

Music



Ranked 8th

for Music by *The Independent
Complete University Guide 2012.*

Postgraduate study opportunities 2012/13

World-class taught and research degrees to PhD

One
of the leading centres for
the study of music in Britain.

Music

The Department of Music at Durham is one of the leading centres for the study of music in Britain. We host a lively postgraduate community, with students from around the world focusing on different aspects of musicology, ethnomusicology and composition.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department participated in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise and of the research assessed 60% has been judged as being in the highest two categories as world-leading and internationally excellent (4* and 3*), with 85% recognised as being of at least international standing (2* and above).

Durham offers unique opportunities for postgraduate study in Music. Our unique and historic location, part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is complemented by excellent studio and music computing facilities, while the University as a whole offers many and diverse opportunities for practical music making.

Our staff comprises musicologists, composers and performers who are leading figures in their fields. They offer expertise in a notably diverse range of areas, including nineteenth- and twentieth century music, contemporary music (both acoustic and electroacoustic), performance, composition, ethnomusicology,

aesthetics and cultural/critical theory. Staff and students from all over the world combine to make our department a supportive and intellectually stimulating environment in which all can fully realise their academic and creative potential. The Department plays host to a wide range of workshops, seminars and international conferences, and curates the University's public concert series, Musicon, which features a dozen annual concerts by internationally acclaimed artists in the fields of classical, jazz, contemporary and world music.

Postgraduate students play an active part in our thriving research culture, contributing to regular postgraduate seminars and discussion groups as well as attending seminars and guest lectures presented by department staff and distinguished visitors. The Department regularly hosts major research projects, notably on contemporary music performance, Irish music and Indian music.

Composition students – supervised by internationally renowned composers – benefit from an active and stimulating environment, with regular events in both acoustic and electroacoustic fields: for instance, 2010/11 events included the première of Trevor Wishart's major new work 'Encounters in the Republic of Heaven' and performances and workshops with the Ives Ensemble. The Department hosts two new music ensembles and events include an annual 'new music marathon'.

Postgraduate research in ethnomusicology is supported by unique facilities for the recording, editing and analysis of audio-visual resources, as well as by a group of four research-active staff with a wide range of expertise.

The Department also boasts unique facilities in several areas of musicology: for instance, work in British music and in church music is facilitated not only by our links with the Cathedral but also by the recently acquired archive of Sir John Stainer.



RESEARCH DEGREES

The following research degrees are currently offered:

- MA by thesis
- MMus by thesis
- MMus by composition
- PhD by thesis
- PhD by composition.

MAIN AREAS OF RESEARCH

The Department has a wide range of research strengths, including historical musicology (especially British and Irish music of the eighteenth to twenty-first centuries, and Russian/Soviet music); music and intellectual culture (including the history of music and science), Adorno, critical theory and aesthetics (especially German and British music aesthetics from the eighteenth to twenty-first centuries); music theology and sacred music; sociology of music; popular music and theories of mass culture; composition; electroacoustic music and music technology; ethnomusicology (with special emphases on the music of Korea, India, and East Africa, ritual music, rhythmic analysis, and audiovisual methods) and the history of ethnomusicology.

The Department also has several active composers and performers of international standing, with an emphasis on the study and performance of contemporary music, and maintains two research centres, the Centre for Nineteenth Century Music, and the Centre for Contemporary Performing Arts.

TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH DEGREES

- MA by thesis or MMus by thesis or composition, an upper second class degree in Music or a relevant area of study
- PhD by thesis or composition: a Masters degree in a relevant area of study. If you do not have this you may be admitted to a Masters programme in the first instance, with the possibility of upgrading to full PhD status for the second and third year of the programme.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- IELTS of 7.0 with no element below 6.5.

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and

further information on English language requirements, please contact our International Office on international.office@durham.ac.uk or visit our website at www.durham.ac.uk/international

TAUGHT PROGRAMMES MA in Music

The Department offers this programme through three pathways, namely composition, musicology and ethnomusicology. The degree is taught either full-time (12 months) or part-time (24 months), and is assessed by a range of methods including written essays and portfolios of compositions, written and/or other elements.

Each MA consists of a core module in Research Methods and Resources, a triple weighted major project (either composition portfolio or dissertation), a single module associated with each of the main strands, and a further free module which may be drawn either from other existing MA modules or from a range of options determined with course tutors. The resulting package is exceptionally flexible and ideally suited to students interested in pursuing a mixture of topics (e.g. musicology and composition).



“The unique collegiate structure made me feel very much part of a smaller unique community within the larger structure of the wider student body.”

Luke Woodhouse, PhD Music.

TYPICAL MODULES

- Compositional Techniques
- New Orientations in Theory and Musicology
- Composition Folio (triple)
- Dissertation (triple)
- Research Methods and Resources.

Specific module requirements will vary according to which MA route you choose to study. For more detailed information, please visit our website at www.durham.ac.uk/music

TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

- Entry requirement is normally an upper second class degree in Music or a relevant area of study.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- IELTS of 7.0 with no element below 6.5.

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and further information on English language requirements, please contact our International Office on international.office@durham.ac.uk or visit our website at www.durham.ac.uk/international

POSTGRADUATE FACILITIES

The Department of Music has a dedicated room for postgraduates located on the top floor of the main building. The room is equipped with several large desks, four computers, A3 and A4 printers, audio facilities, electronic keyboard, and reference material. All postgraduates, both taught course and research, are able to use this room. Postgraduate students are also able to use the other resources in the department, including three electroacoustic studios, audiovisual documentation and analysis laboratory, and a multimedia laboratory.

For more information please see www.durham.ac.uk/music/resources

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT AND RESEARCH STUDENTS

- AHRC.

For specific funding available within the Department of Music please see www.durham.ac.uk/music/postgraduate/funding

The University also has a range of funding opportunities for postgraduate students. To find out what support you could be eligible to receive see our online funding database at www.durham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees/search

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

For further information on career options and employability, including the results of the Destination of Leavers survey, student and employer testimonials and details of work experience and study abroad opportunities, please visit www.durham.ac.uk/music/postgraduate/employability

KEY INFORMATION

Size of student population: 45 postgraduates studying a range of taught and research degrees.

Number of staff: 13 lecturing and research staff.

Name:

Luke Woodhouse

Home Country:

UK

Postgraduate Course:

PhD Music

Having completed an MA in Music at Durham University in 2009 I was encouraged by my MA supervisor to apply for the PhD course. After spending some time looking at other courses at various institutions I decided that Durham was the best choice for me.

The structure of the course has been excellent; the flexible regular tutorials I have had with my supervisor regarding my research and the willingness of other members of staff to offer assistance have been superb. The weekly postgraduate seminars and the guest lecture series have also been very good in terms of networking with peers and developing my perspective of the subject.

I lived in a college for some of my time at Durham and found that the unique collegiate structure made me feel very much part of a smaller unique community within the larger structure of the wider student body. Once I've completed my studies I intend to apply for jobs in university music departments as a junior lecturer or as a postdoctoral researcher.



Contact details

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