

Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) & MMus Choral Conducting

	Postgraduate Diploma	MMus
Core Modules	Choral Conducting 1	Choral Conducting 1
	Choral Conducting 2	Choral Conducting 2
	The Professional Musician*	The Professional Musician*
		Advanced Performance Analysis
		Research Project or Reflecting on Performance
Optional Modules (select one from the list)	Advanced Teaching Skills	Advanced Teaching Skills
	Arts Management in Practice	Arts Management in Practice
	Vocational Project	Vocational Project
		Presenting at Conference Individual Project

- International students requiring English language tuition and support take an alternative module called Cultural and Contextual Studies

Choral Conducting 1

Core Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 40

Assessment: Performance (60%), Presentation (40%)

Choral Conducting 2

Core Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 40

Assessment: Performance (70%), Rehearsal & *Viva Voce* (30%)

This module will provide students with training and experience in the development of the technical, artistic, stylistic and intellectual skills which underpin the work of a choral conductor. This will be delivered through a balance of individual, group and class tuition. Practical work with college-based and other ensembles is also a key component. The module also involves a study of a wide range of western performance practices looked at from both practical and aesthetic standpoints. Lectures and presentations on a variety of performance practice issues ranging from early music to contemporary and electronic performance will introduce key concepts. Topics covered might include the changing role of music and musicians, the relationship between repertoire, instrumentation, ensemble size and venue, the evaluation of primary sources and performing editions, notation, ornamentation, articulation, and a consideration of the impact of recording on how we perform different repertoire.

Cultural & Contextual Studies

Core Module for students who first language is not English

Credits: 20

Assessment: Portfolio (60%), Essay (40%)

This core module for non-native English speakers will focus on key academic skills required to study music at postgraduate level, and develop each student's awareness and understanding of themes and issues relating to cultural life and contemporary society in the UK.

The Professional Musician

Core Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Portfolio (100%)

This module is concerned with issues relating to the establishment, maintenance and development of careers in music. Communication and networking as a professional musician and entrepreneur are explored through workshops covering issues of self-promotion. All elements of promotional material are discussed, including appropriate use of technology and media. Other classes are concerned with developing an advanced understanding of the breadth and depth of approach required to present oneself (and projects) within a professional environment, the importance of informed financial management, and the need to embrace changing trends in the music business. In terms of sustaining a career, matters relating to health and wellbeing for musicians are explored, including a range of health and safety matters, the implementation of effective practice regimes, and strategies for overcoming performance anxiety within the context of professional activity.

Advanced Performance Analysis

Core Module for MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Essay/Lecture (100%)

This course takes the literature on Analysis and Performance as a starting point for considering the potential relationships between these two activities. Traditional analytical techniques will be looked at and consideration given as to the ways in which these may be employed within a performance framework. Attention will be focussed on investigating ways to analyse parameters of music that are of particular significance to the performer, for example texture and technique. Classes will also be provided to promote understanding of key harmonic concepts and related systems of ornamentation and embellishment where appropriate to the principal study. Students will be required to give a short presentation discussing the harmonic structure of a chosen work, this work to be advised two weeks prior to the presentation.

Reflecting on Performance

Core Module for MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Essay/Lecture (100%)

Communication as a musician requires the use of high level and instantaneous critical skills. This module serves to develop a broad range of advanced reflective, critical and communication skills, both in terms of performances encountered by each student and one of their own performances. Advanced critical and research skills relating to a key aspect of performance will be explored and presented through a lecture recital delivered to the entire cohort.

Research Project

Core Module for MMus

Credits: 40

Assessment: Dissertation (100%)

This module will guide and support the planning, preparation, production and presentation of research related to an area of special musical interest to the student. Initial workshops in advanced research methodology will be followed by individual tutorials and group seminars. Following submission of a 300-word abstract, topics must be discussed with and approved by the MMus Award Leader by Week 4 of Term 1 for full-time students, or Week 2 of Term 5 for part-time students, following which individual tutors will be assigned and a schedule of supervisions established. Students will be required to present reports on their progress within designated postgraduate research seminars.

Advanced Teaching Skills

Optional Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Viva Voce (60%), Essay (40%)

The module is concerned with the teaching of instruments, voices and/or composition. Throughout, students will be encouraged to view teaching as an activity demanding utmost concentration, skill and attention, and to regard students as individuals; acknowledging and nurturing them as people with unique and individual needs. Areas covered will include; a survey of the principal schools of pedagogy, developing criteria for the selection of teaching materials, encompassing technical and musical needs, a strategy encompassing the organisation and structure of lessons and practice sessions, and the development of advanced verbal and non-verbal communication skills.

Arts Management in Practice

Optional Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Report (100%)

Presentation and advocacy skills; radio and television interview training; crisis management; cultural identity; multi culturalism; programming an arts venue; political sensitivity; cultural regeneration; working across boundaries; ethical implications of arts management. Consultancy report, addressing the needs of a particular arts organization.

Vocational Project

Optional Module for PGDip & MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Presentation (100%)

Following an initial negotiation with the Module Leader and Tutor(s), each student will be directed towards potential work placement opportunities. Students will then be proactive in negotiating with the provider and ensuring a smooth interface between the placement schedule and other College commitments. The precise nature of the placement, its requirements and any specific learning outcomes will be established on an individual case basis in advance. Students will need to submit a 500 word summary explaining why they are undertaking this particular project before commencing. This proposal should be accompanied by an ethics statement and will be subject also to appropriate health and safety clearance, where applicable. The placement will normally take place within a single term and will be monitored by a designated Placement Tutor (RWCMD). On completion of the placement, students prepare and deliver a presentation which should reflect on the experience and outline the training benefits gained and place the activity within the context of the student's career development.

Individual Project

Optional Module for MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Essay/Portfolio (100%)

This module will guide and support students in the planning, preparation, production and presentation of work relating to an area of special musical interest. Whilst the subject matter may vary, each project will be characterised by a balance of elements of research, creative reflection and/or applied professional practice. Examples of the type of activity involved may range from a formal, extended essay on a musicological topic, a scholarly edition of a selected work, a portfolio of compositions or arrangements, or a fully documented business plan for a proposed area of professional activity.

Presenting at Conference

Optional Module for MMus

Credits: 20

Assessment: Presentation (70%), Critical Reflection (30%)

The subject matter of the paper and the intended conference/symposium or similar event will normally be established by the student in consultation with the module leader. A module supervisor will be identified who will provide tutorial support in all aspects of the preparation of the paper. Papers intended for presentation within RWCMD Research Symposia (or a similar in-house event) will be assessed within this context, whilst those intended for external presentation will be assessed within a RWCMD Research seminar in advance of the intended event. Staff feedback following the presentation of the paper may be used to inform the student's critical reflection on the entire process.

This course overview provides a summary of the programmes offered from September 2015. Please note this may be subject to amendment and change in future years.