

MASTER OF MUSIC EDUCATION TEACHING MUSICIAN

Programme Overview

Updated July 2025

The information in this document is relevant to prospective applicants and current students studying for the MMusEd qualification at the RCM. Some restrictions might apply based on your Principal Study and your choice of study route.

Programme Structure

Overview

- Principal study in performance or composition (with optional second study), with regular faculty-based workshops, activities, and performance opportunities
- Teaching Musician Supporting Studies module
- Professional Placements modules
- Electives drawn from a wide range of modules

Programme Credit Framework

The two-year Masters programme comprises a total of 240 credits, taken over two years of 120 credits each. The intensive Masters programme comprises a total of 180 credits and is taken over 12 months.

Students have 60 credits allocated to Principal Study (or Principal and Second Study split as 50 + 10 credits) and 30 credits to the Teaching Musician Supporting Studies modules. The remaining 30 credits are allocated to the Placements module and an Elective module.

	PRINCIPAL STUDY	TEACHING MUSICIAN SUPPORTING STUDIES	PLACEMENTS	ELECTIVE
Year 1	60 credits	30 credits	15 credits	15 credits
Year 2	60 credits	30 credits	15 credits	15 credits

Intensive programme

In some cases, the MMusEd is offered as a full-time intensive programme, delivered over twelve months. The intensive programme is structured as follows:

PRINCIPAL STUDY	TEACHING MUSICIAN SUPPORTING STUDIES	PLACEMENTS	ELECTIVE
90 credits	60 credits	15 credits	15 credits

Part-time study

Part-time study is not available on the MMusEd programme.

Principal Study

Please see [faculty pages](#) for detailed information on Principal Study.

Second Study

All students are eligible to audition for a Second Study upon request. An audition will normally be required following the submission of options after registration. All Second Studies are subject to the agreement of the Area Leader for Education and relevant Heads of Faculty.

You may also allocate some of your Principal Study hours to unassessed study of a related instrument on an uncredited basis, subject to the agreement of the Area Leader for Education and your Head of Faculty.

Teaching Musician Supporting Studies

In these modules, you will engage with a wide range of topics related to education, teaching and learning. These topics may include:

- Theories of teaching and learning
- Instrumental pedagogy
- Musicians as educators
- Embodied methodologies: Dalcroze and Kodály
- Creative Musicianship
- Creating a successful climate for learning
- Developing education projects
- Inclusive learning: EDI and SpLD
- Music as communication
- Planning and assessment
- Research Project
- Teaching mixed ability groups
- Workshop skills

Placements and Electives

In the **Placements** modules you will undertake a range of placements in partner organisations which may include schools, music services/hubs, education departments of ensembles, RCM Sparks or RCM Junior Department.

Each year you will also take an **Elective** module. You are encouraged to choose Electives which will develop your range of skills.

Please note this list is indicative only, and not all modules run every year. Elective modules may be subject to change according to student numbers and availability of professors.

Alexander Technique

This module explores the application of Alexander Technique to practice, and processes of decision-making in performance. You will critically observe and analyse your own performance.

Art of Piano Teaching

Study the theory and practice of teaching the piano in a variety of educational settings.

Arts in Health and Care

Explore the field of performing arts in health and care. Consider how the performing arts can address specific needs, be effectively implemented in care contexts, and integrated into healthcare systems.

Aural Analysis

Explore the theory and practice of analysing a broad range of music from an aural perspective, focusing on coherence and expression in form, harmony, melody, tonality, and syntax, as well as practical applications.

Collections in Practice

In this module you will explore artefacts in the RCM's museum, library and art collections including autograph manuscripts, editions and recordings.

Composition

Work one-to-one with a tutor to refine your compositional techniques and gain an enhanced understanding of the art, craft and technique of composition.

Composition for Screen

Work one-to-one with a tutor to refine your compositional techniques and gain an enhanced understanding of the art, craft and technique of screen composition.

Conducting

You will have practical classes on key works, including attention to directing ensemble, rehearsal techniques, comparative interpretations, and developing/communicating personal interpretations.

Contemporary Music in Action

Explore the collaborative process of creating a new work between composer and performer and learn how to articulate in detail the process involved.

Electronic Music

You will gain practical training in the use of advanced hardware and software tools in electronic and electroacoustic compositions.

Experimental Music

An introduction to experimental music including open scores, extended techniques and object-based music. You will develop understanding of historical, practical, and aesthetic issues relating to experimental music performance practice.

Historical Performance

Explore a wide range of repertoire from 1600-1900 through projects organised by the Historical Performance department.

Improvisation

Develop improvisation skills on your Principal Study instrument through individualised coaching focussing on technical and theoretical aspects of improvisation. You can choose to focus on baroque, classical, jazz or experimental approaches.

Memorising Music

Learn the theory and practice of memorising music successfully.

Musicianship & Improvisation

Explore musicianship and stylistic improvisation skills to an advanced level.

Orchestration Portfolio/Orchestration Project

These modules explore how to write imaginatively and effectively for orchestra and other large ensembles.

Orchestration for Screen

Develop basic technical skills of effective orchestration for screen media by analysing existing models and considering the creative, aesthetic and practical issues of orchestration.

Performance Education

This module provides insight into fundamental principles of performance education and expertise, as elucidated through current scientific research and educational practice. Drawing on your own experience, you will explore music perception and production and engage directly with implications for learning and teaching.

Performers' Health & Wellbeing

This module explores how physical and mental health can shape how musicians pursue their art. Drawing on recent research into the physical and mental demands of music making, you are encouraged to explore the ways in which musicians meet those demands.

Performance Psychology

This module introduces you to processes and perspectives that define and underpin performance psychology, drawing on interdisciplinary research. You will develop critical and analytical resourcefulness, and gain awareness of the mental skills that facilitate effective practice and successful performance.

Practical Teaching Portfolio

In this module you will develop your teaching practice through self-reflection, self-assessment and guided self-critique. You will discuss current teaching activities with an allocated mentor and observe your mentor and your peers in a teaching situation.

Professional Musician

This module helps you to prepare for a healthy, proactive, and sustainable career in music through individual career coaching, cross-faculty group workshops, and industry knowledge and insights.

Professional Project

This module supports you to develop and deliver a self-directed project with a professional focus. Examples could include curating and presenting a concert in an external venue or festival, developing and pitching a business proposal, or undertaking a project based on an extended work placement.

Stylistic Composition

Learn the art and craft of compositional technique in a variety of styles. There are two routes: classical (broadly early baroque to early twentieth century) and jazz.

Techniques of Analysis

This module explores a range of different technical approaches to analysing a broad range of music, focusing on coherence and expression in form, harmony, melody, tonality, and syntax.

The Digital Musician

Develop digital skills and understanding of the role of technology in a musician's career.

Women in Music

You will gain understanding of women's role in music, past and present, through a research-based performance project and a professional placement alongside a female mentor.