

MRes

# 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

Join the Music MRes at the University of Liverpool and pursue your unique and original research goals through a one-year full-time or two-year part-time research project. This programme encourages dynamic, individual and adventurous approaches to research in and through music, with pathways in musicology, composition, popular music performance, music psychology and creative music technology. Our experts will guide and support you as you confidently produce a practical portfolio, dissertation, report, or a tailored combination of outputs that emerge from your research process.

## Introduction

Music at Liverpool embraces diversity and celebrates individuality, and the Music MRes is designed to help you explore your own research ambitions through a flexible and student-centred structure.

Modules focus on developing your research skills, providing the foundation for your major research project, supported throughout by one-to-one supervision. Staff in the Department of Music represent a wide range of interests and expertise and will help you shape and refine your research journey – see our [staff pages](#) for details.

The programme encourages exploratory, adventurous and often interdisciplinary research across a broad range of methodologies. As a researcher, you will gain the critical and analytical skills needed to craft a major final project. This might take the form of a dissertation, a set of compositions, recordings, a prototype technology, or another agreed format. Through workshops, seminars and research training, you will immerse yourself in the wider cultural and critical contexts of your chosen area while developing your project.

Past projects have included research on music and UK politics, gender and musical theatre, classical performance with Max/MSP, augmented MIDI control for electric guitar, and composition portfolios ranging from contemporary classical and modernism to folk songwriting and vaporwave.

You will work closely with a research specialist in your chosen area – such as musicology, popular music, music industries, composition, analysis, audio-visual media or music technology – and join a community of active researchers, developing your own project in collaboration with an academic supervisor.

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## What you'll learn

- Independent research skills
- How to craft a coherent methodology appropriate to your area
- Expertise gained through working with research specialists
- How to develop your own unique research projects
- Advanced skills in selecting, assessing, employing and critically evaluating a range of research materials (textual, musical, visual or material)

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# Course content

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

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## Semester one

You will receive classroom-based training in research skills appropriate to your field, undertaking supervised exercises such as constructing a specialist bibliography and developing a preliminary essay, specimen chapter or provisional practical portfolio. These form the foundation for planning your final dissertation or major practical portfolio.

## Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH RESOURCES (SOTA701)	15
TRAINING FOR MUSIC AND RESEARCH (MUMA722)	15

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

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## Semester two

From semester two, the focus shifts toward completing your dissertation or major practical portfolio, supported by your supervisor(s).

## Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
FEASIBILITY STUDY (SOTA702)	30

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

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## Final project

In this semester, you will concentrate fully on producing your final dissertation or practical portfolio.

If you are undertaking practice-based research (e.g., composition, creative music technology or popular music performance), you will work towards a major practical portfolio. If your research is non-practice-based (e.g., music psychology, music theory, musicology), your focus will be on completing a dissertation.

## Modules

Optional modules	Credits
MAJOR PRACTICAL PORTFOLIO (MUMA701)	120
DISSERTATION (SOTA703)	120

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

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## Teaching and assessment

### How you'll learn

The Music MRes is delivered through a variety of teaching modes, including group sessions, one-to-one supervision, seminars, tutorials, and workshops. In person class sizes are typically small (10–15 students), allowing for high levels of engagement and interaction.

MRes students also join PhD researchers for in person seminars and workshops, enabling you to learn about research projects and develop professional skills, which are especially helpful if you wish to pursue a research career.

## How you're assessed

The MRes consists of several modules across three semesters, each with its own assessment tasks. Assessments are designed to guide and support your development toward your major practical portfolio or dissertation.

## Liverpool Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching – learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning – taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment – assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We're committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

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# Careers and employability

The Music MRes develops key skills relevant to a wide range of music-related professions. It is particularly suitable for graduates seeking careers in the arts, culture, creative and heritage sectors, including composition, arts and culture management, and teaching. Some students pursue the programme for personal development and to deepen or revitalise their subject knowledge.

The MRes also provides strong preparation for further research at PhD level and is an excellent first step toward an academic research or teaching career.

The programme opens up career opportunities which include working in:

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

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## Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

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### Career planning

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### From education to employment

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### 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 – £5,238

Part-time place, per year – £2,619

### International fees

Full-time place, per year – £25,350

Part-time place, per year – £12,650

The fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27. The University may administer inflationary rises to international fees in subsequent academic years as you progress through the course.

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 £12,858 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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### IELTS

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

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### **TOEFL iBT**

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 21, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4.5 in writing and 4.0 or above in all other components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

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### **Duolingo English Test**

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

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### **Pearson PTE Academic**

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

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### **LanguageCert Academic**

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

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### **PSI Skills for English**

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

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### **INDIA Standard XII**

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

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### **WAEC**

C6 or above

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## **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.

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## 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.

Our Pre-sessional English courses vary from 6, 10, 12, 20, 30 or 40 weeks.

You can email us at [elc@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:elc@liverpool.ac.uk) for advice on the length of Pre-sessional English course you require. Please let us know your most recent score in one of the following English language tests so we can assess your current English language ability:

- IELTS
- LanguageCert Academic
- Pearson PTE
- Skills for English
- Oxford Test for English
- Duolingo English Test

We'll be in touch to let you know the length of Pre-sessional English course you require. We'll also confirm whether you can study Pre-Sessional English on campus or online.

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