

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

MPHIL/ PHD IN MUSIC THERAPY / MPHIL/PHD IN MUSIC, HEALTH, SOCIETY

This two-track research degree programme, validated by Goldsmiths University London, allows you to develop a higher level of research skills and to be involved in projects that will contribute to disciplinary knowledge and professional practices.

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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

RESEARCH AREAS

Programmes reflect current research and areas of special interest and expertise of your primary supervisors.

PRIMARY SUPERVISORS

Dr Gary Ansdell, Director of Education

Dr Neta Spiro, Head of Research

Dr Simon Procter, Director of Music Services (Education, Research & Quality Assurance)

Number of places: maximum of 6 part-time students (full-time study discouraged)

Completion schedule: 3-7 years

Location for programme meetings and doctoral seminars: Nordoff Robbins Centre, London

Programme Fees: £1,500 per year. Includes the City University Validation fee.

It is your responsibility to organise your funding.

Expenses: travel and accommodation for the twice-yearly group teaching modules taking place at the Nordoff Robbins Centre, London (maximum 8 days a year).

KEY RESOURCES

- Specialist music therapy library with extensive material covering music therapy and music and health practice and research and associated clinical and professional areas.
- Purpose-built audio-visual equipment supported by on-site technician.
- Borrowing rights at City University library, including a vast electronic library.

CONTACT

Dr. Gary Ansdell, Programme Convenor: gary.ansdell@nordoff-robbins.org.uk

Informal expressions of interest are welcome.

SELECTION AND ADMISSION

ENTRY CRITERIA

A Masters degree in music therapy, music psychology, community music, music and health, music education and allied disciplinary fields. Applicants with a lower level qualification with appropriate practical / clinical / research experience may be eligible, provided they can demonstrate ability to study at MPhil/PhD level.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Download the MPhil / PhD Application Form, complete and return to
Dr. Gary Ansdell
MPhil/PhD Programme Director
Nordoff Robbins
2 Lissenden Gardens
London NW5 1PQ

SELECTION AND INTERVIEW

Your application is assessed by the Nordoff Robbins Research Degrees Programme Committee. Promising applicants are invited for interview. The Research Committee may consult the advisers to the programme, who assess proposals blind. Equal Opportunities issues will be addressed for all applications.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

The Programme Director will:

- Appoint a primary supervisor in consultation with you and discuss any needs for joint or consultancy supervision.
- Prepare Confirmation of Study and Learning Agreements and clarify expectations and methods of monitoring the standard of work.
- Ensure you are clear about research ethics requirements.

Successful applicants initially register for an MPhil programme. This two-year period is used to develop research methodology and for student and supervisor to refine the research topic.

Transfer to PhD involves an assessment of written work (30,000 words) by the supervisor and the Nordoff Robbins Research Degrees Committee and approval by the Board of Studies, normally at the end of these two years.

RESEARCH TRAINING AND CULTURE

RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAMME AND PRESENTATION SEMINARS

Training research skills and methodology is partly in collaboration with City University where links can be made to suitable research studies, training and workshops if you are within travelling distance of London.

Biannual research teaching blocks are provided by the Nordoff Robbins Research Department.

The research degrees programme also benefits from a research culture fostered by the Nordoff Robbins Research Department's national and international research collaborations. These offer opportunities for student and researcher interaction and presentation.

The compulsory training and support package is organised on a 3-level system:

Level I: Introductory – Beginning Doctoral Research

You are offered seminar/workshops on the following (one session per subject):

- What an MPhil/PhD entails
- Beginning research at MPhil/PhD level
- Planning and managing a project
- Research ethics
- The structure of supervision, monitoring quality of work and final evaluation

Level II: Research Perspectives

You are offered seminar/workshops on the following (one session per subject):

- Selecting an appropriate methodology
- Research methods and technologies related to chosen methodologies
- Research project management
- Writing and presentation techniques

Level III: Individual Requirements

You are helped to identify areas of need in relation to your specific project, leading to appropriate referral for consultation, joint supervision etc.

STUDENT SUPPORT

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUPERVISORS AND STUDENTS

Roles and responsibilities of supervisors and students follow the City University guidelines.

Student Induction

You take part in the research studies induction process at City University. An induction can also be arranged by the Supervisor and/or Programme Director on an individual basis – offering students an introduction to the Nordoff Robbins Centre and its facilities. The Level I Nordoff Robbins research training module may be offered individually or in small groups.

Supervision arrangements and monitoring of student progress

The Programme Director will consult with you on supervision and appropriate academic support. You will be supervised individually (a minimum of one supervision per term). The Programme Director coordinates the monitoring of academic progress and appropriate feedback as follows:

- An annual appraisal gives you feedback on the previous year's work and reviews the research project and its time management. Progress towards transfer (from MPhil to PhD) is reviewed.
- At the same appraisal you have the opportunity to appraise the supervision, support and research resources.
- A report by the Programme Director is forwarded to the Research Degrees Programme Committee and to the Board of Studies for submission to the Nordoff Robbins/City University Course Board.
- Additional monitoring and feedback comes from regular presentation opportunities.

Pastoral and additional support

The Nordoff Robbins London Centre has a well-established pastoral and support structure. You can access this by being assigned a Personal Tutor independent from the MPhil/PhD programme.

PROGRESSING THROUGH THE PROGRAMME

Transfer from MPhil to PhD status normally takes place after 2 years for part-time candidates. The procedure is as follows:

- You can apply to the Course Board for your transfer with the support of the supervisor and the approval of the Research Degrees Programme Committee
- You will need to submit a 30,000 word document that includes:
 - A written account of your research to date
 - A draft literature review and methodology chapter, and a plan of future work
- You will need to demonstrate your ability to complete the research to the expected standard. This involves a public presentation at a research meeting at the Nordoff Robbins London Centre. You are questioned by the Programme Director and an external academic, as well as members of the Research Degrees Programme Committee, leading to a formal assessment. This process is fully documented.
- Recommendations for transfer are made to the Course Board.

COURSE MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The programme is managed by the Programme Director and the Research Degrees Programme Committee. They interface with the managing structures of the training programme through Board of Studies. They in turn report to the Nordoff Robbins/Goldsmiths University Course Board and to the Education Committee.

MONITORING THE COURSE

The Programme Director gives regular reports to the Course Board on the development of the programme and of the students on it. This is based on:

- Informal feedback presented by a student representative who attends part of the Board of Studies.
- Formal feedback, sought from students on an annual basis and collated into an annual report presented to the Course Board. The Programme Director is accountable to the CEO of Nordoff Robbins and through her to the Board of Governors of Nordoff Robbins.

TEACHING METHODS AND FACILITIES

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, 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.



Life-changing music

CONTACT US

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