



# **Module Handbook**

**Incoming Students**

**Academic year 2024/2025**

**Part 2**

Music

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## A: THE DEPARTMENT

The Music Department at Durham [[Music - Durham University](#)] provides a vigorous and intellectually exciting environment for learning and research in all areas of the discipline. The Department has 17 permanent members of academic staff who specialise in a wide range of disciplines including Musicology, Ethnomusicology, Analysis, Composition, Music Cognition, Music Theology, Electroacoustics, Performance and Psychology of Music/Music and Science.

The Department has consistently been rated one of the top research Departments in the country for Music in national ranking schemes (1<sup>st</sup> in Subject for the Guardian University Guide 2019, 2021, & 2022; 1<sup>st</sup> Nationally in the Sunday Times University Guide 2018, 2019 and 2021; 2<sup>nd</sup> in the UK Complete University Guide) and has received a high ranking in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework exercise.

The department's contact details are:

Department of Music  
Durham University  
Palace Green  
Durham DH1 3RL  
Email: [music.operations@durham.ac.uk](mailto:music.operations@durham.ac.uk)

Further information for exchange students can be found via University International Office link: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/international/studyabroad/incoming/>

We look forward to welcoming you to the Department!

## **A1: Exchange Programme Staff in the Department of Music**

### **Music Exchange and Study Abroad Coordinator:**

Dr Amanda Hsieh  
Department of Music  
Durham University  
Palace Green  
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DH1 3RL  
Email: [music.exchange@durham.ac.uk](mailto:music.exchange@durham.ac.uk)

### **Music Department Administration:**

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## B: DEGREE STRUCTURE AND ASSESSMENT

All undergraduate degrees at Durham have a *modular* structure, consisting of six different modules each academic year for three years. Modules are usually studied over all three terms of the teaching year (year-long format), though the majority of teaching occurs in the first two terms; sometimes, due to staff research leave, modules are taught over one term (single-term format): details are given below. The terms at Durham in the 2024/2025 Academic Year are: **Michaelmas** from October to mid-December (10 weeks of teaching), **Epiphany** from mid-January to mid-March (10 weeks of teaching), and **Easter** from the end of April to mid-May (possibly up to two weeks of teaching, but mostly the exam period).

Modules are examined or assessed in the year in which they are taught, either during the year and/or during a dedicated exam period that takes place from the end of May to the middle of June. Over the course of the full year, a student will accrue 120 Durham credits: the equivalent of 60 ECT. Students on European exchange are required to take a full-time course-load at the partner university in order to remain entitled to European funding and a study visa (if necessary). Please contact your departmental coordinator if you have any concerns about the number of courses you should be taking while at Durham.

Incoming European Exchanges students sometimes choose to study at Durham for one term – usually Michaelmas. This will mean that you only need to accrue 60 Durham credits (30 ECT) during your stay rather than 120 (60 ECT), but because many of our modules run for the whole year, you will often still take 6 modules during that one term (more details below). Assessments for modules will sometimes be modified from those given to our full-year students to suit the length of your programme of study and the material that you will cover during your one-term exchange. However, you will have some form of assessment and the marks will be passed on to your home university a few months after you leave. Please note: coming for Epiphany term (the second term) only is not impossible, but reduces the range of modules available to you: many modules cannot be picked up after missing the Michaelmas term's teaching (see Section D).

Most students opt to study at Durham for a full academic year and, if this is the case, are expected to submit the same assessments and sit exams in May-June, like all full-time Durham students. These marks will be conveyed back to your home institution after the Board of Examiners meets in the middle of June. The marks will be processed first by the department and then the university's central administration, after which they will be sent to your university (approximately 1-2 months later).

## C: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

**This section contains important information for setting up your academic programme at Durham University.  
Please read through this section carefully before considering your modules and filling in the Learning Agreement!**

### C1: General

#### Choice of Modules

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE FOR STUDENTS: PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR LEARNING AGREEMENT**

At Durham University European Study agreements are bilateral agreements between universities. Students will have to choose modules (courses) within the Durham University host department through which the European agreement with their home university has been signed (students should check with the European Exchanges Coordinator in their university if they are not sure which department this is). Modules offered by other departments are subject to availability and can only be taken with prior consent from the relevant department. *Incoming students must take at least 50% of their modules in the host department and can take modules outside in no more than two additional departments.* Certain restrictions may also apply to some courses and students need to follow the advice below carefully before completing their Learning Agreements.

Please clearly indicate the modules you wish to take on your Learning Agreement (included in your application package) for approval by the respective department(s). It is imperative that a properly completed Learning Agreement is submitted as part of the application form. Only complete applications can be processed.

*Section D: Module Details* provides a list of modules available for exchange students in the department where the agreement has been established (receiving department) as well as a list of modules available for students coming in through other departments (external departments). Please choose from these modules only!

To find out about the details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc.) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>

## **C2: Departmental Requirements and Restrictions**

The Department requires students to have studied Music at A-level or its equivalent, but we will assess every application individually.

If the departmental coordinator has concerns about the modules you choose to study at Durham, you might be contacted directly to discuss your choices. New choices can be made upon your arrival, but it is preferable to avoid this if at all possible. However, it does happen and we can accommodate new choices if your interests have changed or you find timetabling conflicts.

## D: MODULE DETAILS

This section contains a list of modules exchange students can choose from. Please only select from the modules listed in sections D1 or D2 in this Module Handbook (unless you are choosing modules from another department, in which case you need to consult their Module handbook)!

To find further details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc.) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>.

As indicated by the key below, modules may run over the whole year (year-long format) or just over one term (single-term format).

### ***For those students coming for 1 term only:***

Students staying for 1 term only need to accrue 60 Durham credits (30ECT). This can be either

- 3 x single-term modules (that are completed during that term): 3 x 20 credits.
- 6 x year-long modules (that run over the whole year and will only be half-completed during that term, and assessed by alternative assessments): 6 x 10 credits
- a combination eg. 1 x single-term module (20 credits) plus 4 x year-long modules (4 x 10 credits) OR 2 x single-term module (2 x 20 credits) plus 2 x year-long modules (2 x 10 credits)

Please note that if you take half of a year-long module, grades will not be given on the official Durham transcript but an additional document will be produced for home universities.

### **D1: Modules available to European students coming on a DEPARTMENTAL link**

Ω will be taught in the Michaelmas Term only 2024/2025 (single-term)

‡ will be taught in the Epiphany Term only 2024/2025 (single-term)

% year-long modules that can be taken if exchange is in either Michaelmas or Epiphany only

# can be taken if exchange is Michaelmas only

#### **Modules Studied in Level 1**

<b>MODULE NAME</b>	<b>MODULE NUMBER</b>	<b>DURHAM CREDITS</b>
Historical Composition Techniques %	MUSI1211	20
EITHER Performance 1: Practice through History (with recital) %	MUSI1241	20
OR Performance 1: Practice through History (with essay) # (no audition required)	MUSI1291	20
Introduction to Ethnomusicology %	MUSI1251	20
History and Analysis of Western Music %	MUSI1261	20
Composition 1: 20 <sup>th</sup> -Century Innovations %	MUSI1271	20
Study Skills in Music Ω (summative assignment deadline in Epiphany 2025)	MUSIxxxx	20



### Modules Studied in Level 2

MODULE NAME	MODULE NUMBER	DURHAM CREDITS
Creative Music Technology Ω (priority given to Durham Music students due to a cap on student numbers)	MUSI2641	20
Music and Place ‡	MUSIxxxx	20
Performance 2: Practice as Research # (audition required)	MUSI2711	20
Composition 2: New Directions in Art Music ‡	MUSI2311	20
Orchestration ‡	MUSI2541	20
Advanced Historical Composition Techniques Ω	MUSI2601	20
Theory and Analysis ‡	MUSI2611	20
Studies in the History of Opera Ω	MUSI2651	20
World Music Traditions ‡	MUSI2661	20
Studies in Popular Music Ω	MUSI2671	20
Music and Science Ω	MUSI2731	20
Philosophy, Music and Improvisation ‡	MUSI2751	20
Conducting Ω	MUSI2581	20

### Modules Studied in Level 3

MODULE NAME	MODULE NUMBER	DURHAM CREDITS
Contemporary Music Performance #	MUSI3611	20
Performance 3: Performance Project (single % OR double; audition required for both)	MUSI3621	20
Advanced Ethnomusicology	MUSI3691	20
Words and Music ‡	MUSI3731	20
Music and Politics in France, 1789-1815 Ω	MUSI3741	20
Psychology of Music Ω	MUSI3781	20

*Please note:*

Suitably qualified students, usually those at postgraduate level, may also be able to select modules offered to MA Music students at Durham. More details of our postgraduate programmes and modules can be found at the following link: [Taught Masters - Durham University](#).

Please contact the Departmental European Exchange and Study Abroad Coordinator, if you wish to be considered for this option to determine if you have the appropriate background knowledge.

**D2: Modules for European students coming on an EXTERNAL link (through a different department)**

For students with no prior academic study of Music, there are three Year 1 modules available.

**YEAR 1**

<b>MODULE NAME</b>	<b>MODULE NUMBER</b>	<b>DURHAM CREDITS</b>
Introduction to Ethnomusicology	MUSI1251	20
Historical and Analysis of Western Music	MUSIxxxx	20

Students who already possess a background in Music should refer to section D1 for a more appropriate choice of modules. The Year 1 modules above *can* be made available to students with a background in Music, but if they have already studied Music at undergraduate level for a number of years they may wish to choose more advanced options.

Updated February 2024