MA

Composition for Film, TV and Games

Study mode	Duration	
Full-time	12 months	Apply by: **29 August 2025**
Part-time	24 months	Starts on: **22 September 2025**

About this course

This programme provides you with flexible advanced training that will develop your knowledge and expertise in music and audiovisual media. It offers two pathways; one academic and one practical, which enables you to develop skills according to your own interests and specialisms.

Introduction

Utilising the industry standard facilities within the Department of Music, this course allows you to specialise in areas such as composition for moving image, sound design, screen music analysis, film studies, and sound studies.

You can develop your knowledge and research skills through approaches to audiovisual media including musicology, critical theory, and textual analysis. Students present their research in essays, audiovisual essays, podcasts, soundwalks, and other audiovisual formats.

Film, television, gaming, and web-based audiovisual content creation are all expanding areas of employment for music graduates. The subject is also a burgeoning field of academic study. The MA Composition for Film, TV and Games responds to these developments by offering both practice-based and critical studies pathways.

What you'll learn

- To compose and produce screen music to a high standard
- To critically reflect on relevant literature, methodologies, and theories of music in audiovisual media
- To analyse screen music in an engaging manner, drawing on appropriate terminology and theoretical concepts
- To prepare and present original research in a professional and appropriate manner using the necessary tools and resources
- To produce original compositions for a professional recording session or concert
- To work both under supervision and independently; justify and defend decisions taken in the construction and prosecution of research tasks
- To demonstrate the ability to plan, organise, review, and deliver a large-scale independent project.

Course content

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

Semester one

The programme offers two core pathways – one academic and the other practical – enabling you to tailor your studies to suit your career ambitions.

For the **academic** pathway, you will take MUSI567 in semester one, and MUSI554 in the second semester.

For the **practical** pathway, you will take MUSI569 in semester one, and MUSI552 in the second semester.

All students will take MUSI552 and the major project module (MUSI550). You will also choose three optional modules.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
ANALYSING SCREEN MUSIC 1 (MUSI567)	30
COMPOSING TO PICTURE 1 (MUSI569)	30

Optional modules	Credits
COMPOSING FOR NEW MEDIA (MUSI557)	15
CREATIVE SOUND DESIGN (MUSI559)	15
SOUND AND DIGITAL CULTURES (MUSI551)	15
SOUNDSCAPES AND SCREEN MEDIA (MUSI565)	15

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

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
ANALYSING SCREEN MUSIC 2 (MUSI554)	30
BRANDING AND COLLABORATION (MUSI552)	30

Optional modules	Credits
COMPOSING TO PICTURE 2 (MUSI556)	30

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

Final project

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
MAJOR PROJECT: MUSIC AND AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA (MUSI550)	60

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

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

The MA Composition for Film, TV and Games programme is split into two pathways: research and practical. Teaching on the MA programme is delivered primarily through a combination of lectures, workshops, and seminars, as well as guest lectures and workshops with external partnerships. All teaching takes place on campus. In semester 3, students develop portfolios and research projects with guidance from a specialist supervision team. Assignments encompass a wide range of topics and can be focussed towards written or audiovisual research projects, or more practical projects involving music composition, VR environments, and/or sound design. Lectures and seminars focussing on career development and professional skills encourage students to think about and prepare for employment (or self-employment) after the course.

How you're assessed

Students on the MA Composition for Film, TV and Games programme are assessed through a combination of formative and summative coursework, including screen music portfolios, self-reflective commentaries, essays, audiovisual essays, and musical scores.

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.

Careers and employability

The MA Composition for Film, TV and Games develops key skills to those working or wishing to work in a variety of fields related to music and media. The MA programme is particularly suitable for graduates looking to pursue careers in filmmaking as, for example, music composers, orchestrators, music supervisors/editors, or sound designers. Equally, the MA is designed to prepare students for further research at PhD level, and to enable them to enter further postgraduate study, thus offering a first step towards a career in academic teaching and research.

Students from this course can pursue careers in a wide range of professions. These include:

- Composer
- Music supervisor
- Orchestrator
- Sound designer
- Academic researcher
- Lecturer.

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 - £11,700
Part-time place, per year - £5,850

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £24,100
Part-time place, per year - £12,050

Fees stated are for the 2025-26 academic year.

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

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

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

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, Music Technology or a closely related subject (e.g. Sound Production, Composition or Creative Media).

Your personal statement should explain why you have chosen the programme and pathway, as well as what research/practical work you are interested in doing during and after the programme. Students applying to the practical pathway should provide a sample of their practical work in the form of a short showreel or one or two video clips that they have composed music for (no longer than 10 minutes).

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 MA, 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 no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

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

Duolingo English Test

120 overall, with no component below 105

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no 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 no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
6.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
5.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.0, and no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 4.0	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 no component below 6.0, for further details.

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