

**Kingston
University**
London

Music BMus(Hons)/BA(Hons)

single/joint honours

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

www.kingston.ac.uk/bamusic



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Our programmes

Kingston's Music department places a strong emphasis on creativity through the composition and performance of new music supported by the research of the lecturers. Specialist skills in performance and/or composition are developed alongside a thorough training in practical, theoretical and academic areas and consideration of a range of musicological and cultural topics. We aim to teach through practical workshops and hands-on experience as much as possible, with multimedia work being a feature of the course. Teaching will address a wide range of musical genres with a particular focus on music written since 1950.

Music-making at Kingston

Practical music-making is a key feature of life at Kingston – we promote around 60 concerts and gigs each year. We have two choirs, an orchestra, big band, improvisation ensemble, KU Digital Arts Collective, soundpainting group, gamelan ensemble, djembe group and a range of smaller student-led bands and groups in a variety of genres. Performance venues include Hampton Court Palace, Ham House and Kingston's Rose Theatre, together with local clubs and halls. Band nights at the Grey Horse pub have become popular with student performers. In addition, the Delta Saxophone Quartet and other artists visit frequently to perform and lead workshops. Visits are also made by leading composers such as Steve Martland and Peter Wiegold.

Facilities

Music has its own dedicated accommodation, the Coombehurst buildings, which are situated on the leafy Kingston Hill campus. Coombehurst Studio, our main performance space and recording studio, comprises a live space large enough to accommodate a full symphony orchestra. It has two control rooms equipped to the latest industry standards and with an eight-channel surround-sound system for live performance of electro-acoustic music. Coombehurst House is the main Music building, housing staff offices, a range of lecture, seminar and practice rooms, studios and a workstation suite containing 23 Apple iMac computers for professional-standard processing of sound and video. It also houses a full-size Javanese gamelan. Coombehurst Court provides further lecture and practice rooms, and the Lodge contains a further two recording studios.

The department has an extensive collection of instruments: pianos; a harpsichord; western percussion instruments; non-western instruments, including the gamelan and a set of djembe drums; school percussion instruments; and some early instruments.

You will have access to our Learning Resources Centre, which houses an extensive collection of books, scores, periodicals, sheet music and recordings. In addition, we subscribe to a large number of online music resources accessible from all University workstations, including the Naxos collection of recordings. Audio- and video-editing facilities, notation and word-processing software and internet access are available in all studios.

Why study music at Kingston University?

- Top-quality, practically based music education
- One-to-one or group instrumental and vocal teaching from top professionals
- Teaching across a range of musical styles and genres
- Thorough tuition in key musical skills and techniques
- State-of-the-art technology and facilities
- Around 60 student concerts and gigs each year
- An excellent situation, near to London and in beautiful parkland
- You can choose to combine BA(Hons) Music with a range of other subjects (see overleaf).

Careers

Typically, over 90 per cent of Kingston music graduates have been in employment or further study within six months of graduating. They can be found throughout the music profession, cultural sector and in music education. Music graduates are also sought after by other employers because of their wide range of transferable skills.

Kingston has a thriving postgraduate music portfolio, and many of our students go on to study for a masters degree. For more information about the MMus/MA or music research degrees, contact the music administrator at music.administrator@kingston.ac.uk

Student feedback

"The lecturers were friendly and approachable. The teaching was of a very good standard, and I never struggled to understand or be afraid to ask questions. Even if it's out of teaching hours, you could knock on the lecturers' doors and they were happy to help you."



What you will study

Examples of the modules currently offered are shown below. The number of modules taken each year and the choices available will vary depending on whether you study Music as a full field (single honours: BMus(Hons)) or as a half field (joint honours: BA(Hons)). The module list varies from year to year as the course structure is reviewed and refined.

Year 1

You will work on your specialist composition and/or performance studies while developing key musical and study skills. You will also take part in a Year 1 project to put on a multimedia event and sample music from different cultures, with an introduction to the gamelan and djembe. To access solo performance modules in which you will receive individual tuition, you will need to demonstrate existing expertise to approximately ABRSM grade 8 standard on your instrument or voice.

Examples of possible modules

- Performance 1 OR Composition 1 OR The Performing Composer 1 (30 credits)
- The Foundations of Music (30 credits)
- Writing About Music
- Repertoire and Style
- The Big Event
- Music World

Year 2

You will continue to develop your creative skills in composition and/or performance alongside the exploration of a range of music from an analytical and critical perspective. You will also develop practical skills in arts management, and will prepare materials to help in gaining career opportunities. Three specialist modules can be chosen from the list of option modules that supplement the core modules.

Examples of possible modules

- Performance 2 OR Composition 2 OR The Performing Composer 2 (30 credits)
- Analysis and Criticism (30 Credit)
- Arts Management and Career Development
- Revolutions in Music History
- Introduction to Music Psychology
- Rhythm and Groove
- Scoring and Arranging
- Performing Project
- Jazz 1
- Approaches to Improvisation
- Composing for Film and TV
- Kingston Language Scheme

Year 3

You will have a choice of two project modules in Year 3: an individual project, which could be in composition, performance or by dissertation, each option supported by individual tutorial or instrumental/vocal lesson; or a group project that works on the creation of a song from composition, through performance and production, to marketing, with different team members taking different roles. You will also study a core module that places music in its context and exemplifies this practice through presentations from visiting speakers, as well as four specialist modules chosen from a list.

Examples of possible modules

- Major Project OR The Studio Musician (30 credits)
- Music Research in Context
- Performing Project 2
- Conducting
- Jazz 2
- Those Who Can, Teach: Contemporary Issues in Music Education
- The Freelance Musician
- A Change is Gonna Come: Global Perspectives and Cultures of Popular Music
- Sound and Moving Image
- Applied Musical Skills
- Entrepreneurship
- Smells Like Teen Spirit: Writing Popular Music Lyrics
- Special Study
- Kingston Language Scheme



BA(Hons) Music joint honours

You can choose to take a joint honours degree in Music in combination with either: Dance; Drama; Film Studies; or History of Art, Design & Film. If you choose to study for a joint honours degree, you will take 60 credits in music and 60 in your other half field. For further information on joint honours options, see www.kingston.ac.uk/bamusic

Teaching and assessment

Teaching methods include lectures, seminars, tutorials and practical workshops that enable you to gain hands-on experience. Special lectures and masterclasses are led by visiting producers, composers and artists. If you take performance as a specialism, you will receive individual tuition on your main instrument or voice.

Assessment is through written coursework, practical presentations and tests.

Centre for Academic Skills and Employability (CASE)

CASE offers students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences one-to-one help with their studies, supporting both undergraduate and postgraduate students with:

- researching and presenting;
- structuring and editing traditional academic writing;
- structuring and editing multimedia texts;
- referencing; and
- music theory.

CASE provides a range of resources to enhance employability, including help with writing CVs, application forms and preparing you for interviews. Results show that students who use the centre are significantly more likely to complete their degree. As they are better equipped to act on feedback, they also tend to do better in their studies.



Want to know more?

[www.kingston.ac.uk/
bmusmusic](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/bmusmusic)
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bamusic](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/bamusic)

Music staff

The staff that teach music at Kingston have a comprehensive range of specialisms and research interests. We have particular strengths in composition – seven staff members are active composers across a range of genres and styles, from multimedia, electro-acoustic and film music, to more-conventional concert music in a variety of genres. Other specialisms include a variety of improvisation techniques, performance, French music of the 20th century, music education, performance practices and world music.

“Our emphasis on teaching subjects relevant to the world today, and producing graduates able to make a positive contribution to that world, makes the educational experience on offer in our Faculty at Kingston unique among universities in the United Kingdom.”

Professor Martin McQuillan
Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences



Entry requirements

Typical offer

- Points: 260–280 for BMus(Hons) Music and up to 360 points for BA(Hons) Music combinations
- Units: to include two full A-levels or equivalent
Subjects:
 - A-level: Music or Music Technology (100 points) or BTEC equivalent required
 - General Studies accepted when one of three A-levels or equivalent
 - ABRSM grades: points accepted in tariff
 - Key Skills: points accepted in tariff
 - Music theory to ABRSM grade 5 standard required
 - Plus GCSE: Mathematics and English (grade A–C required). Key Skills Level 2 may be used in lieu of poor GCSEs, depending on combination.

NB: Reading and writing music from staff notation is a requirement of the course.

Further requirements for combinations

Please see the course webpage for details.

International students

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall, with special conditions for students who require a Tier-4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on the course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

Other entry routes

- Access course
- International applicants and mature applicants with relevant qualifications are welcomed.

Joint honours combinations

Music is offered as a single honours degree (BMus(Hons)) or as a half field (BA(Hons)) in combination with one of the following subjects:

- Drama
- Dance
- Film Studies
- History of Art, Design & Film

UCAS codes

BMus(Hons) Music: W300
BA(Hons) Music and Drama: WW34
BA(Hons) Music and Film Studies: WP33
BA(Hons) Music and Dance: W3W5
BA(Hons) Music and History of Art, Design & Film: WV33

Open days

Several open days are held each year. Please contact the admissions office or visit the University website for more details.
www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays

Contact details

Course enquiries

Modular Admissions Office
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Kingston University
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT1 2EE
T: +44 (0)20 8417 2378/2361
F: +44 (0)20 8417 2292
E: fassundergrad-info@kingston.ac.uk

Accommodation

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3829
E: accommodation@kingston.ac.uk
www.kingston.ac.uk/accommodation

Student Funding Service

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3560
www.kingston.ac.uk/studentfunding

Disability and Dyslexia Support Services

T: +44 (0)20 8417 4284/4252
Minicom: +44 (0)20 8417 4447
F: +44 (0)20 8417 4443
www.kingston.ac.uk/disability-and-dyslexia

International Office

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3411
www.kingston.ac.uk/international