planning and very poor communication during the performance. Virtually no interpretative understanding of the pieces performed. Minimal or missing programme notes.</p>

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
		Creative work: Works will demonstrate little technical competence, imaginative thinking or conceptual coherency. Scores, CDs or other relevant materials will be poorly produced or inadequate. Minimal or missing written commentaries.
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

Each pathway comprises a) 30 CAT Compulsory modules b) 30 CAT Options c) 60 CAT Major Project (portfolio, performance or recital). You must take four modules (30 CAT each) and the project/portfolio/performance/recital option (60 CAT) designated for your pathway. Each pathway includes a 30 CAT compulsory module that must be taken in the first term of study.

The specialism of your project/portfolio/performance/recital should be closely allied to the specific programme outcomes of your pathway and the selected modules, and agreed with the appropriate Pathway Leader. The options provide you with a choice of modules most relevant to your chosen pathway. You will receive advice from the Department at interview and/or enrolment about your choices. Please note that choices may be affected by the Department timetable.

The programme can be taken in either full-time or part-time mode. In the case of part-time mode, the minimum enrolment is one 30 CAT module in term 1 and term 2 of each year of study.

Option module lists are indicative. Some modules may not be available in some years.

MMus Creative Practice (Pathway A)

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
EITHER: Compositional Techniques	MU71065A	30	7	Compulsory	1
OR: Studio Practice	MU71063A	30	7	Compulsory	1
OR: Popular Music Composition	MU71073B	30	7	Compulsory	1
AND: Creative Project	MU71075B	60	7	Compulsory	1-3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Modules to the value of 60 credits from an approved list available from the Department of Music	Various	60	7	Optional	1 or 2
Students may take a 30 credit related study module from outside the department. The module must be approved by the pathway leader	Various	30	7	Optional	1 or 2

MMus Composition (Pathway B)

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Compositional Techniques	MU71065A	30	7	Compulsory	1
Material Form and Structure	MU71053A	30	7	Compulsory	1
Portfolio of Compositions	MU71077A	60	7	Compulsory	1-3
Modules to the value of 60 credits from an approved list available from the Department of Music	Various	60	7	Optional	1 or 2

MMus Sonic Arts (Pathway C)

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Studio Practice	MU71063A	30	7	Compulsory	1
Sound Agendas	MU71040B	30	7	Compulsory	1
Sonic Arts Project	MU71076A	60	7	Compulsory	1-3
Modules to the value of 60 credits from an approved list available from the Department of Music	Various	60	7	Optional	1 or 2

MMus Performance and Related Studies (Pathway D)

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
EITHER					
Sources and Resources in the Digital Age	MU71060B	30	7	Optional	1
OR					

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Research Through Musical Performance	MU71080A	30	7	Optional	2
Strategies for Performance	MU71062B	30	7	Compulsory	1
Recital	MU71005B	60	7	Compulsory	1-3
Modules to the value of 60 credits from an approved list available from the Department of Music	Various	60	7	Optional	1 or 2

MMus Popular Music (Pathway E)

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Popular Music Composition	MU71073B	30	7	Compulsory	1
AND EITHER: Critical Musicology and Popular Music	MU71069A	30	7	Compulsory	1
OR: Popular Music and its Critics	MU71070C	30	7	Compulsory	2
PLUS: Popular Music Project	MU71074B	60	7	Compulsory	1-3
Modules to the value of 60 credits from an approved list available from the Department of Music	Various	60	7	Optional	1 or 2

Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in a 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.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor (one in each department for joint programmes) who has overall responsibility for their individual progress and welfare. Personal Tutors meet with their student at least twice a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically. The first meeting normally takes place within the first few weeks of the autumn term. Personal Tutors are also available to students throughout the year 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 provides an opportunity for progress, attendance and assessment marks to be reviewed and an informed discussion to take place about how to strengthen individual learning and success.

All students are also allocated a Senior Tutor to enable them to speak to an experienced academic member of staff about any issues which are negatively impacting their academic study and which are beyond the normal scope of issues handled by Programme Convenors and Personal Tutors.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the [Library](#) and information available on [Learn.gold \(VLE\)](#) so that they have access to department/programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

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

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the [Goldsmiths website](#) and for new students 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 and 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 [Disability](#) and [Wellbeing](#) Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The [Careers Service](#) provides central support for skills enhancement, running [The Gold Award](#) scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report ([HEAR](#)).

The [Academic Skills Centre](#) works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and career prospects

The programme is designed with careful consideration of the opportunities, challenges and intellectual demands presented by music-related careers in journalism, teaching, broadcasting, librarianship and arts administration. It also supports the practice-based professions, for example historically-informed performance and sound recording production.

The Masters programme has attracted support in the form of Arts and Humanities Research Council awards to students.

A high proportion of Masters graduates have progressed to MPhil/PhD at either Goldsmiths or other prestigious universities in the UK or overseas.

Graduates specialising in composition and creative practice have achieved performances of their work at internationally established venues, events and festivals, as well as broadcasts on BBC Radio. A number have received prestigious prizes and honourable mentions for their work in competitions including the PRSF New Music Award, the International Competition de Musique et d'Art Sonore Electroacoustiques de Bourges and the International Electroacoustic Competition Musica Viva.

Graduates in performance have successfully pursued international careers in professional performance, taking up positions with established ensembles such as The Australian String Quartet, Tasman String Quartet, Piano Circus, as well as various European orchestras, and undertaking related artist-in-residency and teaching roles.

The requirements of a Goldsmiths degree

All taught postgraduate degrees have a minimum total value of 180 credits and involve one calendar year of full-time study. Some programmes may extend over more than one calendar year and, when this is the case, they have a higher total credit value. Programmes are composed of individual modules, each of which has its own credit value. Part-time students normally take modules to the value of 90 credits each year. If a programme has a part-time pathway, the structure will be set out in the section “How the programme is structured” above. Normally, all modules are at level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

More detailed information about the structure and requirements of a Goldsmiths degree is provided in the [Goldsmiths Qualifications and Credit Framework](#).

Modules

Modules are defined as:

- “Optional” – which can be chosen from a group of modules
- “Compulsory” – which must be taken as part of the degree

Progression

Some programmes may require students to pass specific modules prior to completion of the dissertation/major project (or equivalent). Additionally, where a programme of study extends beyond one calendar year, students may be required to pass specific modules in their first year of study before progressing to the second year. Where this is the case, these requirements will be set out in this Programme Specification.

Award of the degree

In order to graduate, students must successfully complete all modules specified for the programme, as set out within the section “How the programme is structured” above.

Classification

Final degree classification is calculated on the basis of a student’s mean average mark (based on credit value) across all modules on the programme.

Masters degrees are awarded with the following classifications:

Distinction – 70%+

Merit – 60-69%

Pass – 50-59%

More detail on the [calculation of the final classification](#) is on our website.

Interim exit awards

Some programmes incorporate interim exit points of Postgraduate Certificate and/or Postgraduate Diploma, which may be awarded on the successful completion of modules to the minimum value of 60 credits or 120 credits respectively. The awards are made without classification.

When these awards are incorporated within the programme, the relevant learning outcomes and module requirements will be set out within the “What you will be expected to achieve” section above.

The above information is intended as a guide, with more detailed information available in the [Goldsmiths Academic Manual](#).

Programme-specific rules and facts

You must take four modules (30 CAT each) and the dissertation/major project option (60 CAT) designated for your pathway. Each pathway comprises 1. Core modules. 2. Options. 3. Dissertation/Major Project. The specialism of your dissertation/major project should be closely allied to the specific programme outcomes of your pathway and the selected modules, and agreed with the appropriate Pathway Leader. The options provide you with a choice of modules most relevant to your chosen pathway. You will receive advice from the Department at interview and/or enrolment about your choices. Please note that choices may be affected by the Department timetable.

In order to progress, students must pass at least one module to the minimum value of 30 credits.

In order to be considered for the award of a PGCert in Creative Practice, PGCert in Composition, PGCert in Sonic Arts, PGCert in Performance and Related Studies or PGCert in Popular Music a student must have passed modules to the value of 60 credits, which must include one of the 30 CAT compulsory modules relevant to the chosen pathway.

In order to be considered for the award of a PGDip in Creative Practice, PGDip in Composition, PGDip in Sonic Arts, PGDip in Performance and Related Studies or PGDip in Popular Music a student must have passed modules to the value of 120 credits, which must include one of the 30 CAT compulsory modules relevant to the chosen pathway.

General programme costs

In addition to your tuition fees, you will be responsible for meeting standard costs associated with your study. Find out more information at gold.ac.uk/programme-costs.

Specific programme costs

Not applicable.

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 are formally approved against national standards and are monitored throughout the year, such as in departmental committees, a variety of student feedback mechanisms and through the completion of module evaluation questionnaires. Every programme has at least one External Examiner who reviews comments annually on the standards of awards and student achievement. External Examiner(s) attend Boards of Examiners meetings and submit an annual written report.

Modules, programmes and/or departments are also subject to annual and periodic review internally, as well as periodic external scrutiny.

Quality assurance processes aim to ensure Goldsmiths' academic provision remains 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 these procedures are published on the [Quality Office web pages](#).