



Postgraduate Prospectus

MA, MSc, MLitt
& PhD in Music



**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

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WHY STUDY MUSIC AT POSTGRADUATE LEVEL?



You are most likely reading this because you are *already* passionate about music and want to learn more about how it works, how we engage with it as a society and how we express ourselves as creative individuals.

The varied nature of postgraduate study in music unites this passion with a range of transferable skills that are amongst the most important attributes employers look for in graduates, such as self-management, creativity, data analysis, performance, teamwork, problem-solving, and communication.



WHY MAYNOOTH?

"...an outstanding university education, which challenges and supports all students to achieve their full potential."

The Music Department at Maynooth University is renowned for its long and proud tradition of composition, music technology, musicology, and performance, immersing students in a vibrant, challenging and creative educational environment. It is a vibrant, stimulating and friendly place in which to study with all the benefits of being

A vibrant, supportive and creative educational environment

one of the Republic of Ireland's leading research communities. Situated in the historic leafy South Campus, our team of enthusiastic staff is made up of specialists operating at the forefront of a varied range of disciplines.

OUR ACADEMIC TEAM



Meet our vibrant team of internationally renowned academics and creative practitioners



Lorraine
Byrne Bodley

Professor

Music and literature; biography; song studies; music and aesthetics from late 18th century to present day.



Antonio
Cascelli

Associate Professor

Performance; music and visual culture; early music; Italian Opera; Chopin; music analysis; piano music.



Gordon
Delap

Associate Professor

Electroacoustic composition; audiovisual composition; physical modeling technologies.



Karen
Desmond

Professor

Medieval music; French and English polyphony of the Middle Ages; music notation; digital musicology.



Alison
Hood

Professor

Music analysis and performance; 19th-century piano music; Chopin; pedagogy and education.



Victor
Lazzarini

Professor

Computer music; sound synthesis and musical signal processing; programming languages for music.



**Iain
McCurdy**

Assistant Professor

Electroacoustic composition; Csound; sensor technology and hardware hacking.



**Ryan
Molloy**

Associate Professor

Composition; traditional Irish music; Irish art music from the mid-20th century to the present.



**Christopher
Morris**

Professor

Music and screen media; opera; aesthetics; cultural theory; music and politics; music and posthumanism.



**Estelle
Murphy**

Assistant Professor

Baroque music in Britain and Ireland; popular music (especially metal); gender and music.



**John
O'Keeffe**

Assistant Professor (SPCM)

Sacred music; church music in Ireland; the music of Seán and Peadar Ó Riada, especially masses.



**Martin
O'Leary**

Assistant Professor

Instrumental and vocal composition; analysis; the orchestral music of Havergal Brian.



**Fiona M.
Palmer**

Professor

Musicology & performance; socio-economic history of musical life in Britain (1780s-1940s); music profession.



**Adrian
Scahill**

Assistant Professor

Irish traditional music (history, criticism and analysis); history of music in Ireland; ethnomusicology.



**Laura
Watson**

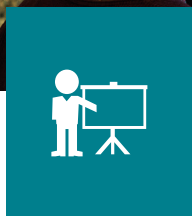
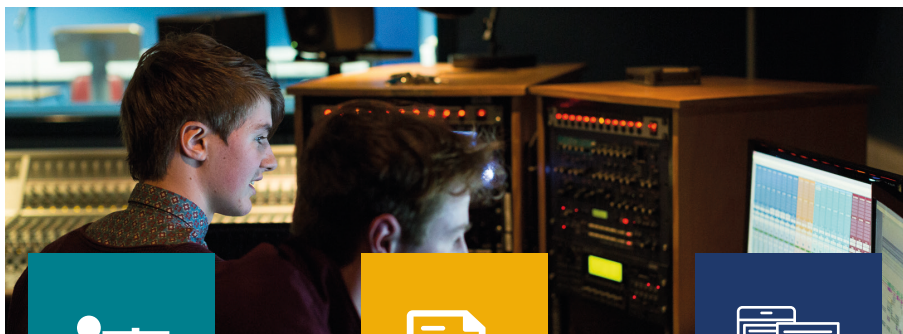
Associate Professor

Women, gender, and music in the 20th and 21st centuries; popular music; Paul Dukas.



WHAT DO WE DO?

Our range of taught postgraduate and research degrees at a glance



Masters degrees

We offer six taught Masters programmes across a wide range of specialisms including composition, music technology, musicology & performance.



Research degrees

Our PhD and MLitt degrees allow you to explore cutting-edge research topics under the supervision of world-leading academics and creative practitioners.



Modular design

The taught MAs focus on a major research-led component, supported by a rich suite of taught modules, some including electives from across our wider Faculty.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General requirements

Most of our postgraduate degrees require a minimum of a 2:1 honours degree in a related field, usually music. Candidates without such a qualification but with extensive professional experience can apply for Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) when completing their application on PAC. (For more information on RPEL, please visit the Graduate Studies Office webpage: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/graduate-studies.)

Course-specific requirements

Some courses have additional entry requirements, e.g. successful audition. Please consult the relevant course listings below for individual course requirements or visit the Department website for fuller details: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/music/prospective-students.

International students (EU & non-EU)

Maynooth University has a proud tradition of welcoming international students. Please visit the International Office's website at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/international/postgraduate to find out more about our English language requirements (e.g. the tests accepted and required scores). Maynooth University's TOEFL code is 8850.



HOW TO APPLY

All applications for postgraduate study at Maynooth University are processed by the Postgraduate Applications Centre (www.pac.ie).

Specific requirements for each course are listed on the respective course pages that follow (pp. 9-15).




INTERVIEW PROCESS

If your application has been shortlisted for interview, you will be invited to an informal interview with the Course Director and other members of academic staff as required. Depending on your previous experience, you may be required to submit examples of your written/creative work. If so, details will be provided by the Course Director.

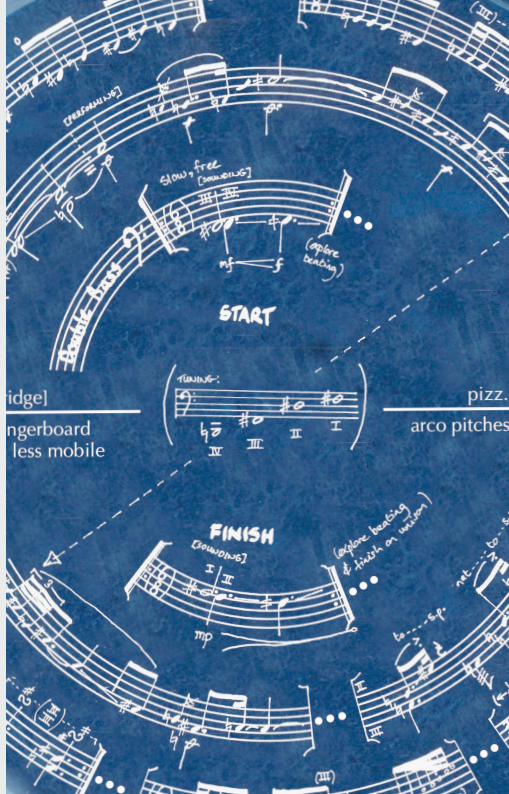


FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Maynooth University offers a range of scholarships for taught postgraduate and research degrees, including the MU Taught Masters Scholarships and the John & Pat Hume Doctoral Scholarships. More information about the funding available can be found on the Graduate Studies webpage (see above).

A young woman with curly brown hair and glasses is looking down at an open book. She is wearing a blue denim shirt. The background shows bookshelves filled with books, slightly out of focus. A semi-transparent blue box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

Each programme helps
you develop your own
specialism with support
from leading academics



MA in Composition

Why do the MA in Composition?

- ☞ You are supported in the development of a professional portfolio of works through regular 1-to-1 tuition with internationally renowned composers.
- ☞ You have access to curated opportunities to collaborate with professional musicians and fellow students alike.
- ☞ You can enjoy of a broad range of options to develop your knowledge of contemporary compositional practices across a range of media.

Course structure:

MU625 Collaborative Music Performance
 MU633 Contemporary Compositional Techniques I
 MU634 Contemporary Compositional Techniques II
 MU678 Writing About Music
 MU645A Portfolio of Compositions

plus two elective modules from across our sister MA programmes (subject to timetabling and availability; see pp. 10-14).

Special entry/application requirements:

Candidates are required to submit three examples of their compositional output (ideally as PDF scores, with recordings where available) with their application.

Course Director
Dr Ryan Molloy

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Duration
1 year full-time
2 years part-time

PAC Code
MHT56 (FT)
MHT57 (PT)



MA in Creative Music Technologies

Why do the MA in Creative Music Technologies?

- ☞ You will develop key transferable skills in sound design, recording technology, and music software
- ☞ You will be able to access jobs in the areas of media and music technology, including audio for games, and music production.
- ☞ You will have access to state-of-the-art facilities in music technology.

Course structure:

Core modules in Acoustics & Psychoacoustics and a central capstone thesis/portfolio/project supported by elective modules in sound recording techniques, software sound synthesis, electroacoustic composition and interactive systems.

Special entry/application requirements:

The MA in Creative Music Technologies degree is a **skills conversion programme**. The programme is aimed at graduates, with musical abilities, who would like to explore musical applications of technology. The programme accepts graduates from any primary degree.

Course Director
Prof.

Victor Lazzarini

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Duration

1 year full-time
2 years part-time

PAC Code
MHT50 (FT)
MHT51 (PT)



MA in Irish Traditional Music

Why do the MA in Irish Traditional Music?

☞ The course focuses on the integration of research, performance (including recording) and creative practice, drawing on departmental expertise in each of these areas.

☞ You will have access to instrumental tuition, workshops with professional musicians, and electives in related areas across the university.

Course structure:

MU670[1]2 Major Project (Performance, Recording or Thesis)
 MU673 Fieldwork & Source Studies
 MU674 Irish Traditional Music: Theory, Practice & Creativity
 MU678 Writing About Music

plus three elective modules from across our sister MA programmes (subject to timetabling and availability; see pp. 10-14).

Special entry/application requirements:

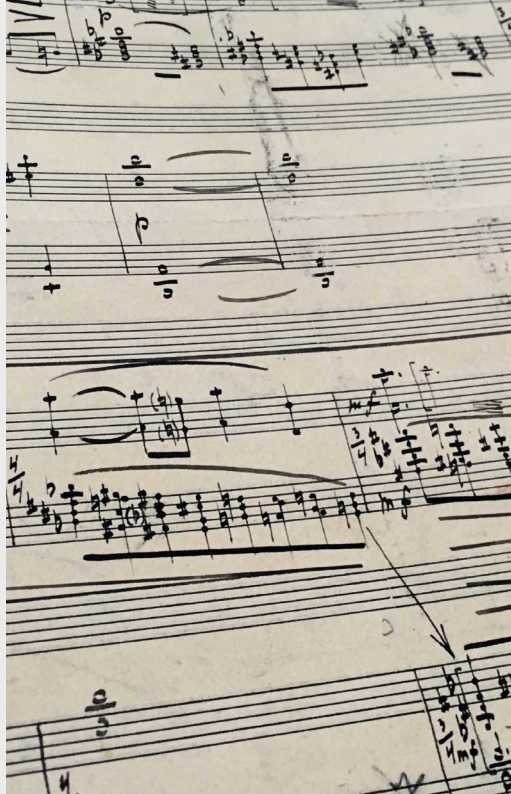
As well as an undergraduate degree in a related area, candidates will be expected to display significant experience in traditional music in an area such as performance, research, education, broadcasting, production, or administration; or professional involvement in some area of traditional music. Applicants will be required to demonstrate a sufficient standard on their proposed instrument/voice by an audition of c. 10 minutes of contrasting music.

Course Director
Dr Adrian Scahill

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 t: +353 1 708 4638

Duration
1 year full-time
2 years part-time

PAC Code
MHT60 (FT)
MHT61 (PT)



MA in Musicology

Why do the MA in Musicology?

📖 Enjoy access to small-group seminars and individual tuition with internationally renowned scholars, whose musicological expertise includes opera, music and media, women in music, nineteenth-century European music, eighteenth-century Irish music, British music, French music, popular music, and ethnomusicology.

📖 Build your professional network through a work placement with a partner organisation in the music industry and gain transferrable employment skills such as digitisation.

📖 Develop as a researcher and communicator to a level which prepares you for PhD study.

Course structure:

You will take 90 credits in total: Thesis (30 credits, submitted at the end of August) and six 10-credit modules in Semesters 1 and 2: Research Methods & Digital Skills (including Work Placement in Sem. 2); Writing About Music; Music in Ireland; Music and Gender; Music and Screen Media; and Sound, Images, Spaces.

Special entry/application requirements:

Applicants from outside Maynooth University should upload a short writing sample (e.g., an undergraduate music essay) as an additional document in the PAC application.

Course Director

Dr Laura Watson

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Duration

1 year full-time

2 years part-time

PAC Code

MHT52 (FT)

MHT53 (PT)



MA in Performance & Musicology

Why do the MA in Performance & Musicology?

☞ Receive specialised mentoring on performance and research-related issues

☞ Enjoy regular opportunities to perform in Performance Seminar classes and concerts, receive specialised feedback and participate in workshops and masterclasses.

☞ Avail of funding towards first-study lessons, regular rehearsals with an official accompanist, Dr Fionnuala Moynihan, and priority access to practice facilities.

Course structure

MU623 Research Methods & Digital Skills
 MU625 Collaborative Music Performance
 MU626 Thesis (Performance & Musicology)
 MU644A Public Recital
 MU651 Musicology of Performance
 MU678 Writing About Music

Course Director

Prof. Fiona M. Palmer

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Duration

1 year full-time

2 years part-time

PAC Code

MHT54 (FT)

MHT55 (PT)

Special entry/application requirements:

External applicants will be required to show proficiency in academic writing, demonstrate in audition (c. 20 mins) a standard on proposed principal instrument/voice equivalent to a minimum of a high 2:1 bachelor's degree and sit a final interview if successful. MU Music graduates specialising in performance with a minimum of a high 2:1 in their performance exam are exempt from the audition process.



MSc in Sound & Music Computing

Why do the MSc in Sound & Music Computing?

- ☞ You will develop key transferable skills in programming and software design.
- ☞ You will be able to access jobs in the areas of music and multimedia software development and design.
- ☞ You will have access to state-of-the-art facilities in music technology.

Course structure:

Students take 30 credits (ECTS) of taught modules in Semesters 1 & 2 and complete a thesis/technical project for the remaining 30 ECTS over the Summer months, for which individual supervision is provided.

MU610A Acoustics & Psychoacoustics
 MU611A Software Sound Synthesis
 MU614A Music Systems Programming 1
 MU616A Music Signal Processing
 MU617A Interactive Systems
 MU620A Music Systems Programming 2
 MU627 Sound & Music Computing Project

Course Director
Prof.

Victor Lazzarini

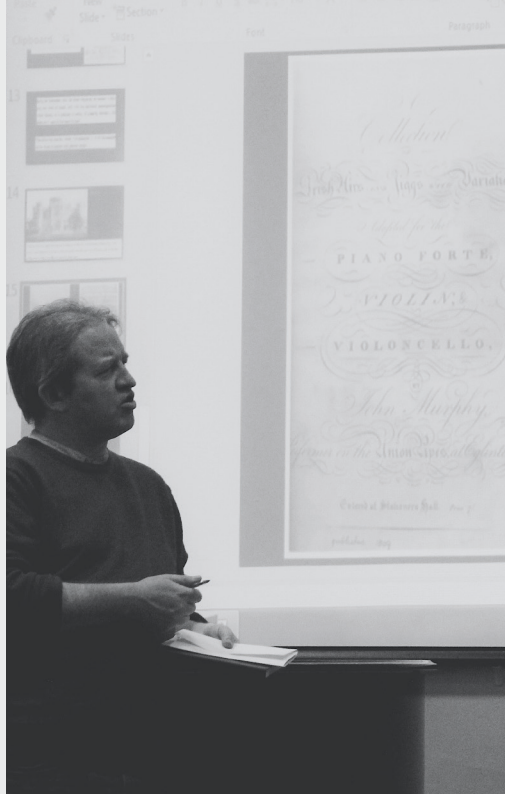
e: victor.lazzarini
 @mu.ie

t: +353 1 708 6716

Duration

1 year full-time
2 years part-time

PAC Code
MHT62 (FT)
MHT63 (PT)



Research Degrees MLitt & PhD

Why do a research degree at Maynooth?

Our PhD and MLitt degrees allow students to engage in high-quality research under the supervision of leading academics and practitioners in the field. (Please see pp. 4-5 for a full list of staff.)

Supervision is offered across the principal areas of composition, musicology, computer music and performance. The form of the doctoral submission is tailored to each area and the precise requirements of each can be found at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/postgraduate-studies/courses/phd-music.

In addition, the PhD/MLitt degrees are structured programmes that include a number of generic *and* subject-specific skills modules to complement your research.

Application procedure:

- 1) Candidates are encouraged to identify and get in touch with a potential supervisor in advance of making any application for a research degree.
- 2) Application is online via www.pac.ie and requires the submission of a research proposal outlining the context of the proposed work, the principal research questions the work addresses, and a methodology for addressing these.
- 3) Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview with the Departmental Research Committee.

*Director of
Graduate Studies*

Dr Ryan Molloy

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Normal duration

PhD: 4 yrs FT/6 yrs PT

MLitt: 2 yrs FT/3 yrs PT

PAC Code

MHT02 (PhD FT)

MHT03 (PhD PT)

MHT04 (MLitt FT)

MHT05 (MLitt PT)



MA? MLitt?
PhD? MSc?
MU!

Get in touch:

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www.maynoothuniversity.ie/music