

# Programme Specification and Curriculum Map: MA Music

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Middlesex  
University

<b>1. Awarding institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>2. Teaching institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3. Programme accredited by</b>	n/a
<b>4. Final qualification</b>	MA
<b>5. Programme title</b>	Music
<b>6. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)</b>	W310
<b>7. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)</b>	QAA Subject benchmark statements for Music, Level-3 and as these inform QAA FHEQ Guidelines.
<b>8. Academic Year</b>	2007-8

## 9. Reference points

University Regulations

Middlesex University Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy;

QAA Subject benchmark statements for Music, Level-3 and Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Descriptor for a Qualification at Masters Level.

## 10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to provide a flexible framework for training and assessment in the development of specialist skills and understanding at postgraduate level for students specialising in Music.

**11. Programme outcomes\* - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. The highest level at which these programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates is shown in the curriculum map section.**

**A. Outcomes**

On completion of this programme the successful student will have:

1. a systematic **understanding of a specialised area of musical knowledge** and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights at or informed by the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice;
2. a comprehensive **understanding of musical techniques** applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship.

**Teaching/learning methods**

Students gain knowledge and understanding primarily through **interactive lectures** and specialist **seminars**.

**Assessment**

Students' knowledge is assessed primarily through **essays**.

**B. Skills**

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

1. make sound **judgements** in their specialist field systematically and creatively, and in the absence of complete data and to **communicate** their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
2. **continue to advance their musical knowledge** and understanding, and to develop new composition, performance, arts management, musicology or analysis skills to a high level;
3. conceptual understanding that enables the student:
  - (a) to **evaluate critically current music research**;
  - (b) to **evaluate methodologies** in music and develop critiques of them.
  - (c) to **evaluate aspects of musical** performance, composition, musicology, analysis or arts management as appropriate to the student's particular

**Teaching/learning methods**

Students acquire skills primarily through **workshops** and **tutorials**.

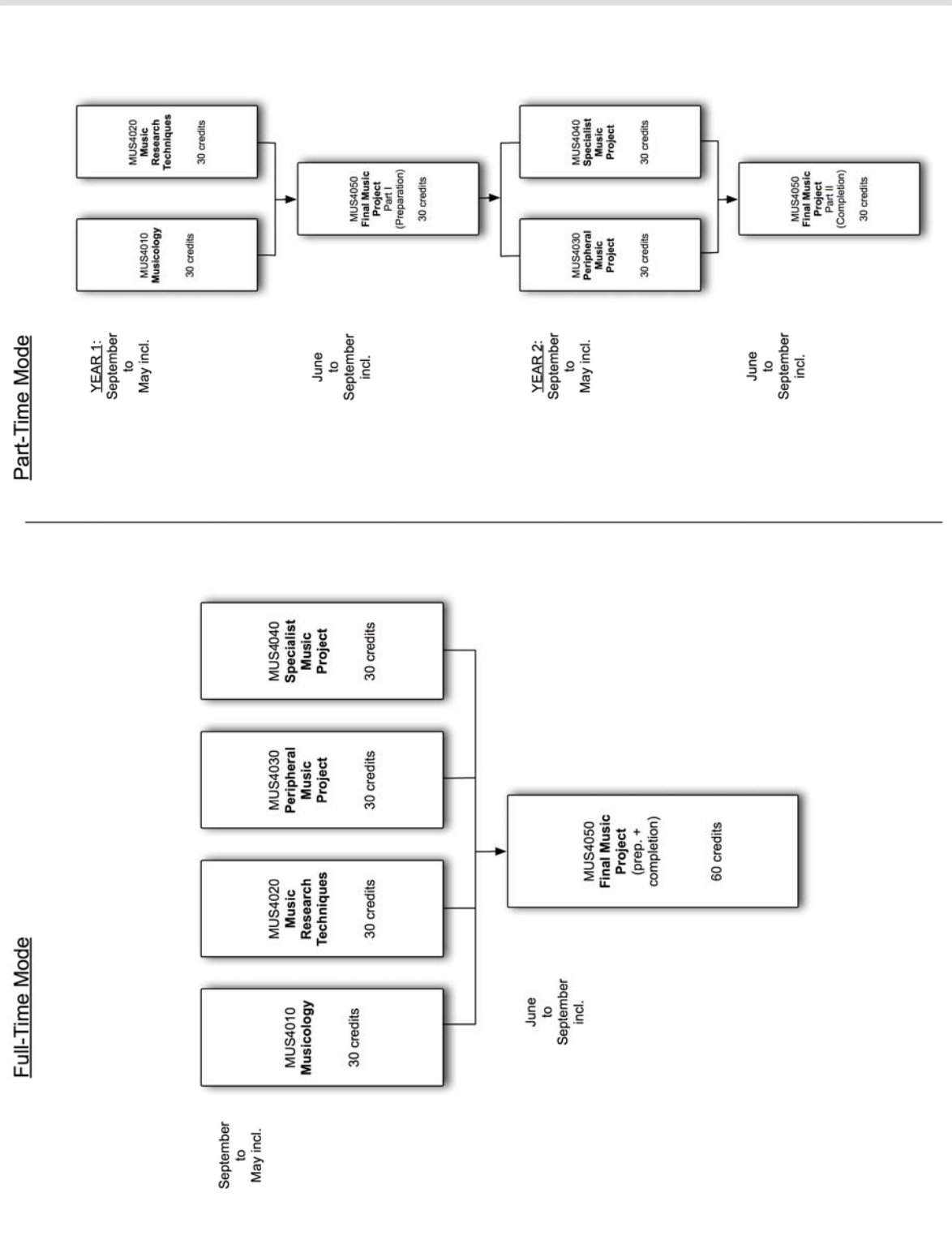
**Assessment**

Students' cognitive skills are assessed primarily through the processes and products of applied (**theoretical**) **projects** related to that student's specialist field in music and the putting together of **research portfolios** including annotations and critical reviews

specialism	
<p><b>C. Practical skills</b> On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate high-level and sophisticated skills related to a group of chosen inter-related subject <b>specialisms</b> e.g. composition, performance, arts management, musicology or analysis. (MA Music.)</li> <li>2. Handle the inception, design and implementation of complex <b>projects</b> in music.</li> <li>3. Prepare proposals for <b>research</b> work in music.</li> <li>4. <b>Communicate</b> sophisticated information.</li> <li>5. originality in the <b>application of musical knowledge</b>, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline;</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b> Students acquire skills primarily through formative feedback on <b>practical projects</b> and where appropriate: <b>instrumental tuition</b> (subject to satisfactory audition) where that student has chosen a specialism for which instrumental musicianship is required.</p> <p><b>Assessment</b> Students' skills are assessed primarily through the processes and products of applied (<b>practical</b>) <b>projects</b> related to that student's specialist field in music e.g. <b>reports, compositions, performances</b> and/or <b>recordings</b> (as specified in module specification assessment strategies).</p>
<p><b>D. Transferable Postgraduate Skills</b> On completion of this programme the successful student will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To <b>apply</b> reflective practice strategies towards self-managed learning and professional practice.</li> <li>2. Make use of a <b>group</b> as a creative resource.</li> <li>3. Carry out work by <b>connecting</b> theory to practice.</li> <li>4. <b>Communicate</b> effectively both orally and in writing with a variety of interlocutors, applying appropriate theoretical structures.</li> <li>5. Plan for effective <b>career</b> development.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b> Students acquire skills primarily through guidance in the inception, design and development of <b>project</b>-based work in music and through working in <b>teams</b> to realise independent projects (e.g. through performances, recordings, interviews and through work experience, internships or consultation exercises to industry) and formative feedback from this activity.</p> <p><b>Assessment</b> Students' skills are assessed primarily through the conception and implementation of written project <b>proposals</b> and through <b>presentations</b> of work in progress to peers.</p>

## 12. Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and qualifications

### 12. 1 Overall structure of the MA Music programme



**12.2 Levels and modules.** This section should contain a more detailed description level-by-level of the programme structure, modules and credits. All modules should be categorised as compulsory or optional.

Level 4

**MA Music (180 credits)**

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students on the MA Music programme must take all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUS4010</li> <li>• MUS4020</li> <li>• MUS4030</li> <li>• MUS4040</li> <li>• MUS4050</li> </ul>	<p>There are no optional modules.</p>	<p>MUS4010 and MUS4020 must have been taken and passed before MUS4050 can be considered for assessment.</p>

**Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits)**

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students exiting the programme with a Postgraduate Diploma must have taken all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUS4010</li> <li>• MUS4020</li> <li>• MUS4030</li> <li>• MUS4040</li> </ul>	<p>There are no optional modules.</p>	<p>120 credits must have been taken and passed as shown to the left.</p>

**Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits)**

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL <b>one</b> from:	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students exiting the programme with a Postgraduate Diploma must have taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUS4020</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUS4010</li> <li>• MUS4030</li> <li>• MUS4040</li> </ul>	<p>60 credits must have been taken and passed as shown to the left.</p>

**12.3 Non-compensatable modules.**

Module level	Module code
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MA Music	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUS4010</li> <li>• MUS4020</li> <li>• MUS4040</li> <li>• MUS4050</li> </ul>
Postgraduate Diploma	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUS4010</li> <li>• MUS4020</li> <li>• MUS4040</li> </ul>
Postgraduate Certificate	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUS4020</li> </ul>

### 13. A curriculum map relating learning outcomes to modules

See Curriculum Map attached.

### 14. Criteria for admission to the Programme

The candidate will normally be expected to possess a UK honours degree (normally classified 2.2 or above) in or related to the candidate's intended Music specialism at Master's level. An applicant who is not a graduate may be admitted provided that they hold appropriate professional experience or other qualifications approved for this purpose.

Applicants whose first language is not English or who have not been educated wholly or mainly in the medium of English will be expected to demonstrate before commencing this programme of study the following minimum levels of attainment:

- British Council IELTS Band 6.5. If a grade of less than 6 is scored in any **one** component from Reading, Writing, Speaking or Listening, it is recommended that the candidate attend the Middlesex University Pre-sessional Programme (MUPP).
- American TOEFL 575 (Paper Test) or 237 (Computerised test) and 4.5 in Test of Written English;
- Michigan MELAB 90 or above;
- Pitman ESOL Advanced Level with oral test.

Applicants whose first degree was studied and assessed substantially in English may be exempted from the above requirements.

Before commencing this programme of study, applicants will be expected to demonstrate an ability to read and write music notation to a minimum standard of UK Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music grade seven or equivalent.

Applicants with impaired hearing may find aspects of the programme excessively challenging.

### 15. Information about assessment regulations

Please see the current University Regulations.

As stated in section 12.2 with regard to the **MA Music** programme, modules MUS4010 and MUS4020 must have been taken and passed by the candidate before MUS4050 can be considered for assessment.

For grading of work, please refer to 'Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy In Music' on page 41 below.

The following Exit Award combinations are also possible:

The postgraduate student will be eligible for a **Postgraduate Diploma** on passing 120 credits from **all** of modules: MUS4010, MUS4020, MUS4030 & MUS4040.

The postgraduate student will be eligible for a **Postgraduate Certificate** award on passing 60 credits from MUS4020 **and** one module from MUS4010, MUS4030 or MUS4040. Learning Outcomes (which are considered *qualitative*) will vary according to the optional module postgraduate students choose to take. This allows flexibility in the balance of knowledge and practical skills acquired from Postgraduate Certificates.

### 16. Indicators of quality

Middlesex University RAE Performance 3A (2001)

Review of Academic Provision (2003)

Student feedback and achievement

Staff professional practice

External Examiner's Report

Graduate Destinations (viewable from Careers section of Middlesex University Intranet)

### 17. Specialised support for learning (if applicable)

- Induction programme for new postgraduate Performing Arts students
- Music Handbook and companion website
- Senior Subject Librarian: Music and Performing Arts
- Specialist musical instrument training provision
- Specialist music facilities of the Music department
- Specialist music research facilities of the University Learning Resource Centre
- Music Technician
- Access to specialist visiting instrumental staff
- Visiting Honorary Professor of Piano
- String Quartet in Residence
- Music Research Fellows
- Access to Music Technology, Studio and Sound Processing Resources

- Specialist professional links and contacts
- Performing Arts research symposia
- Practice rooms
- Provision for disabled students (the music curriculum group (Orangery Building) and Learning Resources Centre offers full wheelchair access via ramps and stair lifts. Wheelchair users have priority in the use of upper-level [more accessible] practice rooms in the Orangery building).
- English Language and Learning Support group based in the Learning Resources Centre.
- Student Counselling (see 24-7 Website)
- Testing and support group for students exhibiting dyslexia.

### **18. Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of learning**

- Continuous formal and informal student feedback on modules and programme
- Quality Monitoring Reports
- Programme Review & Validations
- Programme and Curriculum Board of Studies Meetings
- Staff meetings
- Subject External Examiner Reports
- Peer observation
- Staff development events organised by CLQE and L&T Support Fellows.

### **19. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)**

Optional work experience opportunities are available to students. Please see Module Specification for MUS4030.

### **20. Future careers: how the programme supports graduates' future career development (if applicable)**

The Programme aims to prepare students for future careers through:

Advice from Careers Services

Possibilities for students to base project design on vocational interests.

### **21. Other information**

Please note: this specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the student programme handbook and the University Regulations.





