



University
of Glasgow

Music

Undergraduate study



The open and thoughtful environment of the University of Glasgow provides the space and time for you to learn to think for yourself and discover your own musical values and direction.



Choose Glasgow

Introduction

There are many reasons why you should choose to study music at the University of Glasgow.

- We offer three degree programmes giving you enormous choice: you can combine the study of music with a range of arts and social science subjects (MA), with engineering (BEng) or concentrate solely on music (BMus).
- In the latest independent survey of research quality, the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, music research at Glasgow was rated top in Scotland.
- All the staff and students have a lively and open-minded interest in music in all its variety; popular and classical, contemporary and historical.
- We believe in setting high professional standards of musicianship.
- We have research and teaching strengths in sonic arts, composition and musicology.
- Your compositions can receive performances from professional ensembles.
- Glasgow is a UNESCO City of Music and in terms of the quality and quantity of its musical life, is second only to London.

The study of music at university is unique in that it encourages and supports both intellectual development and individual creative practice.

You will be given the opportunity to

- practise and perform on an instrument or voice
- compose your own music
- work with music software and recording technology
- learn to think critically and passionately about music from the past
- deepen your understanding of the language of music
- consider trends within contemporary musical culture

Our campus

The University's compact main campus combines grand historical buildings with up-to-the-minute facilities. It's centred on a neo-gothic building with a spire offering breathtaking views across the city.

Come and visit us

Open Day

www.glasgow.ac.uk/openday

In June and September we hold an Open Day to allow you, your family and teachers to visit us on campus and see a little of the city.

Open Day allows you to speak to academic staff, find out more about courses, tour the facilities, visit student accommodation and see for yourself what life would be like as a student at Glasgow. If you have a long way to travel you can also stay in one of our student residences.

Alternative visiting arrangements

Open Day is the best way for you to get a comprehensive picture of what being a student here would be like. However, if for any reason you can't make it on that date, then we will be able to make alternative arrangements.

To find out more visit:
www.glasgow.ac.uk/afternoonvisits.

Applicants' Visit Day

At Glasgow we go the extra mile. If you receive an offer of a place at Glasgow, we will invite you to visit us before making your final decision. Applicants' Visit Day usually takes place in March. Details will be sent to you together with your offer of a place.

Where can I find out more?

You can visit our website at www.glasgow.ac.uk/music or contact Diane Thomson, tel: +44 (0)141 330 4093, email: d.thomson@music.gla.ac.uk.



‘All of the staff are very friendly and the lecturers make a real effort to make studying the subjects as enjoyable and interesting as possible.’

Louise Hendry, Philosophy and Music student (pictured left)

www.glasgow.ac.uk/music

Music

Degree: BMus

Typical offer

Highers AABB (first sitting)
AAAB (two sittings)

A-levels AAB (first sitting)
AAA (two sittings)

IB 34 points

For entry requirements visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/entryrequirements

The BMus is a single subject degree for those who are interested in pursuing a career in music. It provides a strong grounding in core disciplines and allows you to pursue your specialist interests in third and fourth years. Entrance to this degree is by audition on your instrument or voice. You will be expected to play to a grade 8 standard.

If you are admitted to this programme, you will be given a small bursary towards the cost of private instrumental or vocal tuition. While there is an emphasis on performance ability, only a small proportion of your time will be spent practicing in your first two years. We believe that it is important to be a well-rounded and complete musician, and our programme is designed to provide both a rigorous training in a range of musical practices, and an exploration of critical thinking about music.

What can I expect in first year?

In first year you will take courses in:

- Musicianship
- Performance
- Listening and repertory
- Orchestration

and one course taken from the following options:

- Aesthetics and philosophy of music
- Opera
- Popular music
- Romantic song
- JS Bach.

What can I expect in second year?

In second year you will take courses in:

- Musical techniques
- Composition
- Performance

and options from the following

- Sonic arts
- Aesthetics and philosophy of music
- Opera
- Popular music
- Romantic song
- JS Bach
- Analysis.

What happens next?

In the later part of your degree your studies become more specialised. You can take your composition further or concentrate on performance or pursue the creative use of music technology through 'sonic arts'. If music history and culture is of more interest then there are courses in 20th century music, chamber music, performance practice, and the music of Scotland. You can also take the dissertation option which allows you to pursue a research topic of your choice.

Music

Degree: MA

Typical offer

Highers AABB (first sitting)
AAAB (two sittings)

A-levels AAB (first sitting)
AAA (two sittings)

IB 34 points

For entry requirements visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/entryrequirements

This programme is for students who have ability in music and an interest in its cultural background and technique.

What can I expect in first year?

Initially you will take two courses that act as a foundation for future study in music.

Listening and repertory introduces you to the study of key musical works and widens your listening through a broad historical survey. This is taught via lectures and tutorial groups. Through particular attention to works and composers, you will learn about how pieces of music are structured and organised. You will learn to identify different historical styles and gain a sense of how and why music has changed from the medieval period to the present day.

Musicianship enhances your practical skills, music literacy, and critical skills, through group exercises and lectures. If students struggle with the technical side of music, plenty of help is on offer. You will be helped with harmony and counterpoint and composition; sight singing, music analysis, and writing about music. You will also explore the science of musical sound and technological aspects of music.

What can I expect in second year?

All students are required to take a course in musical techniques which helps you with the core musical disciplines of harmony and counterpoint and stylistic composition. In addition, you choose one course (or two if continuing to Music Honours) reflecting your own preferences and strengths. Most students choose a history topic (such as Bach, opera, romantic song, popular music), plus possibly composition, sonic arts, or aesthetics.

What happens next?

If you successfully complete the courses in the first and second years you have the opportunity to study at Honours level (third and fourth years). You can either combine music with another humanities subject (this is called Joint Honours) or concentrate wholly on music (this is called Single Honours).

In each year of Honours you will be given a choice of courses to take. In third year (your Junior Honours) you can make up a curriculum from:

- Historiography and criticism – looks at how music history is written
- Sonic arts – a course that focuses on the creative use of music technology
- Composition – is geared towards the preparation of a portfolio of original compositions
- Musical techniques (intermediate) – a more advanced harmony and counterpoint course
- Popular music – studies the history of popular music from the blues and jazz to punk and hip hop
- Aesthetics and philosophy of music
- Analysis
- Modernist musical aesthetics
- Opera – taught in conjunction with Scottish Opera and includes visits to the Theatre Royal
- Performance (subject to successful audition).

In fourth year (Senior Honours) you can choose from:

- Chamber music
- Composition
- Contemporary music ensemble
- Sonic arts
- Multimedia
- Notation
- Performance
- Performance practice
- Aspects of modernity
- The music of Scotland.



In your final year you will also be able to write a dissertation. This is an extended piece of research and writing on a topic of your own choice and for which you will receive one-to-one supervision.

Can I study abroad?

You may well have the opportunity to study abroad as part of your MA or BMus programme.

At Glasgow you can take advantage of a range of exciting opportunities to study abroad as part of your degree. Courses you take overseas form an integral part of your degree without adding an extra year or semester. The benefits are huge. You will not only be able to gain an entirely new perspective on your academic subject and enhance your employability, you will also find out new things about yourself, increase your independence, develop self-confidence, learn to live and work with people from different backgrounds and cultures and form a large circle of international friends.

Studying in Europe

You can study at more than 250 universities all over Europe under the Erasmus programme. Erasmus is an EC exchange programme that enables students in 31 European countries to study for part of their degree in another European country. Exchanges can last from 3-10 months and study credit is transferred to your home university.

Beyond Europe

The International Exchange Programme allows you to spend a year at institutions in Australia, Canada, Central & South America, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore and the USA. All the institutions teach in English except Chuo University in Japan and those in Central & South America.

The University holds a Study Abroad Fair every November. Information is also available on our website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/studying/exchange.

What are my career prospects?

Music degrees provide a sound foundation for careers in arts and music administration, journalism, publishing, teaching, librarianship, cultural entrepreneurship, as well as for careers in performance, composition or research. They also provide strong transferable skills applicable to a wide range of careers outside music.

Electronics with Music

Degrees: BEng, MEng

Typical offer for BEng

Highers AABB including Maths and Physics at AB/BA, and Music
A-levels BBB including Maths, Physics and Music

Typical offer for MEng

Highers AAAA or AAABB including Maths, Physics and Music
A-levels ABB including Maths, Physics and Music

For entry requirements visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/entryrequirements

This degree provides you with the opportunity to combine music with a thorough study of modern electronics leading to an engineering qualification accredited by the IET.

What can I expect in first year?

The music component of the BEng degree begins with a compulsory core course.

Sonic arts foundation introduces you to recording, the studios and music software. In addition you will take a course in musicianship. You can choose to take performance instead of musicianship but this requires you to audition on your instrument and you should be of grade 8 standard.

What can I expect in second year?

The following year you will work with software for audio-visual composition and interactive music programming. You also have a non-technical music option taken from

- Aesthetics and philosophy of music
- Composition
- Listening and repertory
- Musical techniques
- Performance
- Popular music
- Romantic song
- Opera
- JS Bach.

What happens next?

In your third year you will pursue electroacoustic composition and programming and take another non-technical music option. In your fourth year you will take a compulsory course in audio programming plus either sonic arts advanced (in which you will pursue an individual creative project) or performance.

Can I study abroad?

After an intensive language learning programme, fifth year students on the MEng degree can spend six months working on an industrial research project in a European engineering company. Over 25 companies and institutions in eight European countries are involved with this degree, offering individual placements to students in their research and development groups.

What are my career prospects?

Graduates are fully qualified electronic and electrical engineers with particular skills in music technology. This means that, although the degree is not intended as a vocational qualification in audio recording and production, you will have the option of seeking employment in the highly competitive world of the recording and broadcasting industries, but will also be qualified for the much broader field of employment offered by the electronics industry as a whole.

All our programmes require a blend of theoretical, historical and practical skills and produce confident and informed graduates with self-developed critical, creative and artistic skills.

www.glasgow.ac.uk/music



‘Scotland at its artsy, riotous, high-octane, good-time best.’

Lonely Planet



City of Glasgow

What is it like living and studying in Glasgow?

Named as one of the world’s top ten cities by independent travel guide *Lonely Planet*, Glasgow attracts the largest student population in Scotland. The city’s reputation for friendliness means that wherever you come from, you’ll soon treat it as your second home.

Music and nightlife

In an average week Glasgow hosts 123 bands, 72 classical composers, 49 choirs, 38 orchestras and 21 jazz bands. Renowned for discovering acts from Franz Ferdinand to Primal Scream, the city has fantastic venues for live music including King Tut’s Wah Wah Hut – voted UK’s best live venue by listeners of Radio 1 three years in a row.

More than 700 bars, pubs and nightclubs mean no two nights in Glasgow are the same. Whether you’re after a record-breaking 100-foot long bar where everyone can be a barfly (the Horseshoe), or a pub with a log fire, stuffed stags’ heads and kilted staff that’s as appealing as it is unpronounceable (Uisge Beatha), Glasgow has a venue to suit. Dance until you drop at the Subclub, or travel back to 1920s America at the Vegas clubnight on the Renfrew Ferry, it’s up to you.

Festivals

At least one festival every month of the year shows Glasgow loves to celebrate. Some of our favourites include Glasgow International Comedy Festival, Celtic Connections folk music festival, Glasgay, Piping Live!, Glasgow Film Festival and Aye Write!, the city’s book festival.

Culture

The city of Glasgow owns one of the richest collections in Europe, displayed in 13 museums and art galleries – and admission is free. You are spoilt for choice, with the city’s famous Burrell collection vying for attention beside Scotland’s most visited attraction, the Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, located next door to the University.

Sport

The city will host the Commonwealth Games in 2014. Across the world people know Glasgow as home of Celtic and Rangers football clubs, but with no fewer than 27 public fitness centres including swimming pools, running tracks, 11-a-side pitches and tennis courts, you’re guaranteed to find something to get involved with, whatever your level of fitness.

Campus culture

Are you craving cosy campus living or do you prefer big city excitement. Whichever is your style, you’ll be impressed by the University’s excellent location in the compact West End. Just two miles from the city centre, with great bus and underground links, the West End has a reputation as the bohemian, trendy and cosmopolitan quarter of Glasgow.



What our students say

‘Glasgow is such a diverse and vibrant city with lots to offer and a great social scene with a fantastic range of bars, clubs and music venues.’

Alexander Hutchison

‘I chose Glasgow because compared to the other cities I visited it just seemed like a much more lively place. I think the high student population makes it a very young city.’

Elizabeth Ritz

‘The campus at Glasgow is unbelievably beautiful. It’s hard to believe sometimes when walking down busy Byres Road and turning into University Avenue, that this Hogwarts is situated right in the heart of the West End.’

Beverley Simpson

‘Glasgow is very vibrant. The West End is like the village within the city.’

Sarah Gibson