



## 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	<b>Programme Title</b>	Musicology
2	<b>Programme Code</b>	LAST024
3	<b>HECoSCode</b>	100667
4	<b>Level of Study</b>	Postgraduate
5a	<b>Final Qualification</b>	Master of Arts (MA)
5b	<b>QAA FHEQ Level</b>	7
6a	<b>Intermediate Qualification(s)</b>	Postgraduate Certificate in Musicology (PG Cert), Postgraduate Diploma in Musicology (PG Dip)
6b	<b>QAA FHEQ Level</b>	Not applicable
7	<b>Teaching Institution (if not Sheffield)</b>	Not applicable
8	<b>Faculty</b>	Arts and Humanities
9	<b>School</b>	Languages, Arts and Societies
10	<b>Other Schools involved in teaching the programme</b>	None
11	<b>Mode(s) of Attendance</b>	Full-time or Part-time
12	<b>Duration of the Programme</b>	1 year or 2 years
13	<b>Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body</b>	Not applicable
14	<b>Date of production/revision</b>	April 2013, November 2015, October 2018, November 2019, January 2024, March 2026

### 15. Background to the programme and subject area

The School of Languages, Arts and Societies has an international reputation for its research in musicology, with particular specialisms in Mozart, late eighteenth-century sources, styles and aesthetics, the concerto, music of Renaissance Italy, Music and Visual Culture, Italian opera and American musical theatre. The programme is taught through a mixture of core modules delivered in seminars, which will provide a full grounding in key trends of the discipline, as well as the opportunity to undertake independent research via a major dissertation project with an individual supervisor. Students are supported through tutorials, as well as having peer contact through reading groups and seminars. They take a module on postgraduate academic skills for musicians, which is taught through a series of School-wide Graduate Study Days attended by students on all the taught MA programmes and attend a reading group shared across several music MA programmes, thereby facilitating integration across the sub-disciplines. The MA programme includes 30 unrestricted credits, to be taken up in any MA-level module(s) across the university approved by the programme director, which will promote students' research agility and (inter)disciplinary awareness.

In terms of content and focus, the programme draws on the School's research and teaching strengths in musicology. The programme tutors have published widely on topics such as biography, criticism, manuscripts and performance, and the School is internationally recognised as a leading centre for research in these areas. Postgraduate activities in musicology are well established at Sheffield, with numerous research students at PhD level. Recent graduates of these programmes have continued into professional research, embarked on further training or used their studies to inform and enhance their existing roles as teachers and music professionals.

Further detailed information is available on the School's website at: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/music/>

## 16. Programme aims

The aims of the programme are consistent with the institution's guiding principles, as well as the School's learning and teaching strategy:

1. To create, discover, share and apply knowledge through world-class teaching in Musicology.
2. To introduce students to the techniques and skills of postgraduate study, by equipping them with a working knowledge of the research skills used by musicologists and enabling them to apply these methods to their areas of interest.
3. To give students an awareness and understanding of the research literature in musicology, and to stimulate critical enquiry.
4. To attract leading musicologists of the future to the School of Languages, Arts and Societies, and to integrate them into the research environment as potential doctoral students.
5. To teach and assess through varied and appropriate methods, including online delivery, individual tutorials, reading groups and inquiry-based learning.

## 17. Programme learning outcomes

### Knowledge and understanding:

By the end of the programme, candidates for the MA in Musicology will have developed:

<b>K1</b>	A broad knowledge of the research literature in musicology, informed by current developments in the field.
<b>K2</b>	Specific expertise in the area covered by the Topics module.
<b>K3</b>	Have an awareness of the applications of research to everyday musical life, including in classrooms, journalism and arts administration.
<b>K4</b>	Have knowledge of the terms and procedures used in musicological research and be able to critique and evaluate these.
<b>K5</b>	Have knowledge of historiographical, critical and archival research methods in musicology, and will be able to apply these appropriately in a research project of their own design.
<b>K6</b>	Certificate students will have developed the learning outcomes associated with the acquisition of any 60 credits of those available. Diploma students will have developed the learning outcomes associated with the acquisition of any 120 credits of those available.

### Skills and other attributes:

By the end of the programme, candidates will:

<b>S1</b>	Be able to demonstrate an ability to identify research questions in musicology and locate appropriate secondary sources in which these are addressed.
<b>S2</b>	Be able to respond critically to the research literature, by questioning and evaluating published sources in musicology.
<b>S3</b>	Be able to write clearly and knowledgeably on a variety of musicological topics.
<b>S4</b>	Have developed the skills of independent learning, organisation and motivation necessary for the successful completion of a research-preparation programme.
<b>S5</b>	Be able to design and complete a piece of original, independent research in musicology.
<b>S6</b>	Certificate students will have developed the learning outcomes associated with the acquisition of any 60 credits of those available. Diploma students will have developed the learning outcomes associated with the acquisition of any 120 credits of those available.

## 18. Teaching, learning and assessment

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

1. **Weekly seminars** encourage concentrated focus on subject topics, with opportunities for the development of critical and independent thought through discussion (K1-5; S1-5).
2. **Online materials** (available via MOLE), including reading, reflection and discussion tasks, are designed to introduce students to the key concepts and literature of each topic and to facilitate additional independent study (K1-5; S1-5).
3. LAS429 and LAS431 Research and Communication Skills A and B, **which are delivered by ELTC and shared across three Music MA programs**, will allow students to become more integrated with the wider postgraduate community. Sessions on study skills, writing skills, and the opportunity to give presentations will prepare students for further research (K1-5; S1-5).
4. **Tutorial support** encourages students to keep in regular contact with their dissertation tutor, so as to develop ideas within a supportive framework and maintain consistent progress (especially on their major project) throughout the programme (K1-5; S1-5).
5. **Written and oral feedback on drafts of essays and other assignments** is intended to encourage depth of critical thought and independent study skills (S2, S4, S5).
6. **Independent study**, which is a vital part of any postgraduate programme, allows students to develop ideas of interest and relevance to their own musical experiences at a pace that suits their stage of development (S5).

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

1. Written assignments (e.g. annotated bibliography, essay plan, research proposal, coursework essay), in which students address a research question or debate related to the module they have studied (K1, K2, K4, K5; S2, S4, S5).
2. **Short presentations** (K1, K3, K5; S1, S2, S5).
3. **Short reflection** at the end of the programme, on on-going research skills development (K3-5; S1-5).

#### MA Candidates only:

4. **Dissertation of c.9,500 words**, showing originality, independence of thought and a critical awareness of a range of musicological literature (K1, K3, K4, K5; S1-S5).

## 19. Reference points

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

- The MA was developed with reference to the School's existing taught MA programmes, to be of a similarly rigorous postgraduate standard, whilst being more focused on the requirements of prospective doctoral students. It builds on the successes of our existing research degrees in musicology and is responsive to student needs in creating a named qualification in the discipline, with advantages for those seeking specific research training in musicology. Only a handful of other institutions offer a musicology-based MA, and none facilitates so much flexibility while drawing on the research strengths of staff.
- In line with the University of Sheffield's mission to maintain the highest standards of excellence in research-led teaching, the MA in Musicology involves three full-time members of the School's staff who are all internationally recognised researchers in the field. The programme is also consistent with the University's Teaching and Learning Strategy.
- The programme is informed by the Masters' level qualification descriptors contained in the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (2012), as well as the University's plan for the future and the School of Languages, Arts and Societies Learning, Teaching and Assessment strategies.

## 20. Programme structure and regulations

The MA in Musicology consists of two core Musicology modules (Critical Musicology and Topics in Musicology), one per semester, which provide a basic grounding in skills and knowledge related to the discipline. These are complemented by two core 15-credit academic skills modules running through the whole academic year, Research and Communication Skills A and B, which help students improve academic research and writing skills and engage with a broad spectrum of written and oral communication essential in academic and professional contexts. All these modules are required for the full MA and develop the skills and knowledge required to undertake the 9,500-word dissertation, which is supported through regular individual tutorials. There are 30 unrestricted credits to be chosen from any MA-level module across the university (including modules in music but outside musicology). Part-time students will take 90 credits in each year, with Critical Musicology and Topics in Musicology falling in the first year, and Dissertation falling in the second year.

Students are eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate providing they have passed at least 60 credits of core modules excluding the dissertation. Those wishing to complete the Diploma must complete 120 credits not including the 60-credit dissertation.

Students are expected to complete the full MA, with the Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma as leaving points for those unable to complete all modules.

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.shef.ac.uk/calendar/>.

## 21. Student development over the course of study

The MA in Musicology offers both broad and specific components, whereby students will gain intense skills and knowledge in the discipline, which they will then apply to a research project of their own design. Most of the modules are taught in small seminar groups, with an emphasis on inquiry-based learning; this promotes intellectual independence and develops the class as an active community of learning. In the first semester, the Critical Musicology module will focus on major trends in musicology over the past four decades in order to provide a context for the rest of the programme. The Topics module in the second semester is then led by staff research interests on a rotating basis and will examine how some of the broader trends discussed in the first module have affected the study of a specific repertoire. These are complemented by Research and Communication Skills A and B, which help students improve oral and writing skills, as well as general research skills, that will be transferable to various professions (including journalism and teaching) and situations, as well as to doctoral study. Research agility is also fostered through attendance at 30 credits outside the musicology programme, affording the student a broader perspective on methodologies across the piste of music studies. Doctoral study is also anticipated through the focus on an extended dissertation, which is expected to contain a substantial original element and is supervised individually. Thus students have the opportunity to gain a broad understanding of musicology and to apply it to a research question of their own selection.

## 22. Criteria for admission to the programme

Applicants will usually have an Upper Second-Class honours degree or above (or the equivalent) in Music and will be able to demonstrate interest or experience in musicology. Students should demonstrate the potential to write and think clearly about relevant questions in musicology, and the completion of a high-quality undergraduate dissertation will also be considered favourably. International students will require a suitable language qualification, such as IELTS (minimum score 6.5 with 6.0 in each component) or equivalent.

For further information regarding application to the programme, please refer to the School's website: <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/music/prospective-pg/taught/ma-musicology/overview>

### 23. Additional information

Further information about the wider School context within which the MA takes place can be found at <http://www.shef.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 School(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>.