



Music

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

The Music MRes allows you to undertake a one year full-time or two year part-time, research project in Music. The programme has pathways in musicology, composition, popular music performance, music psychology and creative music technology. You will work with experts in the field to produce a developed practical portfolio, dissertation or report.

Introduction

Student research is diverse, which is facilitated by the design of the degree. Examples of past projects include critical work on topics such as music and UK politics, gender and musical theatre, technical projects such as using Max MSP in classical performance and augmented midi control for electric guitar, compositional portfolios from contemporary classical, modernism to folk songwriting and vapourwave. Whatever your interests, your original research project can find a home in the MRes programme.

You will receive training in research skills which will support the development of your major research project through one-on-one supervision from one or more academic specialists in your subject area. Supervision is available from across the range of academic staff from within the Department of Music. [Please see our staff pages](#) for details of the diverse research interests of our staff members.

The MRes course supports the development of your research project with modules designed to develop your research skills. Students also take part in research focussed workshops and seminars.

The nature of the MRes encourages adventurous and exploratory research projects which are often interdisciplinary and can encompass a wide range of methodologies. The programme provides researchers with the critical and analytical skills needed to craft a final major project which can take the form of a detailed dissertation, a set of compositions, recordings, a prototype technology or other proposed and agreed upon outputs. You will engage in the wider cultural and critical aspects of the relevant area of expertise by undertaking research skills training modules before developing your project.

You will work closely with a research specialist in the musicological or practice-based fields in areas such as: musicology, popular music, music industries, composition, analysis, audio-visual media, music technology, or any applicable focus emerging from your proposed research topic. You will become part of our community of active researchers pursuing your own research interests in collaboration with an academic supervisor.

The MRes in Music provides excellent preparation for you if you are intending to to pursue a PhD in Music or the broader Arts and Humanities.

What you'll learn

- Independent research skills
- Demonstrate a coherent methodology appropriate to the area of research
- Expertise gained through working with research specialists
- Develop your own unique research output/portfolio
- Develop the ability to select, assess, employ and critically evaluate a range of appropriate research resources (such as textual, musical, visual or material sources) to an advanced level.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

The early components of the programme aim to provide training in research skills appropriate to the your research field, and enable you to undertake supervised exercises – including the construction of a specialist bibliography and the development of a preliminary essay, specimen chapter or provisional portfolio of practical work – as planning and preparation for the final dissertation module or major composition portfolio.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>RESEARCH RESOURCES (SOTA701)</u>	15
<u>TRAINING FOR MUSIC AND RESEARCH (MUMA722)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

From semester two, the focus shifts towards completion of the dissertation/major practical portfolio with guidance from the academic supervisor(s).

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>FEASIBILITY STUDY (SOTA702)</u>	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

You will choose either the dissertation or the composition portfolio, depending on your pathway.

- If you are taking the composition, creative music technology or popular music performance pathways, you will complete a portfolio.
- If you are taking the general, music psychology or musicology pathways, you will complete a dissertation.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
<u>MAJOR PRACTICAL PORTFOLIO (MUMA701)</u>	120
<u>DISSERTATION (SOTA703)</u>	120

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching on the MRes Music is delivered primarily through one-on-one tutorials but also includes a combination of workshops and seminars. All teaching takes place on campus or over MS Teams. The main core of the programme is the development of a research project with guidance from a specialist supervision team. Individual projects are diverse and student led. These can be focussed on

written research or more practical areas such as composition, audiovisual work and performance strategies amongst others. Workshops take place alongside PhD researchers and include career development and professional skills for those wishing to embark upon a research career. Workshop numbers tend to be small, and a typical class would include between 10–15 students.

How you're assessed

Students on the MRes are assessed through a combination of formative and summative coursework. This takes several different forms across the modules, including examples such as annotated bibliographies, research proposals, presentations, compositions and essays.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

The MRes Music develops key skills to those working or wishing to work in a variety of fields related to music. The MRes is particularly suitable for graduates looking to pursue careers in the arts, culture, creative and heritage sectors, including composition, management in arts and culture organisations and teaching. Some students may want to take this course for its own sake and for the sake of personal development and the revitalization of subject awareness. Equally, the MRes is designed to prepare students too for further research at PhD level, and to enable them to enter postgraduate study, thus offering a first step towards a career in academic teaching and research.

The programme opens up career opportunities which include working in:

- Journalism.
- Publishing.
- Music management.
- Law.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £5,006

Part-time place, per year – £2,503

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £24,600

Part-time place, per year – £12,300

MRes tuition fees are for the academic year 2025/26. We will update the 2026/27 fees shortly.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies.**

Additional costs

Please note, this programme may have additional costs associated with it depending on your choice of a lab or computational/fieldwork-based project.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in Music or a closely related subject. You will also have to provide a sample of written work e.g. an undergraduate assignment.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the **[University of Liverpool International College](#)**, in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MRes, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with writing at 6.5 and no other component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 21, reading 19 and speaking 20. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

120 overall, with literacy and production not less than 120, and comprehension and conversation not below 105

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with writing at 61, and no other component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with writing at 70, and no other skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0, and no other component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-

sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with writing at 6.5 and no other component below 6.0, for further details.

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