

Music



Undergraduate Studies



ROYAL
HOLLOWAY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Welcome

The Music Department at Royal Holloway is one of the largest in the UK, offering a very broad and diverse range of courses, all taught by world-leading experts. We are a friendly and supportive community, and our unique woodland campus is home to music students from across the world.

Staff are always willing to help you with your studies, and our team also includes instrumental and vocal teachers, offering specialist coaching in classical and popular music, jazz, early music and musical theatre. Our teaching is inclusive and recognises the many routes taken by music students before university.

Our courses span all types of music including music across a thousand years of history and the changing nature of music in the contemporary digital world. With the Media Arts and Drama departments, we offer innovative courses in Music & Sound Design and in music theatre. Through performance, composition and academic study, we'll challenge you to think about what music is today and why it matters.

We have a fantastic array of performance opportunities, including a wide variety of choirs, orchestras, bands and other ensembles. Stunning performance spaces, electronic studio facilities and practice rooms are all on site. Our proximity to London also gives you easy access to some of the world's most famous music venues.



5th
in the UK
for music

*(The Times & Sunday Times
Good University Guide, 2024)*

Contact details

General enquiries

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Connect with us

 [@RHULMusic](https://twitter.com/RHULMusic)

 [@rhu_music](https://www.tiktok.com/@rhu_music)

 [musicatroyalholloway](https://www.instagram.com/musicatroyalholloway)

royalholloway.ac.uk/music

Music at Royal Holloway

Ranked among the top ten Music departments in the UK (*Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024*), we also benefit from being part of a vibrant creative campus community rated 6th in the UK for Performing Arts (*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024*).

Broaden your horizons and explore a dazzling range of courses

The breadth and diversity of our Music courses makes us stand out: you can study performance, composition, music technology, sound design, music history, music from around the globe, music theory and analysis, film music, and jazz and pop.

Tailor your degree to suit your musical interests

Our degree programmes are highly flexible, allowing you to shape your own pathway, whether you choose to specialise in performance, composition, music technology, academic study of music, or prefer to keep a balance of different courses throughout your three years.

Pursue individual instrumental or vocal study with outstanding teachers

Take your performance skills to a new level with our inspiring teachers. Lessons are provided at no further cost if you are taking performance courses. Studying performance and composition includes the possibility of working with professional ensembles (recent collaborators include London Mozart Players, CHROMA, Tippett Quartet and the King's Singers).

Be inspired by cutting-edge, research-led teaching

Study with dynamic and inspirational staff, internationally recognised in their diverse fields, in a department ranked 1st in the UK for research quality (*Complete University Guide 2024*). Our staff include the UK's only Regius Professor of Music, an honour awarded to us by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in recognition of our excellence in research and teaching.

Benefit from our excellent facilities

You will have access to extensive facilities, including our state-of-the-art recording studios in Engineer's Cottage, music production suites,

high-quality pianos (we're an All-Steinway School), a large collection of world and early music instruments, and exceptional library resources.

Perform in our stunning concert venues

As a member of Royal Holloway's orchestras, choirs, bands, musical theatre groups, chamber or world music ensembles, you will participate in performances in the Picture Gallery, Chapel, Windsor Auditorium and Boilerhouse Theatre.

Go on to great things

Graduates use their professional skills and knowledge in careers as performers, conductors, composers, sound designers, music teachers and music therapists, as well as in music- and arts-related jobs such as music publishing, production, journalism and arts management. Employers value the skills of communication and presentation, self-motivation, individual research and teamwork that you will develop here.



Studying at Royal Holloway has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience. The Music department has a lovely community, with so many opportunities socially and musically. From studying music of the Andes to video game music, the courses I've taken have been fantastic, with superb lecturers.

Royal Holloway has challenged me in new ways, and I am honoured to have studied here.

Amelia
BMus Music

Choosing your degree

In the Department of Music, the only compulsory module is Introduction to Theory and Analysis, and, for those without a high level of music theory, Fundamentals of Music Theory. This allows a great deal of scope for you to tailor your degree to your own interests and passions. You will take modules from our flexible core alongside a wide and eclectic range of options. Whether you choose a single or joint honours degree, you will be part of a community of outstanding musicians, passionate about the subject.



DEGREES	UCAS code	Duration
BMus Music	W302	3 years
BA Music and Sound Design for Film, Television and Interactive Media	W350	3 years
BMus Music (with Integrated Foundation Year)	W30F	4 years
BA Music and Sound Design for Film, Television and Interactive Media (with Integrated Foundation Year)	W35F	4 years
MUSIC AS A MAJOR SUBJECT		
BA Music with French	W3R1	3 years
BA Music with German	W3R2	3 years
BA Music with Italian	W3R3	3 years
BA Music with Philosophy	W3V5	3 years
BA Music with Political Studies	W3L2	3 years
BA Music with Spanish	W3R4	3 years
JOINT DEGREES		
BA Drama & Music	WW43	3 years
BA History & Music	VW13	3 years
BA Mathematics & Music	GW13	3 years
BA Modern Languages & Music	RW93	4 years
BA Music & English	WQ33	3 years
BA Music & Philosophy	WV35	3 years
MUSIC AS A MINOR SUBJECT		
BSc (Econ) Economics with Music	L1W3	3 years
BSc Physics with Music	F3W3	3 years

Modules that include individual instrumental/vocal lessons are not available on degrees with music as a minor subject or in our Music & Sound Design degrees.

Scholarships

Royal Holloway has a long-standing tradition of supporting exceptional musicians and performers and we are pleased to offer a range of different scholarships.

Choral & Organ Scholarships

Choral and Organ Scholars belong to the highly renowned Chapel Choir, performing services in the Chapel and weekly lunchtime concerts; recordings, broadcasts, concerts off campus and tours all take place each year. For more information about the Choir, please visit chapelchoir.co.uk.

Orchestral Scholarships

Players of orchestral instruments may apply for Orchestral Scholarships, and benefit from unparalleled professional training. Orchestral Scholars occupy leadership positions with our orchestras and collaborate in our unique side-by-side projects with professional musicians such as members of the London Mozart Players and the Tippett Quartet as well as visiting professional soloists and coaches.

Music Scholarships

Available to singers and instrumentalists (especially non-orchestral instruments), Music Scholarships support talented musicians in return for commitment to College music-making. For more information, please visit royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/fees-and-funding/music-scholarships



Studying here

In the Department of Music you will find a mixture of lectures, seminars, tutorials and practical classes, depending on the best fit for the nature of the specific subject. Tutorial groups address detailed issues, while lectures and seminars are used for broader topics. You will also have your own Personal Tutor whose role is to monitor your progress and to advise you on other academic and personal matters.

Each year, around 20-25 options are available to both second- and third-year students. You will have a wide choice, dependent on your degree course, though places may be limited on oversubscribed modules. Entry to performance modules in the second and third years is selective, dependent on examination outcome in the previous year of study.

If you are taking solo performance modules you will receive individual lessons on your chosen instrument or voice at no additional charge. The number of lessons allocated depends on the module taken, with the number of hours increasing for those specialising in solo performance in their second and final years. You will have a wide choice of teachers with whom to study. Our visiting teachers are all distinguished practitioners, many of them pursuing successful careers as performers alongside their teaching.

Modules will be assessed by a combination of coursework essays, portfolio submissions or practical tests/recitals - we have very few written exams. The first year provides an excellent foundation for the remainder of your degree, and is zero-weighted, taking the pressure off your transition from school to university and encouraging you to explore new areas of study.

royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here

Student life

Student life in the Department of Music is enhanced by the number and variety of groups making and performing music.

Orchestras

- Symphony Orchestra
- Chamber Orchestra
- Professional guest soloists and coaches

Ensembles

- Chamber groups
- Undergraduates, our student big band
- Jazz ensembles
- World music groups: Andean band, Gamelan, Korean percussion
- New Music Collective, performing new work by professional and student composers
- Raven Opera, Unheard Orchestra, Conductor's Collective.



Choirs

- Our internationally renowned Chapel Choir composed of Choral Scholars
- The Founders Choir, our auditioned chamber choir
- The Royal Holloway Chorus, which is open to all
- Gospel Choir
- Absolute Harmony, the university's a capella group

Close links with professional ensembles including

- London Mozart Players
- King's Singers
- Tippett Quartet
- CHROMA

Other musical opportunities include:

- Musical Theatre Society
- Savoy Opera Society

Your future career

Studying music offers a uniquely rich experience which is highly valued by employers. In your three or four years here, you will not only develop a range of musical skills and deep subject knowledge, but also build up your self-confidence through working independently and with others.

Our Music degree will equip you for a variety of careers, both within and outside the world of music. Graduates use their professional skills and knowledge in careers as performers, conductors, composers, sound designers, music teachers and music therapists, as well as in music- and arts-related jobs such as music publishing, production, journalism, and arts management. Music is not just a vocational degree; Royal Holloway music graduates also develop successful careers in many other spheres outside music. Our graduates have gone on to success in all walks of life working for a wide range of employers, while others have set themselves up as successful independent performers and/or teachers.



“I’ve never really been into ‘academic music’, the thought of being forced to take historical courses and write out theory sheets for three years straight did not sit right with me when I was looking at universities. Royal Holloway

gave me the option to explore things that I could actually ‘do’, not just write about, such as Editing and Notation of Early Music, and a lot of performing and composing!”

Jessica

Freelance Concerts Manager
BMus Music (2019)

Recent graduates have gone on to work for:

- BBC
- IMG Artists
- English National Opera
- Slaughter & May (law)
- London Symphony Orchestra
- HarrisonParrott (artist management)
- Cvent (computer software)
- Pharos Arts Foundation, Cyprus
- Breakthrough Media
- Faber Music
- United Talent Agency
- Signum Records
- Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
- Surrey County Arts Service
- British Library
- EMI
- Accenture
- Sony Music
- Wigmore Hall
- Warner Music
- Open University
- Howarth of London (wind instrument makers)
- The Department of Health
- Trinity Laban
- Ministry of Education, Singapore Southbank Sinfonia (artist development)
- CHUMS (mental health/emotional wellbeing)
- Rockschool
- Academy of Ancient Music

Placements

In partnership with Careers & Employability, the music department runs a second-year placement scheme which gives students work experience in their chosen area of interest. Over recent years music students have been offered placements at, amongst other places, Southbank Sinfonia, Surrey Arts, Slough Music Service, Pinewood Studios, BAFTA, City Academy, IMG Artists and Sound Connections.

This brochure was produced in May 2024 and information was correct at that time. Please make sure you check our website or contact us directly for the very latest information if you are considering an application.



Royal Holloway, University of London

- Learn from world-leading experts
- Highly ranked for student satisfaction
- Beautiful campus in a safe location
- Vibrant and active community
- Award-winning careers service

Visit us to find out more

Our Open Days are a great way to get a feel for life at Royal Holloway. Look around the campus, meet our students and staff, and find out more about studying and living here.

Find out more and register to attend at royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays

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