

MSC

Course overview

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The information in this document is relevant to prospective applicants and current students studying for the MSc qualification on the RCM's Master of Science in Performance Science programme.

Master of Science in Performance Science Study Routes

The RCM Master of Science programme is designed as a one calendar-year intensive programme of full-time study or a two academic-year programme of part-time study. There is also a modular flexi-route to enable students to study individual modules.

The MSc programme consists of six modules, which are designed to train critical, analytical and research skills, as well as an ability to express ideas and concepts verbally and in written form to a high level. Owing to the emphasis on research, the MSc requires an ability to speak and write confidently in English.

Exchange Students

The Master of Science is not available for exchange students.

Programme Structure

Overview

- All full-time and part-time students take the six core modules outlined below, totalling 180 credits.
- Part-time students choose between Performers' Health and Wellbeing and Performing Arts in Health and Wellbeing in Year 1. Part-time students are automatically enrolled on their remaining module in Year 2.
- Students on the modular flexi-route enrol on and pay for individual modules on a case-by-case basis. Students accumulating a minimum of 120 credits over a maximum duration of 3 academic years would be eligible for the award of PGDip. Those accumulating 60 credits over a maximum duration of two academic years would be eligible for the award of PGCert. The Performing Research II: Project and Dissertation module is typically not available for modular study. Each 20-credit module is equivalent to 200 learning hours; a 40-credit module is equivalent to 400 learning hours.

Breakdown of Programme Structure

MSc Full-time Year 1		
Performance Psychology (Autumn term)	Level 7	20 credits
Performance Education (Autumn term)	Level 7	20 credits
Performers' Health and Wellbeing (Spring term)	Level 7	20 credits
Performing Arts in Health and Wellbeing (Spring term)	Level 7	20 credits
Performing Research I: Methods (Autumn+Spring terms)	Level 7	40 credits
Performing Research II: Project and Dissertation (Spring+Summer terms)	Level 7	60 credits
Overall credits: 180		180 credits
Year 1: 180 credits required to obtain degree, equivalent to 1800 learning hours		

MSc Part-time Year 1		
Performance Psychology (Autumn term)	Level 7	20 credits
Performers' Health and Wellbeing or Performing Arts in Health and Wellbeing (Spring term)	Level 7	20 credits
Performing Research I: Methods (Autumn+Spring terms)	Level 7	40 credits
Overall credits: 180		80 credits
Year 1: 80 credits required for progression to year 2, equivalent to 800 learning hours		

MSc Part-time Year 2		
Performance Education (Autumn term)	Level 7	20 credits
Performers' Health and Wellbeing or Performing Arts in Health and Wellbeing (Spring term)	Level 7	20 credits
Performing Research II: Project and Dissertation (all terms*)	Level 7	60 credits
<i>*Students are required to propose their dissertation topic in Yr1</i>		
Overall credits: 180		100 credits
Year 2: 100 credits required to obtain degree, equivalent to 1000 learning hours		

Learning and teaching hours

Learning and teaching hours are calculated as 100 hours per ten credits studied. For MSc students this equates to 1,800 hours, which is split between self-directed study and contact hours with tutors. Contact hours include performances, one-to-one tuition, larger group tuition, seminars, faculty and academic classes, directed rehearsals, masterclasses, competitions and supervised study. Rehearsal and performance contact time will vary according to each student's discipline and chosen study options.

Masters Programme Modules and Levels of Study

Each module within our postgraduate programmes is assigned a level according to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) credit system. All modules are taken at level 7.

Module Descriptions

Performance Psychology

This module introduces you to processes and perspectives that define and underpin performance psychology. It does so through a series of seminars and tutorials elucidating principles derived from interdisciplinary research. The module aims to enable you to develop critical and analytical resourcefulness and to gain broad awareness of the mental skills that facilitate effective practice and successful performance. You should develop the means to shape an individual plan of study, manipulating and integrating knowledge gained from a variety of psychological and scientific sources.

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, seminars and tutorials explore music perception and production throughout the lifespan and engage directly with implications for learning and teaching. Particular emphasis is placed on enhancing your ability to develop and critique related practice and research, informed by relevant educational, professional and policy issues.

Performers' Health and Wellbeing

This module considers how physical and mental health can shape how musicians pursue their art and the pleasure they take from it. Seminars and tutorials examine results from recent research into the physical and mental demands of music making, and you are encouraged to explore critically and systematically the ways in which musicians meet those demands, both through their own personal means and via support mechanisms available within educational and professional settings.

Performing Arts in Health and Wellbeing

This module explores the field of arts in health and wellbeing. Seminars and tutorials examine results from recent research into the psychological, social and physiological impact of music and other arts engagement on mental and physical health. You are encouraged to consider the ways in which the arts can support specific challenges or needs within health, how the arts can be performed effectively in health contexts, and how the arts can be integrated into healthcare systems to benefit individuals and societies as well as artists.

Performing Research I: Methods

This module provides an introduction to scientific methods and methodological approaches appropriate to conducting independent research in performance science. Seminars, workshops and tutorials introduce you to intellectual and methodological perspectives within the field, with emphasis on the processes of generating research questions, designing research studies and collecting, analysing and interpreting research data.

Performing Research II: Project and Dissertation

This module builds on your knowledge and understanding of performance science to develop and demonstrate the critical, analytical and scientific skills necessary to conduct independent research. Individual tutorials help you develop the necessary means to carry out your own research project and to communicate and defend the rationale and results of your research in written and spoken form. In addition, seminars provide an overview of the ethical considerations of performance science research, as well as the processes involved in conducting and writing-up a research study.