



Programme Specification

A statement of the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin a taught programme of study leading to an award from
The University of Sheffield

1	Programme Title	Traditional and World Music
2	Programme Code	MUST07
3	JACS Code	W340
4	Level of Study	Postgraduate
5a	Final Qualification	Master of Arts (MA)
5b	QAA FHEQ Level	7
6a	Intermediate Qualification(s)	Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert), Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)
6b	QAA FHEQ Level	7
7	Teaching Institution (if not Sheffield)	Not applicable
8	Faculty	Arts and Humanities
9	Department	Music
10	Other Departments involved in teaching the programme	None
11	Mode(s) of Attendance	Part-time Distance Learning
12	Duration of the Programme	2 years
13	Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	Not applicable
14	Date of production/revision	June 2020

15. Background to the programme and subject area

“Traditional and World Music” encompasses, in principle, the study of any and all musical activity in the world; Western as well as “exotic,” popular as well as classical, amateur as well as professional. This study is pursued through the methods of ethnomusicology, a discipline that seeks to understand the whole human process within which music is conceptualised, discussed and made. Wherever possible, these methods include fieldwork and direct participation in the music studied as well as library research and theoretical interpretation. While opportunities to study ethnomusicology exist elsewhere, the distance learning MA in Traditional and World Music at Sheffield uses the methodology of ethnomusicology as a means to an end, focusing primarily on music and musical activity as the object of study. While students can focus on any kind of music, Sheffield’s special strength in traditional music of the British Isles enables us to offer specialist training in that area as an optional focus.

The programme makes it possible for students anywhere in the world to gain a thorough and distinctive training in traditional and world music and in ethnomusicology. We know that many applicants are interested in studying their own musical traditions, and have designed a programme structure and academic environment that supports this, while providing a grounding in the broader literature and methods of the discipline. Practical performance as a means of research is not neglected, and suitably qualified and experienced students can include performance activities as part of their programme. Moreover, the degree is open to applicants from a variety of backgrounds, including mature students and those with appropriate musical experience whether or not they have a first degree in Music. The use of electronic resources such as e-mail and discussion lists allows us to integrate all our students into a diverse and international peer community.

Each year of the course begins with a residential week in Sheffield, where students participate in lectures, seminars and tutorials with the teaching staff and visiting experts, and are given guided hands-on experience in both fieldwork methodology and traditional and world music performance. This is done in the belief that making music respectfully with other people is in many senses itself an ideal model for human engagement that is at once analytical, ethical, responsive, and collective yet individually nuanced. Residentials also prepare the student thoroughly for the ensuing months of independent work, supported through e-tutorials, worksheets and an e-mail discussion list. Materials from the residentials are also delivered online for students who are unable to

attend.

The programme takes full advantage of the Department of Music's research and teaching strengths: course tutors have published widely on traditional and world music topics, and the ethnomusicology programme is internationally respected as one of the strongest in Britain.

Graduates will be widely employable in educational and research-related fields and in the media, as well as qualified and prepared for taking a research degree in ethnomusicology or a related subject.

For further information see the Music Department web pages: www.sheffield.ac.uk/music

16. Programme aims

This programme aims:

1. To provide teaching that instils in students a thorough academic foundation in traditional and world music studies;
2. To equip students with direct experience of a range of research skills and techniques;
3. To prepare students for further research at doctoral level, and for employment in pertinent fields;
4. To engender in students broader life skills, including: an ability to engage independently in self-directed study; critical thought and argument exercised through speech and writing in a variety of media; teamwork and leadership skills; and an ability to understand and respect the views of others;
5. To make the Department's research and teaching expertise in traditional and world music studies available to those whose circumstances prevent them from studying full-time.

17. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
Students completing the PG Cert will:	
K1	Have developed a detailed knowledge of at least one musical tradition, and a general knowledge of others.
K2	Understand how knowledge about traditional and world music is generated through specific research techniques and methodologies.
K3	Be able to reflect critically on their experience of music and explore in practice notions about the role of music in culture.
K4	Have a detailed and critical knowledge of selected key texts in the study of traditional and world music.
In addition, students completing the PG Dip will:	
K5	Understand how knowledge of current traditional and world music practices is generated through ethnomusicological fieldwork.
K6	Be aware of ethical and legal issues relating to music and live music research.
K7	Have developed a more comprehensive and critical understanding of at least one specialised topic within the field of traditional and world music studies.
In addition, students completing the MA will:	
K8	Have acquired, by completing a substantial piece of original research, a comprehensive understanding of relevant knowledge and applicable techniques which are at the forefront of traditional and world music studies.

Skills and other attributes	
Students completing the PG Cert will:	
S1	Be able to demonstrate competence in using a range of research-related skills for the study of traditional and world music.
S2	Be able to show independent thought and originality by formulating and investigating specific research questions on traditional and world music topics.

S3	Be able to articulate original understandings of traditional and world music effectively in writing, supported where appropriate by other media.
S4	Be able to comprehend and evaluate key texts in the study of traditional and world music with critical understanding and independence of thought.
In addition, students completing the PG Dip will:	
S5	Have developed skills in conducting and documenting music research with live human participants in a manner reflecting current theory and practice in the field.
S6	Have developed skills appropriate to the deeper study of at least one specialised topic within the field of traditional and world music studies (e.g. design of music teaching materials; music radio programme production).
In addition, students completing the MA will:	
S7	Have developed an ability to discover new knowledge and/or understandings on specific topics at the forefront of the field of traditional and world music studies.
S8	Have prepared themselves for further postgraduate research and employment by developing analytical and presentational skills at a level appropriate to doctoral study in music.

18. Teaching, learning and assessment

Development of the learning outcomes is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:

Residential weeks begin each year of the course, providing students with the foundation and preparation that they need to work away from Sheffield for the rest of the year. The residentials are used to deliver forms of teaching that work best in a face-to-face setting, including lectures, seminar discussions, tutorials, practical workshops and supervised fieldwork activities. For the rest of the year, study materials are made available electronically, including eoffprints for essential readings, and specially created worksheets and exercises are distributed online, often with guided discussions on a MOLE2 blog or discussion board. The focus of the residentials shifts as students' progress through the programme, with the first residential emphasising knowledge and skills that are widely shared in traditional and world music studies (K1-4, S1-4) and the second concentrating on the knowledge and skills needed for independent research and writing (K5-8, S5-8).

1. Lectures are employed primarily to develop subject-specific knowledge and musical materials (K1, K2, K7), with ethical concerns introduced also (K6). Skills covered here include practice in the skills and techniques of ethnomusicological research through classroom exercises (S1), use of technology (S5) and presentational matters (S3).

2. Seminars require students to reflect on material (K3, K4), to develop and apply analytical skills (S2, S4), to work toward particular goals (K7, S2) and to respond immediately to the thoughts and materials introduced by others (K2, K3, K4, S4). Some seminars include group work, for instance in mastering technological and fieldwork skills (K2, S5).

3. Practical workshops in which students have a first-hand experience of making music in various styles promote a more intimate knowledge of the music studied (K1), material for reflection on musical experience (K3) and an awareness of performance itself as a research technique (S1).

4. Supervised fieldwork activities provide guided practical experience in a key research strategy for the study of traditional and world music (S5) as well as developing direct awareness of the ethical and epistemological issues involved in music research with live human participants (K5, K6).

5. Tutorials, both face-to-face at the residentials and via e-tutorials at other times, play a vital role in the degree, ranging from discussion of subject-specific knowledge and skills informed by the latest research in ethnomusicology (K1, K4, K7, S1-4), to provision of the opportunity to reflect in a supportive environment on the student's personal musical experience (K3). As with residentials, the focus of supervision shifts as students progress from mastering the essential knowledge and skills of the field (K1-4, S1-4) to carrying out and presenting their own original research (K8, S7-8).

6. E-mail discussion lists enable students to exchange ideas and information through a supportive peer community (K1-4, K7, S1, S4).

7. Independent study, a vital part of any distance learning programme, allows students to develop ideas of interest and relevance to their own musical experiences at a pace that suits their employment and personal circumstances (K1, K4, K7, K8, S2, S3, S7, S8).

8. Worksheets on assigned readings are provided to guide students during independent study and help them develop a comprehensive and critical understanding of the assigned texts (K4, K7, S4).

Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes are provided through the following assessment methods:

1. A supervised dissertation of 15,000 words (or a supervised folio of fieldwork materials, editions or analyses of equivalent size) is the largest single element of summative assessment, and successful completion is likely to require demonstration of learning outcomes across the whole range of K1-8 and S1-8, with particular emphasis on K7-8, S3 and S7, the balance of other outcomes depending on the topic and method selected.

2. Written assignments of between 1,000 and 5,000 words contribute towards the degree in several modules. These take various forms, including essay, transcription, bibliography, and review. Taken as a whole, these assignments will demonstrate knowledge and skills across the range K1-7 and S1-6, with the balance in any one module depending on the focus of the module and the topics selected for writing. In general, original essays demonstrate outcomes K1, K4, K7, S2 and S3; book and performance reviews highlight K2, K4, S3 and S6; transcriptions emphasise K1 and S2; and bibliographies stress K1 and S1.

3. Multimedia folios form a further assessed element in some modules where the written word in itself is not sufficient to assess the results of the work. Materials generated through fieldwork are submitted partly in recorded form, and students choosing practically-orientated options such as the production of teaching materials or radio programmes can submit their work in the most appropriate media. The nature of knowledge and skills demonstrated will vary according to the focus of the project but successful study will demonstrate primarily K5, K7, S1, S3, S5 and S6.

The structure and relative weighting of modules as set out in the programme regulations will ensure that all students develop knowledge and skills across the list of learning outcomes. In order to cater for student-led specialisation in the latter part of the programme, there is some flexibility in the exact balance of assessed elements that will be demonstrated in the final assessment, a point that usefully reflects both individual student needs and the breadth of the subject area in question.

19. Reference points

The learning outcomes have been developed to reflect the following points of reference:

Confirmation of the appropriate QAA Framework level.

University Strategic Plan

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/strategicplan>

Learning and Teaching Strategy (2016-21)

https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.661828!/file/FinalStrategy.pdf

Departmental Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies.

Departmental research expertise and plans in the relevant subject area.

Feedback from external examiners of the MA in World Music Studies and the MA in Ethnomusicology.

20. Programme structure and regulations

The MA in Traditional and World Music is delivered over two years of part-time study during which the student undertakes units to the value of 180 credits.

In Year 1, Semester 1, Research Skills (MUS6002, 15 credits) provides a grounding in academic research and writing skills, use of library and web resources, and the software through which the distance learning programme is conducted. According to interest, students choose either Music of the World (MUS6003, 30 credits) or Traditional Music of the British Isles (MUS6035, 30 credits) to develop a broad acquaintance with either world music or traditions of the British Isles specifically, along with a deeper knowledge of selected traditions.

In Year 1, Semester 2, Case Studies in Ethnomusicology (MUS6005, 15 credits) takes a close look at selected books by ethnomusicologists, including at least one devoted to a musical tradition of the British Isles. Students develop awareness of key issues in the field and an ability to respond critically to the writing of leading scholars. Students who have accumulated a total of 60 credits at this stage are eligible for the award of the Postgraduate

Certificate if they do not progress further. Those continuing to complete the Postgraduate Diploma or MA concurrently take Approaches to Fieldwork (MUS6004, 30 credits), which prepares students for their own independent research through training in the skills of documenting a live musical tradition, including technical competence with sound and video recording equipment, interpersonal skills, and ethical considerations.

Year 2, Semester 1 comprises Teaching and Transmission (MUS6038, 30 credits), which provides an element of flexibility, allowing students to explore a key theme in traditional music and ethnomusicology—that of how music is transmitted—and/or to focus on the theory and practice of teaching traditional and world music. The format of assessed work for this module is accordingly flexible, allowing students to submit either an extended essay, a folio of teaching materials or an educational radio programme. Students who have accumulated a total of 120 credits at this stage are eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma if they do not progress further.

Students complete the MA with a Dissertation (MUS6007, 60 credits), formally supervised in Year 2, Semester 2 but optionally prepared or started in Semester 1. The Dissertation, on a topic approved by the tutor within the area of traditional and world music, may be based on library or fieldwork research and may include original field or archive materials as appendices.

Detailed information about the structure of programmes, regulations concerning assessment and progression and descriptions of individual modules are published in the University Calendar available on-line at <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/calendar/regs>.

21. Student development over the course of study

The degree programme has been designed so that students move logically from an introduction to the study of traditional and world music and the research skills involved, through increasingly specialised, technical and critical studies, to the completion of an original research project that contributes new knowledge to the field. At every step, they are guided both by the module structure and materials, and by supervision in person (during the residentials) and via the Internet.

On completion of the first semester, students will have broadened their musical horizons through exposure to a range of musical traditions and an in-depth look at one or more selected traditions. Meanwhile, they will have come to understand how knowledge of traditional and world music is generated through the research methods of ethnomusicology. In the second semester, they begin to assess the use of those methods by selected ethnomusicologists who have achieved some prominence in the field, and to apply some of these methods in their own practical experience of fieldwork. At this point, they will have a critical knowledge of ethnomusicology and experience in evaluating research on traditional and world music.

Students who continue to complete the MA will then build on this knowledge to function as ethnomusicologists in their own right. Through the development of specialised interests and the formulation, planning, and completion of an original research project, each student will apply the skills of an ethnomusicologist to document and interpret a previously unstudied facet of traditional or world music, whether it be a particular local tradition, an individual musician or repertoire, or a theoretical issue. Each graduate of the programme will thus have acquired a unique combination of knowledge and abilities in the study of traditional and world music.

22. Criteria for admission to the programme

Applicants will normally hold a 2:1 degree (or equivalent) in a subject in one of the humanities or social sciences and a demonstrated record of musical experience as a performer (in any tradition) or exceptional interest and theoretical expertise as a musical listener. Mature students are encouraged to apply, and life and work experience is taken into consideration along with academic qualifications. The English language requirement is IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component.

23. Additional information

Prospective students should be aware of certain costs associated with the course in addition to the tuition fees. Attendance at the two residentials is mandatory, and students will need to meet the cost of travel and accommodation. Information will be provided on competitively priced accommodation in Sheffield but the cost of this accommodation is not included in the fees. Students will also need to access relevant books either at a library near their home or by purchasing them (reduced prices are often available through internet book shops). They should also own, or have access to, certain basic equipment required for completing the coursework and fieldwork projects. This includes a computer with music notation software, a sound recording device and a camera. Many students find that a video camera is also useful for fieldwork.

For further information see the Music Department web pages: www.sheffield.ac.uk/music

This specification represents a concise statement about the main features of the programme and should be considered alongside other sources of information provided by the teaching department(s) and the University. In addition to programme specific information, further information about studying at The University of Sheffield can be accessed via our Student Services web site at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid>.