



Module Handbook

**[Modules are available to students coming on the following incoming programmes:
non-European exchange; European exchange; full-year fee-paying study abroad]**

Incoming Students

Academic year 2026/2027

Music

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A: THE DEPARTMENT

The department's contact details are:

Department of Music
Durham University
Palace Green
Durham DH1 3RL
Email: music.operations@durham.ac.uk

Further information for exchange students can be found via University International Office link: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/international/studyabroad/incoming/>

We look forward to welcoming you to the Department!

A1: Exchange Coordinator

Exchange Coordinator:
Dr Eric Skytterholm Egan
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DH1 3RL
Email: music.exchange@durham.ac.uk

Music Department Administration:
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B: DEGREE STRUCTURE

All undergraduate degrees at Durham have a *modular* structure, consisting of six different modules each academic year for three years. Modules are either studied over all three terms of the teaching year (year-long format), though the majority of teaching occurs in the first two terms, or they are taught over one term (single-term format): details are given below. The terms at Durham in the 2026/2027 Academic Year are: **Michaelmas** from October to mid-December (10 weeks of teaching), **Epiphany** from mid-January to mid-March (10 weeks of teaching), and **Easter** from the end of April to mid-May (possibly up to two weeks of teaching, but mostly the exam period).

Modules are examined or assessed in the year in which they are taught, either during the year and/or during a dedicated exam period that takes place from the end of May to the middle of June. Over the course of the full year, a student will accrue 120 Durham credits: the equivalent of 60 ECTS. Students on European exchange are required to take a full-time course-load at the partner university in order to remain entitled to European funding and a study visa (if necessary). Please contact your departmental coordinator if you have any concerns about the number of courses you should be taking while at Durham.

Incoming European Exchanges students sometimes choose to study at Durham for one term – usually Michaelmas. This will mean that you only need to accrue 60 Durham credits (30 ECTS) during your stay, rather than 120 (60 ECTS). Because some of our modules run for the whole year, you may therefore need to take up to 6 modules during that one term (more details below), depending on the teaching formats of the modules you choose. Assessments for year-long modules may sometimes be modified from those given to our full-year students to suit the length of your programme of study and the material that you will cover during your one-term exchange. However, you will have some form of assessment and the marks will be passed on to your home university a few months after you leave. Please note: coming for Epiphany term (the second term) only is not impossible, but reduces the range of modules available to you: many modules cannot be picked up after missing the Michaelmas term's teaching (see Section D).

Most students opt to study at Durham for a full academic year and, if this is the case, are expected to submit the same assessments and sit exams in May-June, like all full-time Durham students. These marks will be conveyed back to your home institution after the Board of Examiners meets in the middle of June. The marks will be processed first by the department and then the university's central administration, after which they will be sent to your university (approximately 1-2 months later).

C: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

**This section contains important information for setting up your academic programme at Durham University.
Please read through this section carefully before considering your modules and filling in the Learning Agreement!**

C1: General

Choice of Modules

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR STUDENTS: PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR LEARNING AGREEMENT

At Durham University European agreements are signed by individual university departments and are not university-wide agreements. This means that, in general, students will have to choose modules (courses) within the Durham University department through which the European agreement with their home university has been signed (students should check with the Exchange Coordinator in their university if they are not sure which department this is). Modules offered by other departments are subject to availability and can only be taken with prior consent from the relevant department. *Incoming students must take at least 50% of their modules in the host department and can take modules outside in no more than two additional departments.* Certain restrictions may also apply to courses in some departments and students need to follow the advice below carefully before completing their application form.

Please clearly indicate the modules you wish to take in the application form for approval by the respective department(s). Before completing your application form, it is very important that you read carefully the relevant departmental section(s) of the Module Handbook to check which modules are available to you and any restrictions which may apply. It is imperative that a properly completed application form is submitted. Only complete applications can be processed.

Section *D: Module Details* provides a list of modules available for European students in the department where the agreement has been established (receiving department) as well as a list of modules available for students coming in through other departments (external departments). Please choose from these modules only!

To find out about the details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>.

C2: Departmental Requirements and Restrictions

The Department requires students to have studied Music at A-level or its equivalent, but we will assess every application individually.

If the Exchange Coordinator has concerns about the modules you choose to study at Durham, you might be contacted directly to discuss your choices. New choices can be made upon your arrival, but it is preferable to avoid this if at all possible. However, it does happen and we can accommodate new choices if your interests have changed or you find timetabling conflicts.

D: MODULE DETAILS

This section contains a list of modules exchange students can choose from. Please only select from the modules listed in sections D1 or D2 in this Module Handbook (unless you are choosing modules from another department, in which case you need to consult their Module handbook)!

To find further details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc.) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under: [Programme and Module Handbook: Undergraduate Programme and Module Handbook 2026-2027 - modules search](#).

As indicated by the key below, modules may run over the whole year (year-long format) or just over one term (single-term format).

For those students coming for 1 term only:

Students staying for 1 term only need to accrue 60 Durham credits (30 ECTS). This can be either

- 3 x single-term modules (that are completed during that term): 3 x 20 credits.
- 6 x year-long modules (that run over the whole year and will only be half-completed during that term, and assessed by alternative assessments): 6 x 10 credits
- a combination eg. 1 x single-term module (20 credits) plus 4 x year-long modules (4 x 10 credits) OR 2 x single-term module (2 x 20 credits) plus 2 x year-long modules (2 x 10 credits)

Please note that if you take half of a year-long module, grades will not be given on the official Durham transcript but an additional document will be produced for home universities.

D1: Modules available to exchange students coming on a departmental link

Availability of modules for single-term exchange students:

- (1) Single-Term Module: will be taught in the Michaelmas Term only (2026/2027)
- (2) Single-Term Module: will be taught in the Epiphany Term only (2026/2027)

- (3) Year-Long Module: can be taken if exchange is in either Michaelmas or Epiphany Term
- (4) Year-Long Module: can only be taken if exchange is in Michaelmas Term
- (5) Year-Long Module: cannot be taken by single-term exchange students

NB: students on year-long exchanges are not limited by the factors listed above and are able to choose freely among all modules listed below (unless limited by other factors).

Modules Studied in Level 1

MODULE NAME	MODULE NUMBER	DURHAM CREDITS
(3) Historical Composition Techniques	MUSI1211	20
EITHER (3) Performance 1: Practice through History (with recital) (audition required)	MUSI1241	20
OR (4) Performance 1: Practice through History (with essay) (no audition required)	MUSI1291	20
(3) Introduction to Ethnomusicology	MUSI1251	20
(3) Analysis 1: Elements of Western Tonal Theory and Practice	MUSI1281	20
(3) Composition 1: 20 th -Century Innovations	MUSI1271	20
(4) What is the History of Western Music?	MUSI1301	20

Modules Studied in Level 2

MODULE NAME	MODULE NUMBER	DURHAM CREDITS
(2) Music and Place	MUSI2791	20
(4) Performance 2: Practice as Research (audition required)	MUSI2711	20
(3) Composition 2: New Directions in Art Music	MUSI2311	20
(3) Orchestration	MUSI2541	20
(3) Advanced Historical Composition Techniques	MUSI2601	20
(1) Analysis 2: Theory and Analysis of Western Music, 1700-1950.	MUSI2611	20
(1) Studies in the History of Opera	MUSI2651	20
(2) Defining Music in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries	MUSI2691	20
(2) Studies in Popular Music	MUSI2671	20
(1) Music and Science	MUSI2731	20
(1) The Music of India	MUSI2771	20
(5) Conducting	MUSI2581	20

Modules Studied in Level 3

MODULE NAME	MODULE NUMBER	DURHAM CREDITS
(4) Contemporary Music Performance	MUSI3611	20
EITHER (5) Performance 3: Performance Project (single) (audition required)	MUSI3621	20
OR (5) Performance 3: Performance Project (double) (audition required)	MUSI3672	40
(5) Advanced Ethnomusicology	MUSI3691	20
(5) Words and Music	MUSI3731	20
(5) Psychology of Music	MUSI3781	20
(5) Music and Politics in France, 1789-1815	MUSI3741	20

(5) Music Theology	MUSI3711	20
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Please note:

Suitably qualified students at postgraduate level may also be able to select modules offered to MA Music students at Durham. More details of our postgraduate programmes and modules can be found at the following link: [Taught Masters - Durham University](#).

Please contact the Exchange Coordinator, if you wish to be considered for this option to determine if you have the appropriate background knowledge.

D2: Modules for exchange students coming on an external link (through a different department)

For students with no prior academic study of Music, there are two year-long Level 1 modules available.

YEAR 1

MODULE NAME	MODULE NUMBER	DURHAM CREDITS
Introduction to Ethnomusicology	MUSI1251	20
Historical and Analysis of Western Music	MUSI1301	20

Students who already possess a background in Music should refer to section D1 for a more appropriate choice of modules. The Year 1 modules above *can* be made available to students with a background in Music, but if they have already studied Music at undergraduate level for a number of years they may wish to choose more advanced options.

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