University of Sheffield

Programme Specification

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it's up-to-date and relevant. Individual modules are occasionally updated or withdrawn. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research; funding changes; professional accreditation requirements; student or employer feedback; outcomes of reviews; and variations in staff or student numbers. In the event of any change we will inform students and take reasonable steps to minimise disruption.

Programme Details

1. Programme title	Psychology of Music		
2. Award type	Master of Arts		
3. Programme details	**FHEQ Level:** 7	**Mode of Study:** Full time Part time	**Duration:** 1 year 2 years
4. Faculty	Faculty of Arts & Humanities		
5. School	**Owning:** School of Languages, Arts and Societies		
6. Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	None		
7. HECoS code *Select between one and three codes from the HECoS vocabulary.*	**Code:** 101363 **Percentage:** 100	**Code:** **Percentage:**	**Code:** **Percentage:**
Programme code(s) (internal use)	LAST019 (Full time) LAST022 (Part time)		

9. Programme aims

The programme aims to:	
A1	To enable students to develop an understanding of the nature of postgraduate study and the techniques of postgraduate research in music and psychology, with a view to further research at doctoral level, and future employment.
A2	To broaden students' knowledge and understanding of the published literature of the psychology of music, and related areas in psychology and music theory.
A3	To equip students with a practical understanding of a range of research methods in the psychology of music.
A4	To provide students with the instruction and supervision necessary to undertake and successfully complete a substantial piece of scholarly writing containing an element of originality on a subject, empirical or theoretical, in the psychology of music.
A5	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.

10. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding (K) On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:	
K1	Have developed an appropriately broad and critical understanding of the literature in music psychology, informed by the most current developments in the field.
K2	Have developed knowledge of a range of research methods, including a critical awareness of their applicability to understanding musical behaviour, and an awareness of the ethical issues involved.
K3	Be able to apply a diverse range of musical and psychological perspectives to music so as to achieve an understanding of music behaviour, ideas and sound.
K4	Be able to undertake and successfully complete a substantial piece of scholarly writing containing an element of originality on a subject, empirical or theoretical, in the psychology of music.
K5	Have developed an attitude of open-minded critical awareness in their pursuit of scholarly enquiry.
Skills and other attributes (S) *When considering the skills and attributes developed in this programme, please refer to the Sheffield Graduate attributes (SGAs). SGAs can be found here* On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:	
S1	Have developed a range of subject specific skills in research methods (e.g. design of empirical studies, and quantitative and qualitative analysis).
S2	Be able to demonstrate an ability to identify research questions in the psychology of music and locate sources in which these are addressed.

S3	Be able to respond critically to the research literature, by questioning and evaluating published sources in the psychology of music and related areas.
S4	Be able to apply psychological theory and methods to better understand musical phenomena by generating and analysing new empirical data through a research project of their own design.
S5	Have developed key transferable research and learning skills, including information gathering and management, the ability to work as part of a team as well as individually, the capacity to evaluate source material, the ability to communicate ideas in clear and accurate English as part of a coherent and logical argument, and the ability to present a convincing argument in written form.

11. Learning and teaching methods *(this should include a summary of methods used throughout the programme, including any unique features and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

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

A series of lectures and seminars runs throughout the 1st and 2nd semesters, providing the primary means through which students and tutors engage with the subject-specific knowledge base of the discipline (K1-3, K5, S1-5).

1. **Laboratory work and demonstrations** are used in the 2nd semester and final period of study when students engage with empirical research methods (K1, K2, K4, K5, S1, S4, S5).
2. **Individual tutorials** are used throughout the programme to respond directly to student-specific interests and needs, and for detailed discussion of literature and ideas. They are the main support for the dissertation in the final semester (K1-5, S1-5).
3. **Independent study** is a crucial element of the programme and encourages the development of all aspects of knowledge, understanding and skills, but in particular it encourages qualities of originality, independence, information collection and management and allows students to pursue an area of their own choice in depth (K4, S4, S5).

Empirical research is carried out in groups during semester 2 in order to foster team-working skills (S5).

12. Assessment and feedback methods *(this should include the range of types of methods used and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

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

The assessment methods test an increasingly wide range of skills as the programme progresses and embody a move from small scale and highly structured tasks to larger-scale projects over the duration of the programme. The assessment methods are as follows:

1. An **assessed essay** assesses knowledge of one aspect of the subject-specific literature, skills of evaluation and information organisation and writing skills appropriate to a longer essay (K1, K3, S2, S3, S5).
2. A **portfolio of work** demonstrates generic musicological research skills (K2, S5).
3. **Two research tasks** apply quantitative and qualitative empirical research techniques, allowing assessment of skills in experimental design and analysis (K2, K3, S1-5). Research for these projects is conducted in groups (S5).

4. The **dissertation proposal** assesses the ability of students to design and plan a substantial and original empirical or theoretical study drawing on their knowledge of methods and relevant literature (K2, K3, K4, K5, S1, S2, S4, S5).

The **dissertation** is on a subject of the student's own choosing. It assesses the student's ability to identify a research question in psychology of music based on critical knowledge of the field; his/her ability to identify and implement appropriate methods to address that question; and the depth of knowledge, success of written presentation, and the acquisition of further transferable skills (K4, K5, S1-5).

Version Number:	**Purpose / Change:**	**Cohort affected: (academic year and level)**	**Date change approved:**
1			April 2003
2			December 2022
3			July 2023
4	Resumption of Part time route	26/27 - Year 1	December 2025

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