

Course Specification

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Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Performing Arts		
Course Code(s):	MU025P01UV MU025P31UV	Full-time Part-time	12 Months 2 Years
Course Title:	MSc by Research in Music Technology		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Master of Science by Research Music Technology		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	19/May/2017		
Last Review:	2015/6		
Course Specification valid from:	2015/6		
Course Specification valid to:	2021/2		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Dr Mat Dalglish
Head of Department:	Sarah Browne

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS)

Students will have a good undergraduate degree in Music Technology, Music Computing, Sonic Arts, creative applications of Computer Science or Human-Computer Interaction, or other a relevant subject field. Other graduates will be considered through interview/audition as appropriate, but deep engagement with audio/sound/music and familiarity with contemporary tools and ideas are expected. If you have relevant work experience in your subject area, this can also help you to get a place on a course. All applicants must submit an initial "[Proposal for Study](#)" upon which the learning contract can be agreed as a condition of admission.

Sample research proposal - [English Literature](#)

International entry requirements and application guidance can be found on our website - [International entry requirements and application guidance](#).

Offers are subject to approval of a research proposal.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

This is a postgraduate qualification which is wholly initiated by your own scholarly interests;

- choose from a broad range of subject areas;
- research by supervision, rather than scheduled classes, will enable you to arrange your work around your personal or professional commitments;
- tutorials and feedback on work can be provided online, permitting study overseas or at a distance from the University

We have a strong postgraduate community with opportunities to attend events and encounter students across the full range of disciplines within the Faculty of Arts including Studio and Digital Art, Theatre, Music and Performance. You will also be invited to attend all guest lectures, performances and field trips that constitute a vibrant student experience at the University.

The University of Wolverhampton continues to develop state of the art facilities to greatly enhance your learning experience. The Performance Hub, opened in 2011, has a diverse range of fully equipped music teaching, performance and practice rooms (accommodating single person to large band / ensemble), two high-end professional recording studios, and two bespoke technology suites boasting sixty Apple iMacs running industry standard software including Pro Tools, Logic Pro, Max, Pure Data and SuperCollider. In addition, EASE software is available for research projects on acoustic modelling.

Our two recording studios offer the perfect blend of digital and analogue technologies giving students the opportunity to combine classic analogue recording technique with the flexibility and reliability digital technology provides. As well as a dedicated live room each for recording, for increased flexibility and choice of room acoustic, any of the music rehearsal rooms surrounding each studio can also be patched into the studio's control room.

Educational Aims of the Course:

The MSc by Research in Music Technology is designed to offer an exciting opportunity for students to investigate an area of their own academic interest in the varied fields of audio programming, software and video games development, interactive music, room acoustics, interfaces and controllers, and other music technology related areas. You will be encouraged to demonstrate self-direction and autonomy, under the supervision of published experts in their fields and develop your theoretical and methodological understanding, engaging with current debates in some of the most vibrant areas of contemporary research.

Your programme of study will be based upon a Learning Contract negotiated between you and your supervising team. You will need to complete "Proposal for Study" form indicating your topic and admission will be based upon the successful agreement of a topic and the identification of appropriate supervision. Under guidance of your principal supervisor, you will produce non-assessed assignments, leading to a final assessed portfolio of your final research. The MSc by Research in Music Technology provides an opportunity to plan and execute a substantial project in an area of personal specialism or interest. Innovative projects are encouraged and interdisciplinary and/or collaboration with practitioners in other fields is possible.

Intakes:

September
January

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Full Time	£6400.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time	£13350.00
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3200.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

January (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 1

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7MU018	Dissertation/Portfolio by Research in Music Technology	180	CRYRA	Core

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 1

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7MU018	Dissertation/Portfolio by Research in Music Technology	180	INJR	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

Section 1.2.8 and 1.3.1 Exemption to permit one,180 credit year-long Dissertation/Project module.

Approved by AFRSC: 05/04/2016.

Reference Points:

Quality Code - [Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards](#).

Including:

- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) ([Qualifications Frameworks](#))
- [Characteristics Statements](#)
- [Credit Frameworks](#)
- PG awards guidance from QAA masters degree characteristics ([Subject Benchmark Statements](#))

Quality Code - [Part B: Assuring and Enhancing Academic Quality](#)

[University Policies and Regulations](#)

Equality Act (2010)

Learning Outcomes:

Masters Course Learning Outcome 1 (MACLO1)

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of a variety of topical viewpoints and historical, contextual, philosophical, technical and scientific theories in music technology, taking an independent and holistic perspective; understand the possibilities afforded by the contemporary, expanded field of music technology (including its gaps and trends), and be able to position your own work, interests and aspirations within this wider context.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 2 (MACLO2)

Select, interpret, develop and apply a variety of research methodologies and appropriate techniques relating to aspects such as technologised production and performance, reactive/interactive/non-linear media, and computational creativity, etc.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 3 (MACLO3)

Exercise analytical, critical, evaluative, and creative skills using a wide variety of hardware and software techniques and, where appropriate, actively design and develop your own.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 4 (MACLO4)

Exercise personal autonomy in learning through effective self-organisation and management of workload.

Overview of Assessment:

Module	Title	Course Learning Outcomes
7MU018	Dissertation/Portfolio by Research in Music Technology	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

FHEQ states, 'Typically, holders of the [Masters] qualification will be able to:

- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively,
- make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

The holders will have:

- The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
- The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Students will negotiate and agree on a series of staged tasks, relevant to their area of enquiry, leading to a final assessed dissertation. These tasks may include, depending on the nature of the project:

- Authorship of a Learning Contract together with a schedule of activities;
- Development of research methodologies appropriate to their subject discipline;
- Gathering and critical analysis of research materials;
- Gathering of primary data and their analysis;
- Submission of work in draft stages, followed by a process of editing and reworking;
- Engaging with a series of progress tutorials with the principal supervisor, particularly supporting the development of self-direction, intellectual independence and your research skills through dissertations, analysis and individual projects, and the development of your creative skills using a wide variety of hardware and software techniques;
- Seminars, workshops, master-classes, or other forms of small-research-group discussion, sometimes involving individual research presentations under the guidance of professional practitioners and visiting specialists, to develop oral presentation, negotiation and communication skills;
- Peer-learning where you discuss critically your colleagues' work, e.g. presentations, demonstrations of software/hardware;
- Independent learning, whether as directed reading and listening related to essay-writing or project work or as practice for developing creative or technical skills;
- A wide variety of non-assessed curricular activities, especially those involving your participation in/or attendance at research talks etc.;
- Writing (essays, learning journals, concert reviewing etc) as a means of developing research techniques, acquiring knowledge, and presenting ideas and arguments in written form;
- Studio or laboratory work, including hands-on experience in the use of electronic equipment for audio/video recording, and for various forms of empirical work;
- Practical exercises, usually connected with the development of creative, analytical, technical and/or aural

skills;

- Submission of a completed portfolio/dissertation edited to professional standards, carrying out an independent research project that is based within theory and/or practice-lead experience;
- Viva voce presentation after submission of the portfolio/dissertation, demonstrating an ability to present information and discuss/answer questions.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

The University and the Students' Union believe that many incidents of academic misconduct can be avoided by increasing students' knowledge and skill.

A variety of support mechanisms are in place to help students succeed and avoid academic misconduct:

- Visit the Learning Centre or our study skills support website at www.wlv.ac.uk/skills
- Download the Students' Union guide to Avoiding Academic Misconduct ("Write Right") - available from the Student's Union website
- Book a Skype appointment with study skills adviser or join the online chat service ASSIST - through the Learning Centre "Skills for Learning" website.
- Contact your personal tutor or module leader.

Remember – there is help available if you need it.

Employability in the Curriculum:

The course will provide you with the knowledge and key abilities and strategies to further your artistic career independently. The MSc by Research will provide an excellent preparatory pathway into doctoral research (PhD study). However, for individuals seeking to enhance their C.V. or undertake some professional enhancement, this mode of study will enable you to tailor your study towards your career pathway and combine it with your work schedule and other commitments. The wide range of subjects offered will provide relevant opportunities for individuals either within, or planning to enter, a wide range of professions to develop and evidence the acquisition of higher level skills.

