

**Programme Specification**

**Title of Course: MMus in Composing for Film and TV**

**Date Specification Produced: August 2014**

**Date Specification Last Revised:**  **March 2021**

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content of each module can be found in the Course Handbook on Canvas and in individual Module Descriptors.

**SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION**

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| **Title:** | Composing for Film and TV |
| **Awarding Institution:** | Kingston University |
| **Teaching Institution:** | *Kingston University* |
| **Location:** | Kingston Hill |
| **Programme Accredited by:** | N/A |

**SECTION2: THE PROGRAMME**

1. **Programme Introduction**

The MA/MMus courses in Music have been running since 1994 but have evolved over the years to provide a broad-based music education with programmes in performance, composing for film and TV, music education and music technology. Students from the UK and overseas are attracted by the breadth of the programme, by the facilities provided within the Coombehurst complex and by the wide-ranging expertise of the Music staff. The University supports a large number of performing ensembles which students can perform in or write for; students who take individual performance can learn from practising London professionals and all benefit from lectures and seminars given by leading researchers which is core to the programme.

In addition to taking the core module (Researching Music) followed by all MA/MMus students which teach research skills and present topics of current interest within music, students take two core modules in composing for film and TV, each of which has a distinctive focus. Together they teach techniques of composition for the film and TV composer and use of advanced technology for sound to image, as well as project management and the business of working with directors and performers. Students also choose one option from a wide range of other modules from the other programmes and level 6 options. Students also create a large-scale piece of composition to picture in the major project in which collaborations with film makers and animators is encouraged.

Music at Kingston is part of a Department of Performing Arts: Music, Drama, and Dance within the School of Arts, Culture and Communication. Students specialising in composition can benefit from collaborations with students from these other areas, and those interested in composing for film and TV can take a module from the MA in Film Studies programme as their optional module.

Ample practice facilities, ensemble rehearsal rooms, and a Mac laboratory are provided in the Coombehurst complex. Coombehurst Studio is a large high-quality live professional recording studio with surround sound, and there are four other well-resourced recording studios suitable for Master’s study.

The course includes an integrated work placement or placements, which enables students to further develop their professional skills and enhance their employability. From the start of the course, students will begin to work to secure (a) placement(s) suitable for their course and career, supported and advised by the Careers and Employability Services team and the Professional Placement Module Leader. Workshops are provided on CV creation, interview techniques and placement searching, with drop-in sessions to provide additional support. In order to take the Professional Placement module, students need to have arranged a placement, approved by the Course Leader, by the end the preceding teaching block. Students undertake the placement either before the final module or following the completion of the final module. During the placement students will be supervised (online) by a tutor who, if possible, will visit during the placement. Depending on the location of the placement, meetings might take place face-to-face or via video conferencing platforms. The placement module will make use of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Canvas for communication and dissemination of information between students and staff as well as making online learning materials available. Students will be required to keep a critical diary of the tasks and duties undertaken during their placement, to provide a framework for a reflective essay and work placement report, which is submitted for assessment at the end of the placement. They will also assemble and collate samples of work and evidence of achievement produced during their placement which will also be submitted for assessment. Placement providers will be asked to appraise the students’ work and this feedback will be made available to the student. The placement module will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

This integrated placement(s) provides students with a valuable opportunity to apply and develop their knowledge and skills in a professional working environment, enabling them to deepen their knowledge of the industry, develop their self-confidence, and strengthen their CV. Students undertaking placement activities are in a stronger position to gain the skills and experience which are valued by employers.

1. **Aims of the Programme**

* To provide a coherent but flexible two-year part-time or one-year full-time Master’s programme for composers writing to moving image, which will develop their compositional, technical and critical skills and knowledge to a level beyond that of first degree study.
* To stimulate an inquiring, creative mind and encourage initiative, creativity, critical evaluation and independence of thought which will allow students to continue to develop their musical expertise and knowledge beyond graduation.
* To develop an understanding of relevant musical knowledge, and a critical awareness of contemporary issues which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the discipline of music scholarship and professional practice.
* To provide a programme which fulfils the professional needs of Film and TV composers by providing knowledge of technology and its use, experience of collaboration with directors and musicians, and knowledge of business practices.
* The 2-year programme with integrated placement(s) also provides students with an opportunity to enhance their professional skills, preparing them for higher levels of employment, further study and lifelong learning

1. **Intended Learning Outcomes**

The programme outcomes are referenced to the QAA subject benchmarks for Music (UG), the Master’s Degree Characteristics (2020), the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014) and relate to the typical student. The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

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| **Programme Learning Outcomes** | | | | | |
|  | **Knowledge and Understanding**  **On completion of the course students will be able to:** |  | **Intellectual skills**  **On completion of the course students will be able to:** |  | **Subject Practical skills**  **On completion of the course students will be able to:** |
| A1 | demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the techniques of composition required for composing for film and TV, and understanding of the role of music in relation to moving image; | B1 | handle complex issues both systematically and creatively, and communicate their findings clearly and succinctly; | C1 | demonstrate high level practical and technical skills in relation to composition and studio production; |
| A2 | demonstrate a thorough knowledge and understanding of the industry-standard music technology used for composing for film and TV; | B2 | demonstrate a high degree of critical awareness in relation to their own work and that of others; | C2 | work effectively with other musicians; |
| A3 | demonstrate knowledge and understanding of orchestration/arrangement in relation to working to picture; | B3 | demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing projects at a professional level; | C3 | produce professional quality soundtracks and recordings; |
| A4 | produce relevant film scores which demonstrate a thorough knowledge of music notation; | B4 | analyse film music and critically evaluate its effectiveness, and apply the knowledge and understanding of musical contexts gained to their own work; | C4 | work within the discipline of a brief, manage a project and construct a budget, taking account of the business and legal issues involved in writing music for broadcast. |
| A5 | demonstrate a thorough understanding of research methods in music, and knowledge of some current issues in music research. | B5 | demonstrate imagination and originality in responding to moving image through composition. | C5 | Demonstrate professional skills (including self-presentation, communication, interpersonal/teamwork, research and information literacy, numeracy, time-management and project-planning, management and leadership skills, and ethical practice). |

In addition to the programme learning outcomes identified overleaf, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will allow students to develop a range of Key Skills as follows:

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| **Key Skills** | | | | | | |
| **Self-Awareness Skills** | **Communication Skills** | **Interpersonal Skills** | **Research and information Literacy Skills** | **Numeracy Skills** | **Management & Leadership Skills** | **Creativity and Problem Solving Skills** |
| Take responsibility for own learning and plan for and record own personal development | Express ideas clearly and unambiguously in writing and the spoken work | Work well with others in a group or team | Search for and select relevant sources of information | Collect data from primary and secondary sources and use appropriate methods to manipulate and analyse this data | Determine the scope of a task (or project) | Apply scientific and other knowledge to analyse and evaluate information and data and to find solutions to problems |
| Recognise own academic strengths and weaknesses, reflect on performance and progress and respond to feedback | Present, challenge and defend ideas and results effectively orally and in writing | Work flexibly and respond to change | Critically evaluate information and use it appropriately | Present and record data in appropriate formats | Identify resources needed to undertake the task (or project) and to schedule and manage the resources | Work with complex ideas and justify judgements made through effective use of evidence |
| Organise self effectively, agreeing and setting realistic targets, accessing support where appropriate and managing time to achieve targets | Actively listen and respond appropriately to ideas of others | Discuss and debate with others and make concession to reach agreement | Apply the ethical and legal requirements in both the access and use of information | Interpret and evaluate data to inform and justify arguments | Evidence ability to successfully complete and evaluate a task (or project), revising the plan where necessary |  |
| Work effectively with limited supervision in unfamiliar contexts |  | Give, accept and respond to constructive feedback | Accurately cite and reference information sources | Be aware of issues of selection, accuracy and uncertainty in the collection and analysis of data | Motivate and direct others to enable an effective contribution from all participants |  |
|  |  | Show sensitivity and respect for diverse values and beliefs | Use software and IT technology as appropriate |  |  |  |

1. **Entry Requirements**

The minimum entry qualifications for the programme are:

A good honours degree in music or other relevant subject. Where an applicant can produce evidence of relevant experiential learning (e.g., work as a professional performer or composer), it may be possible to consider in lieu of a music degree a good honours degree in a subject other than music or advanced study in a conservatoire which has not led to a degree

Applicants will also need to demonstrate a high level of compositional ability and technical knowledge through the submission of a folio of work (three contrasting recordings and scores).

A minimum IELTS score of 6.5, TOEFL 88 (iBT) or equivalent is required for those for whom English is not their first language.

It may be necessary to get CRB clearance if the student chooses one of the music education modules as an option.

1. **Programme Structure**

This programme is offered in full-time, part-time and ‘with Professional Placement’ mode, and leads to the award of MMus in Composing for film and TV.

**E1. Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies**

None

**E2. Work-based learning**

Work placement is an integral part of the 2-year programme and students will receive support from the award winning Careers and Employability Services team.

While it is the responsibility of individual students to secure appropriate placements, the Careers and Employability Services team offers each student support at all stages of the application process, including writing CVs, completing application forms, participating in mock interviews, assessment centre activities and psychometric tests. Sourcing and applying for placement(s) gives students the opportunity to experience a competitive job application process.

The experience of the work placement period enables students to apply their learning in the professional work environment, to reflect upon their own personal experience of working in an applied setting, to focus on aspects of this experience that they can clearly relate to their prior learning, and to evaluate the relationships between academic skills and employers’ expectations. Students will be assessed during and at the end of this period, through a portfolio of work, which will be marked as pass/fail.

**E3. Outline Programme Structure**

The programme is made up of four modules each worth 30 credit points and the Major Project which is 60 credits. Part time students take 3x30 credit modules in year1 and 1x30 credit module and the Major Project (60 credits) in their second year. All students will be provided with the University regulations. Full details of each module will be provided in module descriptors and student module guides.

Students on the 2-year programme (with integrated placement) must complete all modules except the final ‘capstone project’ module, by the end of TB2, and then work in their placement(s) for a maximum of 12 months. The student should confirm that their placement opportunity is available by the end of May, and the course team will confirm whether this is acceptable within two weeks. Students on placement(s) must complete a portfolio assessment which includes a reflection on how they have applied the skills they have developed during the previous year, within a professional working environment.

A comprehensive list of all possible options is provided here. The option list in any given year will be carefully constructed to ensure that the course curriculum is coherent, enabling students to achieve the programme learning outcomes via their chosen selection of modules.

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| **Level 7** | | | | | |  |
| **Compulsory modules** | | **Module code** | **Credit**  **Value** | **Level** | **Teaching Block** |  |
| Researching Music | | MU7001 | 30 | 7 | 1&2 |  |
| Techniques and Technology for Composing for Film and Television Media Composers | | MU7008 | 30 | 7 | 1 |  |
| Score and Screen | | MU7017 | 30 | 7 | 2 |  |
| Major Project | | MU7012 | 60 | 7 | 2 |  |
| **Option modules** | |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Analogue Studio | | MU6302 | 30 | 6 | 1&2 |  |
| Live Sound & Event Management | | MU6307 | 30 | 6 | 1&2 |  |
| Special Study: Experimental Music: Derbyshire, the BBC Radiophonic Workshop and Beyond | | MU6201 | 30 | 6 | 1&2 |  |
| Special Study: Instrument Building, Bending, and Breaking | | MU6202 | 30 | 6 | 1&2 |  |
| Performance Studies | | MU7003 | 30 | 7 | 1&2 |  |
| International Music Education: Psychology, Culture and Philosophy | | MU7004 | 30 | 7 | 1 |  |
| Constructing Music Education in the UK | | MU7005 | 30 | 7 | 2 |  |
| Advanced Production of Popular Music | | MU7006 | 30 | 7 | 1 |  |
| Composing and Marketing Popular Music | | MU7007 | 30 | 7 | 2 |  |
| Critical Aspects of Musical Performance | | MU7016 | 30 | 7 | 1&2 |  |
| Professional Placement | | HU7100 | 120 | 7 | TB3 (Year 1) and TB1&TB2 (Yr 2) |  |
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Students exiting the programme with 60 credits are eligible for the award of PgCert in Composing for Film and TV.

Students exiting the programme with 120 credits are eligible for the award of PgDip in Composing for Film and TV.

1. **Principles of Teaching Learning and Assessment**

**Teaching and Learning**

The teaching and learning strategy is designed to facilitate the development of the students’ skills in composing music to a variety of different types of moving image, and offers the opportunity to work alongside film-makers, screen designers and animators. Students will also study the aesthetics and functions of music composed to image, exploring the relationship(s) between the composer and producer, director and music editor. Students will also study a common core of Researching Music and select one optional module from a wide range of music topics and/or closely related subjects. The learning experience will culminate in a substantial research project in the form of original compositions to moving image. Tutor guidance will be provided to support module selection to ensure a balanced programme.

The philosophy of the learning and teaching strategy is based on the notion of the integration of theory and practice, with student participation central to course delivery. Students are encouraged to engage in debate, critique and to enhance their skills as independent learners through individual research and composition. The main foci of the teaching are on the development of the students' research skills, compositional techniques, practical studio skills and critical analytical tools, so that they can develop autonomy in their learning. In addition students will be supported in the development of their own informed and original creative voice, taking into account recent and current research as well as industry and artistic practices.

Variety in learning and teaching methods is central to the delivery of the MMus Composing for Film and TV at Kingston. Strategies include:

* Lecture;
* Seminar;
* Workshop and practical demonstration;
* Studio–based work;
* Professional recording session;
* Individual tutorial.

Keynote lectures will be used to introduce topics and to disseminate key information, both theoretical and practical, and visiting industry professionals will ensure currency on topics such as writing music for film and television dramas and documentaries, advertising, providing library music and copyright. Workshops, practical demonstrations, studio-based work and a professional recording session will be central to the delivery of the MMus Composing for Film and TV where first-hand engagement with the material is critical. Students will be supported in the development of self- and peer-assessment skills through critiquing their own work and that of others. This process has the added benefit of offering continual formative feedback.

The Major Project enables the student to specialise in a particular genre of composition to moving image and to demonstrate originality. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning in terms of background research, practical preparation and analysis, and to work independently and self critically.

In addition to face-to-face contact between students and teaching staff, a virtual learning environment (Canvas) will provide students with access to a range of materials for each module. These materials will typically include the module guide, lecture slides and handouts, audio-visual material and links to useful web-resources. Use of the collaborative tools offered by Canvas (e.g. discussion boards, blogs, wikis etc) will be encouraged to facilitate team-working and interactive problem-solving skills, to prepare for and follow up taught sessions and to prepare for assessment for Colloquia where online interaction with staff and other students will be an integral part of the assessment strategy. Canvas can be used from any networked personal computer in the University as well as from most personal computers connected to the Internet.

**Assessment**

The assessment strategies address the key aims of the programme: to develop students’ musical and critical skills and knowledge, to stimulate an inquiring mind and encourage initiative, creativity, critical evaluation and independence of thought, to develop a systematic understanding of relevant musical knowledge, and a critical awareness of contemporary issues in music, to provide knowledge of research practices in music and to enable students to undertake a substantial individual research project. The strategies are also designed to facilitate the acquisition of transferable skills that will enhance the students’ employability in a range of sectors, and to enable students to proceed to research degrees.

Assessment is by coursework. A wide variety of summative assessment strategies will be used which have been selected to match the diversity of the learning outcomes to be tested and the nature of the work to be assessed. The tasks have been designed to offer a set of stimulating challenges, many of which reflect demands likely to be imposed on students in the workplace. Alongside the summative assessment there will be many opportunities for students to receive formative feedback from their tutors through seminar discussions, informal presentations, composition, performance and studio-based workshops and group and one-to-one tutorials.

In summary, the nature of the assessment of the course will utilise a combination of:

* Annotated bibliography;
* Contributions to academic debate on Canvas;
* Critique/Critical review;
* Essay;
* Performance;
* Portfolio of Compositions / Recordings;
* Position paper;
* Practical project: planning, implementation and evaluation;
* Presentation;
* Recording Project (proposal, documentation and recordings);
* Research paper.

Written and oral presentations are central to the assessment strategy. Through these modes of assessment students demonstrate the ability to undertake independent reading and research, to analyse, critique, challenge and synthesise ideas, to offer a personal viewpoint and to communicate with competence and clarity to the audience.

Creative outcomes are assessed by a portfolio of compositions (with accompanying recording score and evaluation), recordings, or sound to picture music files. Students are required to develop a distinctive voice and to demonstrate a range of techniques, compose imaginatively, competence in the use of instruments, produce a genre dependent score and critically appraise their own work.

The MMus in Composing for Film and TV programme culminates in the Major Project. This enables the student to undertake an original piece of creative work on a topic of their own choice in the form of a folio of compositions to moving image with supporting recording, DVD and critical commentary.

**Support for Students and their Learning**

Students are supported by:

* A Module Leader for each module
* A Course Leader to help students understand the programme structure
* Personal Tutors to provide academic and personal support
* A placement tutor to give general advice on placements
* Pre-sessional and year-long English language development programme
* Technical support to advise students on IT and the use of software
* A designated Course Administrator
* An induction week at the beginning of each new academic session
* Staff Student Consultative Committee
* Canvas – a versatile online interactive intranet and learning environment accessible both on and off-site
* LinkedIn Learning – an online platform offering self-paced software tutorials
* A substantial Academic Success Centre that provides academic skills support for both UG and PG students
* Student support facilities that provide advice on issues such as finance, regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support etc.
* A Student Achievement Officer who provides pastoral support
* Support for students with disabilities
* The Union of Kingston Students
* Careers and Employability Services team, who will provide support for students prior to undertaking work placement(s)
* Faculty-aligned Careers Advisers who run workshops, weekly drop-ins and 1:1 appointments

1. **Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course**

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

* External Examiners
* Boards of Study with student representation
* Annual Monitoring and Enhancement
* Periodic review undertaken at subject level
* Student evaluation including MEQs (Module Evaluation Questionnaires) and Postgraduate Survey
* Moderation policies
* Feedback from employers

1. **Employability Statement**

A high proportion of MMus Composing for Film and TV students obtain employment on graduation in the music industry, subjects allied to music or enrol for a MPhil/PhD either at home, or abroad. For those students who are already in employment and are undertaking the MMus in a part-time mode, the award may accelerate promotion and open up new opportunities.

The particular nature of Postgraduate study in Music at Kingston, combining as it does theoretical knowledge and practical skills, thus offering a broad musical curriculum, equips graduates for a broad range of careers which have included music and arts administration, the music business, school, higher education and instrumental teaching, outreach work and educational workshops, music composition, arranging, professional performance, conducting and music publishing. The high level of research and transferable skills that students acquire during their studies also makes available to them careers in both the commercial and business environment.

The 2-year integrated work placement programme is designed to provide students with enhanced opportunities for securing professional employment at the end of their degree, providing skills and experience that employers are looking for in their work force. These are supported by the Careers and Employability Services team, providing drop-in and scheduled events to support students in the preparation of CVs, applications, and preparation for interviews and assessment centres.

1. **Approved Variants from the Postgraduate Regulations**

None

1. **Other sources of information that you may wish to consult**

**Course page on the KU website:**

<https://www.kingston.ac.uk/postgraduate-course/composing-film-television-mmus/>

**Development of Programme Learning Outcomes in Modules**

This map identifies where the field/course learning outcomes are **summatively** assessed across the modules for this field/course. It provides an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the field/course aims, a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the field/course progresses and a checklist for quality assurance purposes.

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|  |  |  | **Level 7**  **Compulsory Modules** | | | | **Level 6**  **Option Modules** | | | | | **Level 7**  **Option Modules** | | | |
|  | **Module Code** |  | MU7001 | MU7008 | MU70 17 | MU7012 | MU6202 | MU6307 | MU6201 | MU6202 | MU7003 | MU7006 | MU7007 | MU7016 | HU7100 |
| **Programme Learning Outcomes** | **Knowledge & Understanding** | A1 |  | S | S | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A2 |  | S | S | S | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A3 |  | S | S | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A4 |  | S | S | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A5 | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | S |  |  | S |  |
| **Intellectual Skills** | B1 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |  |
| B2 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |  |
| B3 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |  |
| B4 | S | S | S | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B5 |  | S | S | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Practical Skills** | C1 |  | S | S | S | S | S |  |  |  | S | S |  |  |
| C2 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |  |
| C3 |  | S | S | S | S | S |  | S | S | S | S |  |  |
| C4 |  | S | S |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | S |  |  |
| C5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | S |

**Students will be provided with formative assessment opportunities throughout the course to practise and develop their proficiency in the range of assessment methods utilised.**

**Technical Annex**

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| **Final Award(s):** | MMus in Composing for Film and TV |
| **Intermediate Award(s):** | Postgraduate Diploma in Composing for Film and TV  Postgraduate Certificate in Composing for Film and TV |
| **Minimum period of registration:** | 1 year full-time, 2 years full-time (with Professional Placement); 2 years part-time |
| **Maximum period of registration:** | 2 years full-time, 3 years full-time (with Professional Placement); 4 years part-time |
| **FHEQ Level for the Final Award:** | Masters |
| **QAA Subject Benchmark:** | Music |
| **Modes of Delivery:** | Full-time, Part Time and ‘with Professional Placement’ |
| **Language of Delivery:** | English |
| **Faculty:** | Kingston School of Arts |
| **School:** | Arts, Culture and Communication |
| **Department:** | Performing Arts |
| **Course/Route Code:** | PFCFT1CFT01 (Full-time)  PPCFT1CFT02 (Part-time) |
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