

MED

Programme overview

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All the information in this document is relevant to students on the MEd programme. Prospective applicants are encouraged to read everything in order to understand how the course is structured.

Master of Education Study Routes

The RCM Master of Education programme has two study routes: part-time and full-time. The programme is practitioner-based and designed to be integrated into your own professional practice, meaning that students normally study while continuing to work professionally in education, and for this reason, part-time study is the normal route. A fast-track full-time route is offered for overseas students who require a Tier 4 visa to study in the UK.

Exchange Students

Due to the structure of the programme, the Master of Education is not available for exchange students.

Programme Structure

Overview

The programme can be completed part-time over a period of between 2 and 4 years. Irrespective of the pace of study you choose, Year 1 will comprise two core modules, and the Action Research project is taken in the final year. Students can choose to complete the remaining core and optional modules in any year of study. Example pathways are as follows

Part-time over two years

Year 1

- MEd core module: Ideas in Music Education
- MEd core module: Researching Practice
- MEd core module: Personal Portfolio

Year 2

- MEd optional module
- MEd core module: Action Research Project

Part-time over three years

Year 1

- MEd core module: Ideas in Music Education
- MEd core module: Researching Practice

Year 2

- MEd core module: Personal Portfolio
- MEd optional module

Year 3

- MEd core module: Action Research Project

Part-time over four years

Year 1

- MEd core module: Ideas in Music Education
- MEd core module: Researching Practice

Year 2

- MEd core module: Personal Portfolio

Year 3

- MEd optional module

Year 4

- MEd core module: Action Research Project

The full-time route for Tier 4 visa students is taken over one calendar year (12 months)

- MEd core module: Ideas in Music Education
- MEd core module: Researching Practice
- MEd core module: Personal Portfolio
- MEd core module: UK Music Education in an International Context
- MEd core module: Educational Case Study
- MEd optional module

Detailed Breakdown of Programme Structure

Core modules

Ideas in Music Education	30 credits	30 hours of face-to-face classes organised in intensive study blocks. Follow up and preparation tasks undertaken between intensive study blocks via the VLE. The module introduces students to a range of theoretical perspectives through application to their own practice and develops critical writing skills.
Researching Practice	30 credits	30 hours of face-to-face classes organised in intensive study blocks. Follow up and preparation tasks undertaken between intensive study blocks via the VLE. The module introduces students to methodologies, research methods, research design and the ethics of researching practice. The module develops critical reading skills.
Personal Portfolio	30 credits	A combination of individual mentoring and face-to-face classes. Students video their own work and develop a portfolio of practice, working with a mentor to critically analyse their practice. Class time enables students to focus on curriculum development. The module develops critical reflection skills.
Action Research Project	60 credits	An in-depth action research project involving the identification of an area of practice to improve, researching that specific area of practice, designing and carrying out an intervention, evaluating that intervention and reflecting on the improvement to practice as a result. 20 hours of supervision (10 hours face to face and 10 hours supervisor reading time).
Overall credits	150 credits	

Optional Modules

UK Music Education in an International Context (core module for full-time route)	30 credits	30 hours of face-to-face contact time organised as weekly seminars throughout the academic year. Seminars are interspersed with observation visits to schools. The module provides an opportunity for cross-cultural discussion and to share practice. Students are introduced to comparative study and develop discussion and presentation skills.
Educational Case Study (core module for full time route or for students transferring credits via APL)	30 credits	A research project involving case study research. Students will normally explore a case study of practice or conduct a comparative study of an aspect of UK music education and that of a different country. 10 hours of supervision (5 hours face to face contact time and 5 hours supervisor reading time).
Directing Ensembles in Education	30 credits	30 hours of face to face contact time organised in intensive study blocks. Students develop their conducting, arranging and rehearsal practice through workshops and reflect upon videos of own practice.
Action Research Extension	30 credits	Students who wish to conduct an extended Action Research project can take this option. This will convert the Action Research Project into a 90-credit module and carries an additional 10 hours of supervision time (5 hours face to face and 5 hours supervisor reading time).
Music as Communication: Supporting young children's emerging musicality	30 credits	30 hours face-to-face classes organised over three intensive study days. Follow-up and preparation tasks undertaken between the study days via VLE. The module introduces students to a range of theoretical concepts underpinning young children's musical thinking, learning and development. The module develops critical reading, observational analysis and presentation skills.
Overall credits	30 credits	(Choose one module only)

Availability of optional modules

Please note, the list of optional modules above is indicative, but might not reflect the actual modules available. Optional modules are run on the basis of demand.

Learning and teaching hours

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

Master of Education 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 run for one academic year and therefore are not suitable for exchange students.

Students may apply to transfer Level 7 credits from relevant previous study, such as a Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) programme. The maximum number of credits that can be transferred is 60. Students transferring 60 credits will need to take 120 credits to complete their MEd programme. These credits will normally consist of the three core modules Ideas in Music Education, Researching Practice and Personal Portfolio. The final 30 credits will be the Educational Case Study. Transfer of credits is at the discretion of the Programme Leader.

Whichever mode of study you choose, you are strongly encouraged to make use of all the additional opportunities to which you will have access as an RCM student, including the services of the RCM Creative Careers Centre; participation opportunities with RCM Sparks (schools and community creative education programme); free attendance at the many masterclasses and concerts, talks and research seminars; and use of the RCM's world-class library, museum collections and studio facilities.