

## 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 modules (see list below), depending on availability

Students typically choose their options from the relevant year of the BMus (i.e. 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.

In this guide, you can find information on how the BMus programme is structured and a list of modules available for Exchange students. Module descriptions can be found at the back of this guide.

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

Please ensure that any core or option modules you select meet your home institution's requirements for your 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 during an Autumn Term exchange, undergraduate exchange students cannot normally complete any formal assessment. RCM assessments ordinarily take place during the Spring and Summer Terms. The structure of our courses is fully compliant 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 are provided with an Exchange Transcript by the RCM. This will be used by your home institution to recognise your period of study at the RCM and convert the credits you have gained to the system of credit used in your country.

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, there are talks from visiting composers exploring their works, and on occasion, they will look at student compositions. There are also visits from instrumentalists and groups explaining the multiple techniques which are possible on their instrument and offering advice on how to write for their instrument. At various points there will be opportunities for your works to be performed by a small group of instrumentalists, and there are projects which you can apply to take part in.

### 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 ensemble and performances in RCM baroque festivals.

### Keyboard

As a keyboard student, you have a weekly performance class, which is led by an RCM keyboard professor. There are masterclasses for piano, collaborative piano and contemporary piano throughout the term 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 it is possible for you to participate in Faculty classes at various points throughout the term. There are masterclasses given by visiting artists and professors, with opportunities to have 1:1 lessons while they are with us.

## Strings

As a string student it is possible for you to attend instrument-specific performance classes at various points throughout the term. There are weekly Faculty classes for double bass, harp and guitar students. There are masterclasses for all instruments (violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp and guitar) given by visiting artists and professors, with opportunities to have 1:1 lessons with the visiting artists and professors whilst they are with us. In addition, 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 classes, 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 visiting distinguished artists. Vocal students take part in the RCM Chorus project and Chamber Choir, and there are many other performance opportunities for which students can audition, 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. In addition, 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, which are open to all to attend and reed classes for oboe and bassoon students. There are many performance opportunities as well as internal concerts for which you can sign up.

## BMus Programme Structure

### Year 1 (Level 4)

#### Principal Study

##### 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 year, you can opt to take whichever level you prefer, in consultation with your Aural professor.

##### Healthy Musician

including an Introduction to Healthy Practice and the Alexander Technique

### Year 2 (Level 5)

#### Principal Study

Level 5

As for year 1.

#### Historical Studies

Level 5

Choice of courses available:

- The Orchestra
- Theatre Music
- Musical Genres
- Public Music

Musicianship & Improvisation 2	Level 5 & 6	<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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Applied Aural Skills	Level 5 or 6	Level taken is initially determined by the result you achieve in your start-of-year Placement Test, but during the course of the year you can opt to take whichever level you prefer, in consultation with your Aural professor.
OR		
Aural in Professional Contexts	Level 6	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.
Professional Musician	Level 5	Including developing effective communication, engagement with technology, understanding audiences, finances and industry, and career management.
Music Leadership 1: Learning & Participation	Level 5	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.

### Year 3 (Level 6)

Principal Study	Level 6	
Researching Practitioner	Level 6	This module involves developing a Practice-led Research' project in which primary mode of inquire is your practice.
Music Leadership 2: Teaching Skills & Techniques	Level 5	In two parts, this module includes practical sessions on instrumental and vocal teaching and conducting.
Options	Levels 5 & 6	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.

### Year 4 (Level 6G)

Principal Study

Graduation Level

As for Level 6 (year 3).

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Options

Level 5 & 6

Choose from a range of level 5 and level 6 options.

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## BMus Core Modules and Options Available for Exchange Students

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

### 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

#### Contemporary Cultures

L5 Alexander Technique

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 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 choose modules that are normally offered to students in years 1 or 2, where needed to meet the requirements of their home institution and subject to sufficient space in classes.

Before you select any of the Core (Level 4) Modules listed, please check with your home institution that the selected modules meet your home institution's requirements for your programme 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 founded social and cultural conditions under which our classical music industry operates. Students engage critically with boundaries around Western art music and concert culture by studying select contemporary repertoire.

At Level 5, there are several different topics available from which exchange students can choose: the orchestra, public music, theatre music, or musical genres. The individual topics enable you to extend and deepen your knowledge and understanding of music history and gain a broad and informed awareness of select composers, performers, genres and artistic ideas. A significant number of representative works in the field will be studied in context and in 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, with a focus on your health and wellbeing, covering the physicality and psychology of performing; protection of hearing; and physical fitness and nutrition for the musician.

### Professional Musician (Core module)

Level 5

This module addresses three areas critical to the developing artist: 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 the 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, 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.

## **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 the practical application of this in professional contexts. You will engage critically with topics such as leadership identities, musical development and learning, creativity and the young musician, and devise and communicate musical ideas in a variety of formats. An integral part of the module is the weekly breakout sessions. Facilitated by the SPARKS team, these 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 be learning the process of producing a professional standard classical CD, from the point of view of one of the roles (sound engineer, producer or editor). You will work as part of a team and apply project management, leadership, teamwork, negotiating and problem solving skills. You will learn, in practice, about the roles of engineers, producers, and editors, and 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 will enable you to write practically for instruments and for voices, and idiomatically for those with which you're most familiar. You will be working towards a coherent harmonic language and a critical attitude to rhythmic use, pacing a short composition effectively, and exploring and creating performance opportunities.

At Level 6, you will be writing fluently for at least one medium (possibly connected with your Principal Study) and confidently for other groups outside your own specialist area of performance. You will be expected to show evidence of creative invention, and managing and evaluating projects with confidence and take initiatives with other performers.

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

Level 6



Students will be developing skills in composing, arranging, orchestration and technology, as specifically applied to screen composition, and responding in a suitable and idiomatic manner on a music-dramatic level, with an understanding for common practice and stylistic trends. The content of supervisions is likely to cover film composition tutorials; basic sequencing, sampling; and hard-disk recording, timecode synchronisation, and mixing.

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

Level 6

This module will introduce you to, and familiarise you with some advanced hardware and software tools and their use for the production of electroacoustic compositions. You will develop an appreciation of the broader technical and aesthetic issues relating 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, their range, technical strengths and limitations, their individual and timbral qualities. You will be applying this knowledge in terms of how instruments can work in combination with others. You will be recognising the basic techniques of transcription that enable the effective and idiomatic transfer of musical material from one instrumental medium to another; identifying different methods of scoring and beginning to imitate period orchestral style; and demonstrating the use of correct notational 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. Student 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 their individual qualities. Students will also be recognising, and applying, 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 imitating different instrumental and orchestral styles effectively.

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

Level 5 and 6

This module will give you 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, and the means to work on these; and develop insights into how to apply Alexander Technique to personal practice and performance. (Subject to availability – these modules are often over-subscribed.)

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

Level 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 the 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, 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 give an idiomatic performance with either a singer, instrumentalist or both. You will learn about the duo and song repertoire and have guidance on how to interpret 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 part in your development as an accompanist.

At Level 6 you will develop your sight-reading abilities so that you can incorporate the vocal line of a song into the piano part at sight. You will be expected to have a greater understanding of the poetry in songs and be confident in discussing it. You will increase your knowledge of the song and instrumental 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 beginning of the academic year with one or more coaches chosen by you. Under the guidance of the coaching tutor, you will select the appropriate repertoire for detailed work at the relevant level in order to gain an awareness of the overall extent and character of this repertoire, 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 issues of chamber playing – balance, intonation, ensemble, interaction, and rehearsal protocols. You will prepare 50-60 minutes of music to the 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 and demonstrate versatility and flexibility both in performance and in programme planning.

You will be able to consolidate performing skills as applied to art song and encourage the 'communicative impulse' to lie at the heart of all song class performances; demonstrate that at the heart of every performance is an appreciation of the interdependent roles of pianist and singer; and demonstrate an advanced facility in the correct pronunciation and communication of text.

### **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 culminate in an assessed performance. Projects usually culminate in a presentation class which is open to the public but 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: topics offered during the term can vary depending on availability of teachers.

Dr Ann van Allen-Russell

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