



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Faculty
Of
Arts &
Humanities.

Department of Music.

Postgraduate courses



Why Sheffield?

With flexible courses and an exceptionally diverse range of musical interests, Sheffield is a place where you can explore the music that matters to you.

A broad and interdisciplinary approach to the study of music

As a music student at The University of Sheffield, you will be a part of a world-leading arts and humanities faculty (Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2020) and a department that is ranked sixth in the UK for research excellence (Research Excellence Framework 2014).

We're a dynamic, international community of musicians, with an exceptionally diverse range of research strengths. We have expertise in many areas, covering classical music, electroacoustic music, historic music, contemporary music, world music and traditional music of the British Isles.

Our staff team includes professional musicians with established international careers as composers and performers across various different forms of music-making. We're also highly interdisciplinary, with musicologists, composers, performers and music psychologists all working together to push the boundaries of how we understand and communicate music.

Varied courses that combine theory and practice

We pride ourselves in being one of the best music-making departments in the country, and this is reflected in the masters courses we offer. Not only will you be researching and writing about music, you will be given the option to perform, create and compose it as well. You'll have the freedom to explore the music you are passionate about, becoming a specialist in your chosen area with the support of our expert academic staff.

We offer five onsite and two distance learning programmes across a wide range of disciplines. Our programmes provide you with skills, techniques and experience that will prepare you for doctoral work or employment in the creative arts.

Access to outstanding facilities

Our £8.5m facilities provide the ideal environment for some of the UK's most diverse and cutting-edge music research and teaching. Based in the heart of the campus, the Jessop Building houses multi-purpose ensemble, instrumental teaching and seminar rooms, as well as an ethnomusicology room, a music technology lab, a music library and music psychology rooms. The Soundhouse is our purpose-built, state-of-the-art facility for practice, instrumental lessons, small-scale rehearsals and sound recording, whilst the University's stunning Firth Hall plays host to our MA performance recitals. ►

One of the UK's most musical cities

With dozens of major venues, music-making organisations and charities bringing music into the community, you'd be hard pressed to find a more diverse and vibrant musical environment than Sheffield in which to live and study.

We have a fantastic live music scene to explore, encompassing everything from big-name pop acts, to classical concerts, to lively jazz and folk gigs. Whether you want to catch new artists at the legendary Leadmill, enjoy live film scores at City Hall, hop on the monthly Folk Train out to the Peak District or join a jam at your local pub, you'll find something to suit your tastes any night of the week.

We're home to Tramlines, one of the UK's largest inner-city music festivals, as well as Music in the Round, foremost promoter of chamber music in the country. Classical Sheffield works to celebrate the vast array of choirs, aspiring soloists, conductors and composers making music here, whilst once a year the whole city becomes a stage as part of our very own Sheffield Makes Music festival. Many of our students are also in bands of their own, performing music of various genres at venues around Sheffield.

A lively and supportive postgraduate community

As a postgraduate student in the Department of Music, you will be part of a vibrant community of students from all over the world.

We want you to get the most out of your degree, so we encourage you to get involved with all the additional opportunities on offer here. We host regular seminars, conferences and guest lectures, all of which are available for masters students to attend. There are also numerous opportunities to make music alongside your studies through our orchestras, bands, choirs and ensembles, many of whom perform locally and abroad on international tours. You might also perform or write for our University Concerts series, which hosts over 100 events every year.

Outside of the department, there are hundreds of student-run societies and clubs you can join, including the Postgraduate Students' Society, an interdisciplinary society who organise trips, events and other social activities to help you settle into postgraduate life at Sheffield.



About the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

In the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, we explore what makes us human through the study of languages, cultures, histories and ideas. We are known for our interdisciplinary approaches, our innovative learning and teaching practices and our extensive engagement with external partners and communities. We have a track record for research excellence that attracts students from all over the world.

The work we do is at the heart of understanding human society. We believe that an understanding of people's lives, experiences, beliefs and values - both past and present - is absolutely vital when tackling the greatest issues facing humanity today. As a student here, you will be a core member of this vibrant intellectual environment, becoming an independent and critical thinker, as well as an excellent communicator and interpreter of human behaviour.

The diversity of our research interests is expressed through the departments that make us up: we encompass the study of History, Archaeology, Music, Philosophy, English, East Asian Studies, and Language and Cultures. We are home to the Digital Humanities Institute, the Humanities Research Institute and a number of interdisciplinary research centres which conduct cutting-edge, world-leading research, both individually and collaboratively.

The breadth of our interests means we are able to provide unique opportunities for multidisciplinary research, working together to tackle global challenges and provide new insights into our understanding of the world.



Our courses.

Our flexible courses combine theory and practice, giving you the freedom to explore your musical interests and passions.

Composition

MA
1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

Immerse yourself in the creation and presentation of contemporary instrumental or electronic music.

This course gives you the freedom to compose the music you're passionate about. You might choose to specialise in instrumental composition, collaborating with performers to explore a broad range of approaches and techniques. Alternatively, you can focus on electronic and electroacoustic composition, creating innovative sonic art through the application of analogue and digital technologies and real-time audio processing techniques. You will be taught by active, internationally-renowned composers, whose expertise and support will help you to refine and define your creative voice as a composer.

“**MA Composition developed and strengthened my compositional voice with tutorials, live opportunities, and conferences. It gave me the opportunity to collaborate with an engineer on a very unique sound installation. Most significantly, it changed the way I think and write about music with group discussions and focused dissertation study. This is a valuable and rewarding degree for composers who welcome a challenge.**

Stephen Theofanous, MA Composition

“**Studying here was the best decision I have ever made. The lecturers are experts in their field, the facilities are great, and the city has a good ambience to study. I gained a lot of knowledge and sharpened my critical thinking here.**

Christ Aryanto, MA Psychology of Music

Music Management

MA
1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

Prepare to join the next generation of music industry leaders.

Bringing together experts from the Department of Music and the Management School, this course gives you a taste of what it takes to succeed in the creative and cultural industries. Choose from modules in management practices (finance, marketing, entrepreneurship) and in several areas of arts management (festival management, music branding, audience development, arts funding), tailoring your degree to suit your strengths and interests. .

Musicology

MA
1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

Explore how music is created, disseminated and received.

Study a variety of musical eras and styles, examining their history, composition, performance and reception in relation to themes such as gender, philosophy, culture and aesthetics. Specialist areas you might focus on include music of the classical period, Mozart, Renaissance music, music and visual culture, eighteenth and nineteenth-century music, the concerto genre and the Broadway musical. You'll also deepen your understanding of musicology as a field through the study of key figures, trends and research techniques.

“**The MA Musicology programme here offers me the professional opportunity to explore aesthetic interpretations of the music I perform, including the works of great composers. The course of Musicology requires numerous reading of books, journal articles and so on. Seminars and lectures are organized regularly during the terms, and I can meet my tutors and other researchers in the department every week.**

Sheffield is an ideal city for living and studying. When I first arrived in Sheffield, people here and the staff at the University were enthusiastic to give me information about the city. There are also lots of activities during the whole year. Life is never boring in Sheffield.

Xinyi Liang, MA Musicology

Music Performance Studies

MA
1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

Hone your musical abilities and develop your performance skills to a concert standard.

This course is designed to help you build the stylistic awareness and advanced techniques to perform music at concert level. Through workshops, masterclasses and intensive one-to-one lessons with specialist tutors, you will hone your abilities as both a solo and ensemble performer, culminating in public recital at the end of your course. In addition to practical study, you will engage in modules that develop your understanding of performance as a research-informed discipline, whilst also having the opportunity to collaborate on creative projects with other performance and composition students.

Psychology of Music

MA
1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

Use psychological methods and theory to interpret and understand how we make and experience music.

The longest established masters in music psychology in the UK, this course allows you to use psychological methods and theory to interpret musical behaviours, sounds and ideas. It is broad and inclusive in its coverage of a range of research areas, provides rigorous training in qualitative and quantitative research techniques, and is taught by tutors who have published widely in music psychology and education.



**Distance learning courses:
study online at home when it suits you.**

Music Psychology in Education, Performance and Wellbeing

MA | PG Certificate

2 years part-time, distance learning course

Learn how to apply psychological research to musical experiences and professions.

Attracting students from all over the world, this distance learning course is ideal for graduate musicians who work in the fields of music therapy, performance, or teaching. You will train in the research methods used by psychologists and how these methods can be used to inform and explore musical expertise and understanding. You'll engage in online discussions with your tutors and peers, benefiting from access to our extensive range of online materials, electronic journals, ebooks and other music education resources.

“As a late bloomer in academia, it took a lot of courage in my mid thirties to take the step to apply for the MA programme. Studying music psychology allowed me to grow in confidence, both professionally and personally. I feel empowered to include new initiatives in my own music lessons.

The University of Sheffield has always had an excellent reputation. The quality of the department, the depth and breadth of the course materials, the balance between gaining a broad view of the field then honing in on your chosen area of study for the dissertation project – all these elements are nicely balanced and well presented by an active and passionate department.

Wendy McMahon, MA Music Psychology in Education (Distance Learning)

Traditional and World Music

MA

2 years part-time, distance learning course

Develop your knowledge of world music from wherever you are in the world.

World music studies encompasses, quite literally, the study of any and all musical activity in the world: Western and non-Western cultures, popular and classical, amateur and professional. This course allows you to study all of these musical forms and more, gaining a deeper knowledge of music as an art form, as well as the varying social and cultural contexts in which it is made. We combine annual residential weeks in Sheffield with longer periods of internet-supported study, meaning you can study from wherever you live.

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The Music Department is an internationally friendly and very encouraging environment. I had good communication with all my lecturers; they were really supportive and helped me to find my own path, which I think is really valuable. Participating in seminars, workshops and all the research centres gave me the opportunity to know more about what other universities and people from the department are doing, and gave me the inspiration for what I want to do for the rest of my professional career.

One of the best things about being a music student is the Soundhouse. Being able to have free access to the practise rooms is amazing. Sheffield offers really high-quality music life in general because it gives you the opportunity to participate as a musician and to be active in the music life of the city. I formed my own band - I am from Mexico, so we formed a latin-pop band and played at open mics, so having the opportunity of practising together in the Soundhouse was essential.

Verna Vazquez Diaz de Leon,
MA Psychology of Music



**For more information about our masters programmes,
visit our website:
sheffield.ac.uk/music/postgraduate/masters-courses.**

Join the world class.



Education is for everyone, for life

Wherever you are in your career and your life, if you're ready for a world-class masters we'd love to hear from you.

Our greatest strength is each other

Sheffield is an inclusive, supportive community where people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities study together. You can't have a world-class university without this kind of openness and diversity.

You have to think global

We use our knowledge to help the whole planet, so there's a global dimension to everything we do. This clarity of purpose is why a degree from Sheffield is so highly respected.

We believe in you

You're part of the next generation of professionals who will change society for the better. Our job is to prepare you for that. We'll push you to amaze yourself and we'll support you every step of the way.



Our staff.

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I am a professional clarinetist with an international reputation for my performances and research on bass and contrabass clarinet. My book *Spectral Immersions: A Comprehensive Guide To The Theory And Of Bass Clarinet Multiphonics* is regarded as the leading resource in this area of contemporary techniques, and I have commissioned, premiered and recorded many new works by leading composers for the low clarinets. Sheffield University is a brilliant place to study performance. Our outstanding performance department has a team of lecturers who specialise in different areas and genres of music, and our instrumental tutors are all leading professional musicians. Courses and modules are designed to give students skills and experience in all areas of performance ranging from ensemble skills to solo recitals.

Dr Sarah Watts, Director of Performance



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As a practitioner and academic, I research folk singing from different angles including performance, composition, audience research and ethnomusicologically exploring how the sound and its social culture work together. As a result of this variety, I teach in a number of different areas - at postgraduate level on the distance learning Traditional and World Music Studies MA and the onsite Music Management MA. My interest is about understanding what music means to people - either as audience members to support a music industry, or as a living tradition that can help shape communities. I am committed to supporting students within and beyond the classroom, and several initiatives including the Twitter based #TradSongTues are run by current and recent graduates and my students have gone on to publish their MA work in academic journals. Sheffield is a great place to study either onsite or distance learning as there is a vibrant culture of community - come and join us!

Dr Fay Hield, Senior Lecturer in Ethnomusicology



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The University of Sheffield is one of the best places to study contemporary composition - we have four composers on staff, who cover a wide range of different styles and genres, from purely instrumental through to electronic music. I am a composer and performer of electronic - or electroacoustic - music. I perform my music in concerts all around the world, using large loudspeaker systems that surround the audience.

My teaching on the MA Composition explores the intersection of electronic music and sound art, and variously covers studio and location recording techniques, sound editing and manipulation, new technologies for music-making, compositional practice and live performance. I am extremely proud that many of my composition students have gone on to win prizes and mentions in the world's most significant composition competitions, and they regularly feature in concerts and festivals overseas. This has happened because we encourage students to find, explore and develop their own compositional voice within the extremely active community of composers working at Sheffield.

Dr Adam Stanovic, Senior Lecturer in Composition



To see profiles for all our expert academic staff, visit our website: sheffield.ac.uk/music/people





Your future.

A masters degree in music will provide you with essential analytical, communication and self-motivation skills, not to mention musical excellence, making you highly valued by employers.

Our graduates are highly successful in the job market and find employment all over the world in a broad range of professions. They are performers, composers and conductors, working with prestigious orchestras and music institutions both in the UK and overseas. They are audio programmers, educators, and music therapists, and are forging careers in broadcasting, arts administration, marketing and management. Our programmes also provide excellent preparation for PhD study, with many of our graduates deciding to continue their studies with us every year.

Careers Service

The Careers Service supports your development throughout your course and for up to three years after you graduate. Whatever you want to do, wherever in the world you choose to build your career, we can help.

We cover everything, from figuring out what you want to do to beyond your degree to succeeding at interviews. There are lots of opportunities to network with employers in your field, and we'll help you find the kind of work experience that's right for you. We can also help you to find paid, part-time employment that fits around your studies.

Find out more about The Careers Service by visiting our website: sheffield.ac.uk/careers.



The Sheffield experience.



Sheffield is a surprising place. For a big city to have such a strong sense of community is unusual. We're as creative as we are friendly, with independent shops, bars, cafes and art spaces tucked around every corner. Then there's the fact that a third of the city is inside the Peak District National Park, an area of outstanding natural beauty.



Most of our student accommodation is located in one of the city's greenest residential areas, a short walk from the main campus. Here we provide accommodation especially for postgraduate students, including en suite apartments and houses – near good schools – for students with families. There are also plenty of affordable private accommodation options in the lively, community-minded neighbourhoods that surround our University.

At the heart of everything is our Students' Union. It's here to support you with practical help and advice on every aspect of student life. There are over 400 student societies to try out or join, hundreds of sports teams and one of the UK's biggest student volunteering programmes.

With a little guidance from us and lots of freedom to explore, you'll find this adds up to a unique experience, one that sees you form strong relationships with your fellow students, deepens your ties to the community and lets you discover what it means to be part of something.



How to apply.

You can apply for all of our masters degrees online through the University of Sheffield website. You will need to include certain documents to support your application, including evidence of your previous qualifications, and a personal statement.

For MA Composition and MA Music Performance Studies, you will also need to provide a portfolio part of your application. Please see our website for details on how the portfolio for each course should be recorded and submitted: sheffield.ac.uk/music/postgraduate/masters-courses

For more information on how to apply, visit our website: sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/apply

Entry requirements

You will need a minimum of a 2:1 degree (or equivalent) in music or a combined degree with a substantial music component. Degrees in other related subjects may be acceptable depending on your background.

We also recognise the value of experience, and may accept applications from people who have been in practice, or who bring other experience to their studies.

Please note: our distance learning courses only run every two years.

English language requirements

For applicants whose first language is not English, IELTS is the preferred test of language. You need an overall IELTS score of 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 in each component for all courses.

For a full list of the English language qualifications we accept, please see our website: sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/english-language.

Alternative pathways for international applicants

Pre-masters courses: If you are an international applicant and do not already meet the entry requirements for your chosen degree, you can apply to study a pre-masters pathway programme with the University of Sheffield International College (USIC). The course includes academic subjects, study skills and English language preparation, and has been designed specifically to prepare you for taught postgraduate study at the University of Sheffield.

You can find more information on the USIC website: usic.sheffield.ac.uk

English language courses: Our English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC) provides pre-sessional English language courses for international applicants wanting to improve their language skills in order to meet University of Sheffield entry requirements. The course is designed to improve your academic English skills (writing, reading, speaking and listening), as well as other essential skills you will need at university, such as essay writing, note-taking, group discussions and preparing and delivering presentations.

For more information, visit our website: sheffield.ac.uk/eltc

Fees and funding.

At the University of Sheffield, we value talent, which is why we invest in scholarships (£4m in 2018–19) for exceptional UK and international students.

Government loans are available for UK and EU masters students studying eligible courses. If you did your first degree at Sheffield, you could get a discount on your tuition fees.

Find out more about loans, scholarships and other funding on our website: sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/funding



Contact us.

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[sheffield.ac.uk/music](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/music)

The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it's current and relevant. Individual modules may be updated or withdrawn in response to discoveries made through our world-leading research, funding changes, professional accreditation requirements, student or employer feedback, curriculum review, staff availability and variations in student numbers.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication, for the reasons detailed above, changes may need to be made to modules, courses, entry requirements and fees between the date of this publication and the start of your course.

This publication is correct as at the time of print, but please see www.sheffield.ac.uk for the most up-to-date information about undergraduate/postgraduate study at the University. If there is any inconsistency between this publication and www.sheffield.ac.uk, the information on www.sheffield.ac.uk should be taken as correct.