

# INCOMING UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE STUDENTS

## BMus(Hons)Programme Outline (Course Catalogue)

This document contains important information for prospective exchange students on the RCM's programmes in Performance and Composition. At the start of their exchange, Students will meet with the RCM academic staff to receive personalised advice to help them finalise their study programme.

Exchanges take place in the Autumn Term (September to December).

### Course Content

Exchange placement is typically aligned with the RCM's BMus Year 3, with Exchange students following the same pattern of study as other RCM students. Undergraduate students receive the following tuition during their stay:

- 10 hours of 1-to-1 Principal Study (Applied) lessons
- A diverse programme of Faculty-based classes, workshops, activities, and performance opportunities
- Orchestra (subject to audition in September)
- Faculty supporting studies (depending on your instrument or specialism)
- Up to a maximum of 3 core or optional (elective) modules (see list below), depending on availability

Students typically choose their options (electives) from the relevant year of the BMus. For example, students in their third year of study at their home institution would choose options for year 3. However, we can be flexible for exchange students, so you are welcome to request options from other years to tailor your time at the RCM to your interests and requirements.

This guide provides information on the structure of the BMus programme and lists the modules available for Exchange students. Module descriptions are at the back of the guide.

Please be aware that module availability may be subject to change due to staff changes and regular programme reviews.

Please ensure that any core or option modules you select meet the requirements of your home institution's programme of study.

## Credit Framework

40 FHEQ credits/20 ECTS will be awarded for the successful completion of the exchange period as a whole. This is equivalent to a single term (or trimester) of study. The UK-based FHEQ credit system converts easily into the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), with 2 RCM credits equalling 1 ECTS credit.

This number of ECTS is awarded because undergraduate exchange students cannot normally complete any formal assessment during an Autumn Term exchange. RCM assessments typically occur during the Spring and Summer Terms. The structure of our courses fully complies with the Bologna Process. A standard full-time academic year is worth 120 FHEQ credits (60 ECTS).

At the end of the exchange period, students receive an Exchange Transcript from the RCM. This document will be used by your home institution to recognise your period of study at the RCM and convert the credits you have gained to your country's credit system. Please note that the RCM does not use module codes.

## Faculty Activities

### Brass

As a brass student, your weekly Faculty class will include performance classes, ensemble classes and repertoire classes. In addition, there are instrument-specific masterclasses for trumpet, trombone, French horn and tuba, given by visiting artists and professors throughout each term. There are student-led instrument clubs that are open to all to attend, as well as ensemble performance opportunities.

### Composition

As a composition student, you have a weekly faculty class. During this time, visiting composers give talks exploring their works and occasionally review student compositions. Instrumentalists and groups also visit to explain the various techniques possible on their instruments and offer advice on how to write for them. At various points, there will be opportunities for your works to be performed by a small group of instrumentalists, and you can apply to participate in different projects.

### Historical Performance

As a historical performance student, your weekly Faculty classes include performance classes, repertoire classes, critical listening and cadenzas. There are instrument-specific masterclasses for baroque strings, wind, and keyboards over the course of the year given by visiting artists and professors, as well as collaborative masterclass opportunities with other faculties. There are coaching opportunities from visiting professors for solo and chamber groups and multiple performance opportunities such as baroque ensembles and performances in RCM baroque festivals.

### Keyboard

As a keyboard student, you have a weekly performance class led by an RCM keyboard professor. Throughout the term, there are masterclasses for piano, collaborative piano, and contemporary piano given by visiting artists and professors. There are many performance opportunities, as well as the possibility to perform in the annual Keyboard Festival.

### Percussion

As a percussion student, you can participate in Faculty classes at various points throughout the term. There are masterclasses given by visiting artists and professors, and you can have 1:1 lessons with them while they are with us.

### Strings

As a string student, you can attend instrument-specific performance classes at various points throughout the term. There are weekly Faculty classes for double bass, harp, and guitar students. Masterclasses are available for all instruments (violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp, and guitar) given by visiting artists and professors. Students have opportunities for 1:1 lessons with these visiting artists and professors while they are with us. Additionally, there are orchestral audition classes and orchestral surgeries for students interested in orchestral performance.

## Voice

As a singer, your Faculty classes will include Italian, German, and French, Song classes (Italian, French, Lieder), Movement and Speech classes, and Acting and Stagecraft, which culminate in a set of Opera Scenes for students staying for the full academic year. In addition, there are weekly faculty performance classes and Masterclasses with distinguished visiting artists. Vocal students take part in the RCM Chorus Project and Chamber Choir, and many other performance opportunities are available for students to audition for, such as the opera chorus, historical performance projects, and Song Plus concerts.

## Woodwind

As a woodwind student, your weekly Faculty classes include performance classes, ensemble classes, and repertoire classes. Additionally, there are instrument-specific masterclasses for flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and saxophone, given by visiting artists and professors at various points throughout the term. There are student-led instrument clubs open to all and reed classes for oboe and bassoon students. Many performance opportunities and internal concerts are available for sign-up.

## BMus Programme Structure

### Year 1 (Level 4)

Principal Study (Applied Instrument)

Historical Studies

Music in Our Time, taught in:

- Weekly lectures
- Weekly seminars

Musicianship & Improvisation

Level taken is determined by the result you achieve in your start-of-year Placement Test.

Applied Aural Skills

Level taken is initially determined by the result you achieve in your start-of-year Placement Test, but during the course of the exchange, you can opt to take whichever level you prefer, in consultation with your Aural professor.

Healthy Musician

Provides the knowledge and skills to help you develop healthy, sustainable, and optimal practice habits, performance strategies, lifestyles, and careers.

### Year 2 (Level 5)

Principal Study

Level 5

As for year 1.

Historical Studies

Level 5

Choice of courses available:

- The Orchestra
- Hands-on
- Musical Genres
- Public Music

<p>Musicianship &amp; Improvisation 2</p>	<p>Level 5 &amp; 6</p>	<p>Level 5: Choice of courses available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classical</li> <li>• Jazz</li> </ul> <p>Level 6: Choice of courses available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baroque/Tonal</li> <li>• Modernist/Contemporary</li> <li>• Romantic</li> <li>• Jazz Harmony</li> </ul> <p>The level taken is determined by a Placement Test</p>
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<p>Applied Aural Skills</p>	<p>Level 5 or 6</p>	<p>Level taken is initially determined by the result you achieve in your start-of-year Placement Test, but during the course of the exchange you can opt to take whichever level you prefer, in consultation with your Aural professor.</p>
<p>OR</p>		
<p>Aural in Professional Contexts</p>	<p>Level 6</p>	<p>You follow this course if you passed level 6 Aural in year 1. If you passed level 5 Aural in year 1 you can opt to take this course instead of level 6 aural.</p>
<p>Professional Musician</p>	<p>Level 5</p>	<p>Including developing effective communication, engagement with technology, understanding audiences, finances and industry, and career management.</p>
<p>Music Leadership 1: Learning &amp; Participation</p>	<p>Level 5</p>	<p>An introduction to the concept of music leadership and how it can be applied in practice. The module includes observations in real world settings and workshops to develop your music leadership skills in a variety of creative ways.</p>

**Year 3 (Level 6)**

<p>Principal Study</p>	<p>Level 6</p>	
<p>Researching Practitioner</p>	<p>Level 6</p>	<p>This module involves developing a Practice-led Research project in which primary mode of inquire is your practice.</p>
<p>Music Leadership 2: Teaching Skills &amp; Techniques</p>	<p>Level 5</p>	<p>In two parts, this module includes practical sessions on instrumental and vocal teaching, and leadership</p>
<p>Options</p>	<p>Levels 5 &amp; 6</p>	<p>Allow you to tailor your studies to your strengths and interests. Select from amongst an array of contextual and practical-based modules at levels 5 and 6.</p>

**Year 4 (Level 6G)**

<p>Principal Study</p>	<p>Graduation Level</p>	<p>As for Level 6 (year 3).</p>
<p>Options</p>	<p>Level 5 &amp; 6</p>	<p>Choose from a range of level 5 and level 6 options.</p>

## BMus Core Modules and Options Available for Exchange Students

Please note that optional modules may be subject to change according to student numbers and professor availability.

### Year 1 Core Modules

Level 4 & 5 Historical Studies

Level 4 Healthy Musician

Level 4 Musicianship & Improvisation

Level 4 Aural Skills

### Year 2 Core Modules

Level 5 Historical Studies

Level 5 Professional Musician

Level 5 Music Leadership 1

Level 5 & 6 Musicianship & Improvisation

Level 5 & 6 Aural

Level 6 Aural in Professional Contexts

Before you select any of the Core Modules listed, please check with your home institution that the selected modules meet your home institution's requirements for your programme of study.

### Year 3 and 4 Option Modules

#### Contextual Studies

Level 5 & 6 Composition

Level 6 Composition for Screen

Level 5 Introduction to Music Technology

Level 5 Sound Recording and Production

Level 6 Electronic Music

Level 5 Orchestration & Transcription

Level 6 Orchestration & Arrangement

Level 6 Jazz Stylistic Composition

Level 6 Investigating Music: The History of the String Quartet

Level 6 Instrumental/Vocal Teaching

Please ensure that the options you select meet your home institution's requirements.

#### Applied Skills

Level 5 & 6 Alexander Technique

Level 6 Aural in Professional Contexts

Level 5 & 6 Collaborative Piano

Level 5 & 6 Chamber Music

Level 5 & 6 Conducting

Level 6 Historical Performance

Level 5 & 6 Interpretation of Song (singers only)

Level 6 Opera, Acting & Movement (singers only)

## Modules Available in Years 1 and 2

Exchange students may select modules typically available to students in years 1 or 2, where needed to fulfill the requirements of their home institution, and subject to sufficient space in classes.

Before selecting any of the Core (Level 4) Modules listed, please check with your home institution to ensure that the chosen modules meet your home institution's requirements for your program of study.

### Historical Studies (Core module)

Level 4 and 5

At Level 4, this module is taught in four topic blocks, building on students' existing practical musical experiences. It teaches critical approaches to repertoire and to performance traditions. It also considers the role of the performer by investigating the historically based social and cultural conditions under which the classical music industry operates. Students engage critically with the boundaries around Western art music and concert culture by studying selected contemporary repertoire.

At Level 5, several different topics are available for exchange students to choose from: orchestra, public music, hands-on, or musical genres. These topics enable you to extend and deepen your knowledge and understanding of music history while gaining a broad and informed awareness of select composers, performers, genres, and artistic ideas. A significant number of representative works will be studied in context and detail. You are encouraged to use both primary and secondary sources in order to gain an understanding of genres, repertoire, context, and performance history.

### Healthy Musician (Core module)

Level 4

At Level 4, this module provides knowledge and skills to help musicians develop healthy and sustainable careers. You will explore various resources available, focusing on your health and well-being, covering the physicality and psychology of performing, protection of hearing, and physical fitness and nutrition for musicians.

### Professional Musician (Core module)

Level 5

This module addresses three critical areas for developing artists: developing effective communication, engagement with technology, understanding audiences, finances and industry, and career management.

### Musicianship & Improvisation (Core module)

Levels 4, 5 and 6

Depending on the level most appropriate for you as determined by a diagnostic placement assessment, these courses enable you to develop and further your understanding of musical materials (melody, harmony and form) through theory and practice. You will explore a range of tonal forms and harmonic techniques through stylistic composition, score analysis and improvisation on your principal study (or second study for composers). By the end of the module, you will have grown in your understanding of music theory with the confidence and skills to apply this in and through your principal study.

### Applied Aural Skills (Core module)

Level 4, 5, and 6

This module reviews and develops your aural perception. It will give you insights into why and how aural perception and analysis can assist in understanding and interpretation of the instrumental or vocal music you are studying. At each level, you will be learning to recognise and identify by ear straightforward intervals, rhythms, motifs, textures, and chord progressions in music from a range of styles; recognise, by ear the elements of musical organisation and style; read and perform short melodies and rhythms; and recognise how and why aural perception can assist in interpreting the instrumental or vocal music you are studying.

## **Music Leadership 1: Learning and Participation (Core module)**

Level 5

In this module, you will be introduced to the concept of music leadership and observe its practical applications in professional contexts. You will critically engage with topics such as leadership identities, musical development and learning, creativity and the young musician, and devise and communicate musical ideas in various formats. An integral part of the module is the weekly breakout sessions. Facilitated by the SPARKS team, these sessions will support you in developing and nurturing your musical leadership skills as a performer or composer.

## **Modules Available in Years 3 and 4**

### **Music Leadership 2: Teaching Skills and Techniques (Core module)**

Level 5

This module enables you to put your leadership understanding into practice in the contexts of teaching and conducting. You will develop a range of transferable skills that will enhance your flexibility as a musician and your employability. The first of these is on teaching your specialist area of performance or composition to novice musicians (equivalent in range from beginner to grade 6 level ABRSM). You will have opportunities to learn about specific repertoire and technical issues arising from teaching your instrument or speciality. In doing so, you will acquire insights into teaching at all levels of attainment.

### **Sound Recording and Production (Option/Elective module)**

Level 6

In this module, you will learn the process of producing a professional standard classical CD from the perspective of one of the roles (sound engineer, producer, or editor). You will work as part of a team and apply project management, leadership, teamwork, negotiation, and problem-solving skills. You will learn, in practice, about the roles of engineers, producers, and editors, and you will have opportunities to take part in and learn about all processes.

### **Introduction to Music Technology (Option/Elective module)**

Level 5

Through a series of practical workshops, you will develop fundamental skills in audio editing, sequencing, and recording music using a digital audio workstation. You will apply a range of software techniques to create new compositions using audio samples, sound processing, synthesisers and MIDI instruments. No prior knowledge of audio software is required.

### **Composition (Option/Elective module)**

Level 5 and 6

At Level 5, this module enables you to write practically for instruments and voices, using the idioms you are most familiar with. You will work towards a coherent harmonic language and develop a critical approach to rhythmic use, effectively pacing a short composition while exploring and creating performance opportunities.

At Level 6, you will write fluently for at least one medium (possibly related to your Principal Study) and confidently for other groups outside your specialist area of performance. You will be expected to demonstrate creative invention, manage and evaluate projects confidently, and take initiative with other performers.

### **Composition for Screen (Option/Elective module)**

Level 6

Students will develop skills in composing, arranging, orchestration, and technology, specifically applied to screen composition. They will respond appropriately and idiomatically on a music-dramatic level, with an understanding of

common practices and stylistic trends. The content of supervisions will likely cover film composition tutorials, basic sequencing, sampling, hard-disk recording, timecode synchronisation, and mixing.

### **Electronic Music (Option/Elective module)**

Level 6

This module will introduce and familiarise you with some advanced hardware and software tools, as well as their applications in producing electroacoustic compositions. You will develop an appreciation for the broader technical and aesthetic issues related to electroacoustic music.

### **Orchestration and Transcription (Option/Elective module)**

Level 5

In this module, you will gain working and practical knowledge of the main orchestral instruments, including their range, technical strengths, limitations, individual qualities, and timbral qualities. You will apply this knowledge to understand how instruments work in combination with others. You will recognize the basic transcription techniques that enable the effective and idiomatic transfer of musical material from one instrumental medium to another, identify different scoring methods, begin to imitate period orchestral style of various periods, and demonstrate the use of correct notation techniques, musical grammar, and terminology.

### **Orchestration and Arrangement (Option/Elective module)**

Level 6

This module will concentrate on the orchestration of 20<sup>th</sup>—and 21<sup>st</sup>-century scores. Students will be able to demonstrate a sound working and practical knowledge of the main orchestral and other instruments in terms of their ranges, technical strengths and limitations, and individual qualities. Students will also recognise and apply a fuller range of resources in terms of arranging and instrumental technique to enable the effective and idiomatic transfer of musical material between instrumental media and the effective imitation of different instrumental and orchestral styles.

### **Alexander Technique (Option/Elective module)**

Level 5 and 6

This module will provide you with an understanding of the historical context of the Technique and FM Alexander's development of the 'Principles'. You will learn to recognise the personal habits that impede the coordination of your mind and body, as well as the means to work on them. Additionally, you will develop insights into how to apply the Alexander Technique to your personal practice and performance. (Subject to availability – these modules are often oversubscribed.)

### **Applied Aural Skills Option module**

Level 6

This module reviews and develops your aural perception. It will provide insights into why and how aural perception and analysis can assist in the understanding and interpretation of the instrumental or vocal music you are studying. At each level, you will learn to recognize and identify by ear, straightforward intervals, rhythms, motifs, textures, and chord progressions in music from a range of styles; recognize, by ear, elements of musical organisation and style; read and perform short melodies and rhythms; and recognise how and why aural perception can assist in the understanding and interpretation of the instrumental or vocal music you are studying.

### **Aural in Professional Contexts (Option/Elective module)**

Level 6

Lectures in this module aim to stretch and challenge your aural skills through a wide range of activities that reflect the needs of the music profession, including transcription, transposition, complex rhythm reading, identifying performance errors, etc. In addition to Western classical music, you will listen to, analyse and transcribe pieces from a wide variety of oral musical



traditions, including jazz, popular music, folk and world music. Classes will include written and practical activities; short written or practical exercises may be set each week.

### **Collaborative Piano (Option/Elective module)**

Level 5 and Level 6

At Level 5, this module will enable you to deliver an idiomatic performance with a singer, an instrumentalist, or both. You will learn about the duo and song repertoire and receive guidance on interpreting the piano parts. You will gain an understanding of how to collaborate successfully with another instrumentalist or singer. Sight-reading will also play an important role in your development as an accompanist.

At Level 6, you will further develop your sight-reading abilities, allowing you to incorporate a song's vocal line into the piano part at sight. You will be expected to have a deeper understanding of the poetry in songs and be confident in discussing it. Additionally, you will increase your knowledge of both the song and instrumental repertoire. repertoire as well as develop your listening skills in order to collaborate on a higher level.

### **Chamber Music (Option/Elective module)**

Level 5 and 6

This module offers student ensembles up to 12 hours of chamber music coaching per year. Your group will establish a regular pattern of coaching from the start of the academic year with one or more coaches selected by you. Under the guidance of the coaching tutor, you will choose the appropriate repertoire for detailed work at the relevant level to gain an understanding of the overall extent and character of this repertoire. The program will help you develop self-motivation, discipline, good time management, and the ability to function as a team member while also taking leadership initiative where appropriate. Your coaching will focus on aspects of chamber playing: balance, intonation, ensemble interaction, and rehearsal protocols. You will prepare 50-60 minutes of music to concert standard.

### **Conducting (Option/Elective module)**

Level 5 and 6

At Level 5, you will be introduced to the art of conducting and provided with a basic technique and the ability to read and prepare scores from a conductor's viewpoint. The course begins with a mixture of specific technique-based sessions and practical classes where you will cover a range of repertoire, learning to adapt and extend your technical and intellectual facilities throughout.

At Level 6, you will learn about the art of decision-making as needed for conductors, specifically on how to make musical (i.e. interpretative) decisions and then put them into practice through rehearsal. (Subject to availability – please note that these modules are often over-subscribed.)

### **Interpretation of Song (singers only) (Option/Elective module)**

Level 5 and 6

You will perform a wide variety of core art song repertoire with confidence and assurance, demonstrating versatility and flexibility in both performance and in programme planning. You will consolidate your performing skills as applied to art song and encourage the 'communicative impulse' to lie at the heart of all song class performances. This involves demonstrating that at the heart of every performance is an appreciation of the interdependent roles of pianist and singer, as well as showcasing an advanced facility in the correct pronunciation and communication of text.

### **Investigating Music: The History of the String Quartet**

Level 6

You will investigate the string quartet, its repertoire, and performers from the eighteenth century to the present. It considers the different functions of the string quartet – from a sociable activity in the private sphere to professional concert performances. It offers an opportunity to study canonic repertoire but also to discover lesser-known music, relating this to changing social and political situations. The future of the string quartet is also addressed: what, for example, new

possibilities are afforded by emerging technologies? The course includes study of materials from RCM Stream and the RCM Museum and Library collections. There will also be opportunities to perform string quartet repertoire under discussion.

### **Opera, Acting & Movement (singers only) (Option/Elective module)**

Level 6

You will carry out the various stages of preparation required in order to perform part of a scene from an opera on stage in front of an audience.

### **Historical Performance (Option/Elective module)**

Level 6

Several projects run over the Autumn Term, all delivered through a course of classes that culminates in an assessed performance. Projects usually culminate in a presentation class that is open to the public but is not a formal concert and have included French early 18th-century repertoire, Baroque dance, ornamentation and cadenza classes, Medieval Music, and lute song. Please note that the topics offered during the term can vary depending on the availability of teachers..

Dr Ann van Allen-Russell

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