Music as a New Minor Subject
Details for the Academic Year 23/24

Why take this New Minor Subject?

Music students engage with a wide range of music theory and practice from Europe and all over the world, allowing students to become fully immersed in the intellectual currents that flow in and around them. In common with many universities in Europe the main focus is the academic study of music. Particularly during the second half of your studies you can develop a focus on the areas of either musicology, composition or music technology. From the beginning, questions of history, theory and context combine with issues of close analysis and interpretation to provide a course that is both rigorous and rewarding. Due to modest annual student intakes, Music has preserved a style of teaching that can respond to the needs of the individual and allow students to follow their own interests to an extent rare in modern universities.

What will I learn?

You will acquire a broad knowledge of music theory of Western and non-Western cultures from diverse analytical, practical and compositional angles. This includes the mutual interaction of music and society within a wider aesthetic, socio-cultural and economic context. Students can also train their skills in composition and music technology (including recording techniques), as well as planning/curating recitals and musical entrepreneurship.

What will I do?

You will take modules worth 20 credits in each of the three years. Starting with training in musicianship, music theory and aural skills, the early phase of the programme also includes the study of music history. This will be complemented by foundational training in composition (including film music) and music technology. Later on you can write more advanced compositions, hone your recording and electronic music skills or explore the role of music in current societal discussions such as race, class and gender in popular music, or the contribution of singing towards well-being.

How will this be assessed?

Depending on the subject of each module the Music Department uses a broad range of assessment strategies, from exams and essays via oral presentations and portfolios to artistic and academic research projects. The culmination is the final-year capstone project in either composition, music technology or musicology. Worth 20 credits, it represents an extended research project completed under the supervision of a staff member.

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