An internationally renowned Masters level programme, validated by Goldsmiths University London. Successful completion of this two-year course gives you eligibility to apply to the Health and Care Professions Council for registration as a music therapist, the UK legal prerequisite for working in the profession.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COURSE DIRECTOR

Choosing the right place to study is an important decision, particularly as there is more than one ethos in the work of music therapy. Your choice now will not only affect the next two years of your life but will underpin the way you approach the work of music therapy. We hope the information here will help you make a decision on whether our approach is right for you. Do attend one of our Open Events, read about former students’ experiences or get in touch with any questions about the Nordoff Robbins approach to training as a music therapist.

Dr Simon Procter, MMT, Programme Convener

THE NORDOFF ROBBINS LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Training with us means joining the leaders in the field. We’ve been training music therapists since 1974. It’s a world of rapid change; our services, training and research departments are closely linked, so our programme contains the most up to date skills, training and thinking.

MUSIC CENTRED APPROACH

We see music therapy as musical work. It requires a high level of musical skill and wide-ranging psychosocial understanding of how music and music-making impact on a person’s experience of health and wellbeing, individually and communally.

You will learn the best ways to engage people musically, whose life experience, illness or disability or social exclusion make it hard for them to participate in life. You will become skilled in using musical-personal skills to engage clients individually and in community contexts, opening up areas of self-experience and of interaction with others.

You will learn about psychology, musicology, sociology, culture and health studies as well as theoretical and research material from the music therapy field. This will help you meet wide-ranging needs and explain your work coherently to managers, employers and funders.
A FLEXIBLE PROGRAMME

Many of our students are active professional musicians and teachers with busy working schedules. Our flexible programme means you can continue to earn a living while you study:

• A choice of 2 central training locations; London and Manchester, with 12 places available at each

• Convenient placement locations: as the largest single employer of music therapists after the NHS, we have a huge network to tap into when organising placements

• Flexible study timetable: each week you spend two consecutive days at your teaching base, a day on placement and have a day for private study.

PREPARATION FOR THE WORKPLACE

Training is about more than learning to use music to transform lives, it’s about equipping you for the workplace including:

• Knowing how to articulate the relationships between music, health and society

• Being familiar with key statutory policies in health, social care and education

• Gaining skills in presenting the work you do to a range of audiences

• Being able to link with other professionals whose work overlaps with yours

• The entrepreneurial skills necessary for setting up work
OVERALL STRUCTURE

• There are 3 parts to the programme (outlined in detail below)
• You spend 2 consecutive teaching days a week engaging in workshops, seminars and supervision
• A day a week you will work on placement at a school, hospital, hospice, mental health centre or other centre. There are three placements during the course
• A day a week is allocated for private study
• You are expected to attend four residential weekends: two in London, two in Manchester.

PART ONE – ONE TERM (SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER)

Module 1: A fully integrated foundation module introduces:

• The core concepts of the Nordoff Robbins approach
• The practicalities of working in a professional environment.

During your placement you are apprenticed to an experienced music therapist. You may join or observe his or her sessions and even run your own sessions with guidance. You share the recordings of your practical work on teaching days. Time is set aside each week for supervision with your music therapist.

PART TWO – THREE TERMS (JANUARY TO DECEMBER)

Module 2A - Music Therapy Competencies & Knowledge – equips you for the practice of music therapy including:

• Gaining and consolidating basic skills in communicative and social musicianship
• Learning to make productive use of supervision
• An introduction to key literature, resources and concepts relating to the Nordoff Robbins approach.

Module 2B – Professional Competencies and Knowledge – equips you to practise music therapy in a variety of contexts including:

• Effective liaison with other practitioners and professionals and working in varied types of organisation with different values
• Communicating your work effectively in different contexts and to different audiences
• Essential academic skills.
PART TWO – THREE TERMS (JANUARY TO DECEMBER)

Module 2C – Music, Health, Society: Practical and Critical Perspectives – equips you with a broad practice-based understanding of how music therapy fits with other forms of provision, focusing on health, society and music including:

• Awareness of how music therapy fits with the broader arts and health spectrum
• Developing the skills to maintain, develop and extend music therapy in the ever-changing work environment
• Public policy relating to the arts and health
• Making use of different perspectives that are musical (e.g. from musicology or music psychology), psychosocial (e.g. from psychology and sociology) or health-related (e.g. from health studies).

During your year-long placement:
• A music therapist or other appropriate member of staff is assigned to look after you.
• You are expected to develop the ability to work independently, displaying initiative and clear thinking as to the value of musical opportunities within the setting
• You participate in weekly supervision sessions back at the teaching base
• Your work on placement will inform your growing grasp of the subject matter covered in the theoretical modules.

PART THREE – TWO TERMS (JANUARY TO JUNE)

Part three is divided into three modules (3A, 3B and 3C), corresponding to those in part two. We expect your levels of understanding and competence to be significantly higher at this stage. To qualify you will need to demonstrate the skills and competencies you need to work as a professional music therapist, whether alone or as part of a team.

You are responsible for setting up your third placement in an environment where music therapy is not yet established. You will be well prepared for this and will have plenty of support.

You can tailor it to your aspirations both in location and in client group. You have a real opportunity to demonstrate the value of music therapy and this often leads to offers of work post-qualification.

You participate in weekly supervision back at the teaching base and your experience in this new and often challenging environment will throw into relief many of the issues being covered across Modules 3A, 3B and 3C.
Music therapy isn’t just an academic subject, it is a practical craft so teaching and learning are multi-faceted.

TEACHING METHODS

Placement learning: your one day a week placement is central to everything you do. In the early days you are closely supervised. As time goes by you are expected to demonstrate that you can take responsibility for your learning on placement.

Supervision: every week you get an opportunity to bring your work to supervision. This is a central skill for Nordoff Robbins music therapists, honing your acutely perceptive listening to recordings of sessions so that you can learn from your own practice and that of others. This demands considerable openness – we expect you to share and discuss your work with others, enriching everyone’s learning experience.

Whole group learning takes place when we invite guest speakers, discuss theory or aspects of research, or make music as a group.

Small group learning is used when teaching musical skills. This enables us to give each student sufficient individual attention.
FACILITIES

You have access to two truly unique and world-class facilities: the Nordoff Robbins Centre in London and the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. You will have plenty of opportunities to join in with broader musical life at your teaching base.

Teaching rooms

All the teaching rooms are fully equipped with the instruments, recording and presentation equipment.

Access to literature

• A stock of multiple copies of core texts is held at both teaching bases for the exclusive use of the students on the MMT(NR) programme.
• You can use the Learning Resources Centre at the London Centre with its specialist music therapy library. Students in Manchester can order books for delivery at a few days’ notice.
• Students at both centres can use the library at Goldsmiths, University of London, including its vast electronic library.
• Students in Manchester have access to the library at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Intranet facilities – The Hub

You can access The Hub – our intranet system – from any internet-connected computer and use it for:

• Accessing teaching material
• Submitting assignments
• Private study: there is a designated area for the MMT(NR) programme
• Email contact with other students and with tutors.

Rest and recreation

Whether you study in Manchester or London you will find yourselves part of a community committed to music and music making. The RNCM offers masses of social activities and a comprehensive programme of concerts and recitals. The Nordoff Robbins London Centre, although smaller, has a vibrant musical life, including concerts and community music activities.
ADMISSION CRITERIA

Competent musicianship
A standard of playing equivalent to at least Grade 8 on your first instrument. If this is not a harmony instrument, you need a standard equivalent to Grade 6 on a harmony instrument. A good sense of keyboard harmony is an advantage.

Capable of working at Masters level
Perceptively connecting textbook learning with music-making requires you to think in action. If you don’t have a first degree, you will need to demonstrate this skill to us in some other way.

Experience of working with people with special needs
Working with people with special needs is rewarding but very demanding so it’s important that you have the experience to judge whether it is right for you. Your experience can be gained in a professional, voluntary or personal capacity.

Passion about music-making with people
Most successful applicants have a history of music-making with people, are passionate about what music and music-making can achieve.

12 places are available in London and 12 in Manchester.

CURRENT FEES

EU students
£8,500 for the entire programme

Non-EU students
We are not currently accepting applications from non-EU students. For information about admission as a non-EU student see How to apply.

EXPENSES

You should also budget for the following:

Personal Psychotherapy: As a UK music therapy student, you are required to undertake 40 hours of personal psychotherapy. We can help you find a supportive therapist. Sessions cost around £40 per hour.

Travel and accommodation:
• To the teaching base and placements: If you live some distance from the teaching base, overnight accommodation may be your best option.
• Travel and accommodation for the residential weekends (these alternate between London and Manchester).
• If you are relocating, remember that housing costs tend to be higher in London than in Manchester.
HOW TO APPLY

Return your completed application form to the address below accompanied by a video recording (see application form for details).

Give the medical reference form to your doctor and ask him or her to complete it and return to:

**Education Administrator**
Nordoff Robbins
2 Lissenden Gardens
London NW5 1PQ

We accept applications throughout the year.

We advise you to apply by January 20th for entry the following September.

If you want your application to be considered for the first round of auditions, we need to receive your application by 20th January. If we don’t fill all our places at the first round of auditions, we will then consider applications submitted after this date.

**Please note our next intakes:**
September 2016 - London
September 2017 - Manchester

To ensure your application is considered please enclose an application fee of £30.00. Payment methods accepted are cash/cheque (enclosed with application) or credit/debit card by calling 020 7267 4496. We do all we can to keep course fees as low as possible: as part of this effort we charge an application processing fee. There are no further fees for auditions.

**Non-EU students**

We’ve trained students from all over the world. Cultural diversity enriches the student group and we encourage all students to make use of their own musical heritage throughout the programme.

However, due to recent changes in UK law relating to student visas, we are currently unable to sponsor non-EU students for visas. Therefore we cannot accept applications from non-EU students unless you already have a visa entitled you to live and study in the UK which covers the whole duration of the programme. We are very unhappy that we cannot recruit non-EU students at present, and we are exploring our options for attaining the required Tier 4 recognition.

Students from EU countries do not need a visa to study in the UK.
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Having a disability need not bar you from training as a music therapist, provided you are able to demonstrate the learning outcomes required by the programme and hence satisfy the requirements of the Health and Care Professions Council.

We are committed to equal opportunities and supportive of people with disabilities who want to pursue music therapy training. Contact us before applying and we’ll help you decide if the training is right for you and what you can do to maximise your chances of meeting our requirements.

You need to declare any disabilities at the application stage so that we can work with you to identify suitable means of support. If you don’t declare disabilities at this stage it may be difficult for us to support you at a later stage.

We recognise that people’s levels of ability and general state of health can fluctuate and we aim to support students as effectively as possible throughout their training, through both pastoral care and learning support.

Our Manchester teaching base is fully wheelchair accessible. Our London teaching base is partially wheelchair accessible.

FINDING WORK AFTER YOU QUALIFY

Nordoff Robbins is the leading provider of music therapy services in the UK, currently working with over 70 partner organisations nationwide to provide music therapy and music and health projects in a wide range of settings. We know what to look for in a music therapist, and it is with these qualities of employability that we seek to equip our students.

Our graduates consistently find work, develop new work and usually stay in the profession. This is because:

1. Our approach emphasises that people’s capacity for social interaction is fundamentally musical. This makes sense to employers and funders and as a trained Nordoff Robbins music therapist; you will be able to demonstrate how it happens by using recordings of your work.

2. We equip students to deliver services through the practical skills of making music with people in particular places at particular times for particular reasons. This might range from the micro-skill of accompanying someone whose physical movements are constrained by cerebral palsy to the macro-skill of liaising with other workers to organise a community event.

3. We teach flexibility. Context is everything: music therapists need to be able to apply their skills and thinking to each situation. They need to be adaptable in approach to environment. Our students have developed work in community settings and charitable or non-statutory organisations.
WHAT OUR FORMER STUDENTS SAY

David Robinson (2011 graduate)
“The transition from local authority town planner to music therapist is not the most natural career change! I’ve always been a passionate yet amateur musician and I reached the point in my life where I wanted music to play a bigger part. Within a year of making the decision to change career, I’d discovered music therapy and started training with Nordoff Robbins.
“Music therapy really is everything I thought it would be and more. I’ve done placement work with several client groups and have been inspired by how people work to overcome severe challenges in their lives – and inspired by those people who help them. The course has completely changed my relationship to music. I’m now much more appreciative of the possibilities that there are in music rather than just thinking of it as a recreational thing – it’s a lot more. I would never have imagined music could make the difference that it does to people and places. It really can transform lives.
“A very important aspect of my training is that I was going through it with other students, who were also on their own personal and professional journeys. We were there together to share the joys and discoveries, as well as the more difficult aspects of the training. It would not be the same at all on your own. We learned together, sharing and celebrating with each other.”

Camilla Farrant (2010 graduate)
“Inspiring, eye-opening, challenging and fun are just a few words to sum up my experience of training at Nordoff Robbins. I came to study music therapy after working as a classical singer, a year after graduating from university. My motivation was growing up with a brother with severe autism and witnessing his connection with music.
“In my placement work the changes I witnessed in clients made me realise that training as a music therapist was the best decision of my life. But I didn’t just gain great training and clinical experience, I met inspiring clients, colleagues who will be friends for life and a supportive team of tutors whose knowledge, passion and drive are what make the Nordoff Robbins training programme so special.”

Lindsay McHale (2008 graduate)
“When I left my job in marketing at a major record company to train as a music therapist I didn’t know if I had made the right choice - but I can say now it was undoubtedly the best decision I have ever made. The training programme has been the most incredible two years and it really has been a life changing experience. I have learnt an enormous amount from my year group and also from the fantastic team of tutors here.
“My clinical placements on the course have been varied; children who had a variety of special needs, adults in terminal care and adults on a locked-psychiatric unit. I found all the work fascinating, challenging and enjoyable but particularly the adult psychiatry - so much so that I applied for a job in this area!”

Alison Hornblower (2007 graduate)
“My training was an exceptional couple of years, full of laughter and tears which were supported by inspirational tutors and a wonderful peer group. The Masters programme allowed me to gain essential experience in working with a variety of needs. I particularly enjoyed my second year working with adults within mental health and dementia and the opportunity to research and question my experiences and the profession, through writing my own dissertation.
“I now work in a variety of settings for Nordoff Robbins South West. I have had the responsibility of setting up projects within day centre and residential settings for adults with learning difficulties and dementia. My training changed my life in so many ways and I am now finding my own way as a qualified music therapist, exploring exciting opportunities that music therapy can encompass.”
CONTACT US

SIMON PROCTER
MMT PROGRAMME CONVENOR
EDUCATION@NORDOFF-ROBBINS.ORG.UK
+44 (0)20 7267 4496

@NordoffRobbins1