



# MUSIC

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[gold.ac.uk/music](http://gold.ac.uk/music)

Undergraduate

**Goldsmiths**  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

From symphonies to soundscape, and from Errollyn Wallen to James Blake, music at Goldsmiths is distinctive and inclusive.

Our music degrees bring together the academic with the creative, letting you explore classical, contemporary, sonic arts, audiovisual, ethnographic and popular music studies.

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## Why choose Music at Goldsmiths?

We focus on your creative development, encouraging ambition and independence, enabling you to make music that's true to your identity. You'll graduate with an impressive and diverse set of skills, equipped for a range of music careers, whether in performance, composition, education, the arts sector or the creative industries.

As a student at Goldsmiths you'll perform, compose, study and experiment - ultimately specialising in the subjects that interest you most. We provide a host of performance opportunities, including the Goldsmiths Sinfonia, GVE (Goldsmiths Vocal Ensemble), the Chamber Choir, and the Creative Jazz Ensemble. These culminate in our end-of-year degree shows and public music festival, PureGold.

You will have access to our commercial-standard recording studio and the Stanley Glasser Electronic Music Studios, and you will have the opportunity to gain work experience through our professional practice scheme linked to London-based music institutions.

# OUR DEGREES



BMus (Hons) Music

BMus/BSc (Hons)  
Music Computing

BMus (Hons) Popular Music

International Foundation  
Certificate in Music

International Foundation  
Certificate in Music Computing

## BMus (Hons) Music

3 years full-time, or 4+ years part-time  
[www.gold.ac.uk/ug/bmus-music](http://www.gold.ac.uk/ug/bmus-music)

This degree allows you to rethink music study and practice through an exciting and diverse array of modules.

In your first year you'll develop your solo and ensemble performance skills, with instrumental or vocal lessons from high-level professional performers.

You'll learn about contemporary composition, developing creative strategies in rhythm, melody, harmony, instrumentation and improvisation, performing your pieces with your fellow students.

You'll build a foundation of knowledge of Western art music from the Middle Ages to the late 19th century, developing your listening and critical writing skills, and be introduced to debates on the music from our own time.

You'll explore the creative use of music technology, including analogue and digital recording techniques, computer-based audio production, and developing good practice in working in a recording studio.

In your second year, you'll select from a large range of historical, contextual, technical and creative modules, allowing you to continue performance studies, and to further explore contemporary composition, sonic arts, media composition, world music, and jazz.

In your third year, you'll have the opportunity to develop a substantial performance recital, a portfolio of compositions (including work for our ensemble-in-residence), or an individual creative project stemming out of your second year studies. You can also opt to take specialised modules in, for example, music teaching and workshop skills, gamelan, orchestration, music psychology, and audiovisual composition.

## TYPICAL MODULES

### Year 1

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Approaches to Contemporary Music  
Composition  
Creative Music Technology  
Performance Techniques and Repertoire  
Western Art Music: 900-1900

### Year 2

#### *A range of modules developing your own interests, including:*

At least two options from Group A  
Plus options from Group B  
(see page 14)

### Year 3

#### *A range of modules developing your own interests, including:*

One or two options from Group C  
Plus options from Group D  
(see page 15)

## BMus/BSc (Hons) Music Computing

3 years full-time, or 4 years full-time including industry placement, or 4+ years part-time  
[gold.ac.uk/ug/bmus-bsc-music-computing](http://gold.ac.uk/ug/bmus-bsc-music-computing)

On this degree, you'll engage in a discipline that combines performance, composition, musicology, design, psychoacoustics, digital signal processing, and computer science.

You'll create your own music software to further your artistic goals and help pioneer the future of electronic music and digital audio production.

You'll have the choice to pursue a more technical or artistic path of study, leading to either a Bachelor of Science (BSc) or a Bachelor of Music (BMus) qualification.

In your first year, you'll begin to explore the interrelationships between theories of music and computing, and between theoretical understanding and creative practice. You will study the nature of digital audio representation at a sophisticated level, as well as electronic music composition and performance.

In your second year you'll explore software design, sonic art, contemporary composition and digital signal processing. You'll look at the way computers listen to and analyse sound, and how they can generate or 'invent' processes and structure for music. You'll create performances and design software tools to use within them.

In your third year you'll complete a major independent research project in computing or music. You'll also have the choice of a range of options from both computing and music (see page 15).

### Year 1

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Introduction to Programming  
 Sound and Signal  
 Numerical Maths  
 Music Computing 1  
 Live Performance Systems  
 Approaches to Contemporary Music  
 Electronic Music Composition and History

### Year 2

#### *Compulsory module:*

Music Computing 2  
 Perception and Multimedia Computing

*Plus options from both Group A and Group B (see page 14)*

*Plus one computing module from:*

Principles and Applications of Programming  
 Creative Projects

### Year 3

#### *Compulsory module:*

Major Project in Computing or Music  
*Plus options from Group C and Group D (see page 15)*  
*Plus computing options such as:*  
 Advanced Audio-Visual Processing  
 Machine Learning  
 Physical Computing

## BMus (Hons) Popular Music

3 years full-time, or 4+ years part-time  
[gold.ac.uk/ug/bmus-popular-music](http://gold.ac.uk/ug/bmus-popular-music)

From the mainstream to the radical underground, this degree embraces popular music in its many current forms (and some that we haven't thought of yet). At the heart of the degree is the exploration of creative practice, with many opportunities to expand and develop new skills: in individual and collective music-making; in writing and recording music for artist projects, new bands, site-specific works or for moving image media; and in critical thinking.

Facilities include rehearsal rooms, audio workstations, and studio facilities in our Electronic and Goldsmiths Music Studios. We also host NX Records, a professional, independent label set up in collaboration with Matthew Herbert's Accidental Records. Students can submit tracks and have the chance to be signed to the label, alongside other entrepreneurial and DIY projects and activities. Final year students perform degree shows at The Albany, Deptford, in a fully equipped 300-seat music venue.

In your first year, you'll take core modules that cover diverse themes, genres and debates fundamental to an understanding of music today. In your second year, you'll take at least two options from our Group A modules that are historical or contextual, plus any from our Group B range of creative/technical/practical modules (see page 16). In your third year, you'll complete one or two modules from Group C - a major practical or music research project - and your choice of specialist music options from Group D (see page 17).

### Year 1

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Creative Music Technology  
 Approaches to Contemporary Music  
 Folk and Urban Music  
 Popular Music Contexts  
 Practical Popular Music Studies  
 Popular Music History

### Year 2

*A range of modules developing your own interests, including:*

At least two options from Group A  
 At least two options from Group B (see page 16)

*Plus up to 30 credits of related studies modules from other departments*

### Year 3

*A range of modules developing your own interests, including:*

Up to two options from Group C  
 Options from Group D (see page 17)

*Plus up to 30 credits of related studies modules from other departments*

# International Foundation Certificate in Music

1 year full-time  
[gold.ac.uk/ug/foundation-music](http://gold.ac.uk/ug/foundation-music)

You'll develop your English language, become familiar with UK academic culture, and prepare to study for a BMus in Music. Half of your programme focuses on the four aspects of your English language development: academic writing, reading, listening and speaking.

You'll cover essay writing, and the logic underlying Western academic writing conventions. To enhance your listening skills, you'll engage with a wide range of challenging and interesting recordings related to the arts, current affairs, media, and aspects of British culture. You'll improve your speaking skills by giving presentations and receiving input on effective seminar techniques.

In the other half of the programme, you'll be introduced to the historical and cultural context of music studies and develop your own musicianship.

You'll have a personal tutor who you'll meet in small groups or on a one-to-one basis to discuss your progress. Your tutor will also support you in finalising your plans for future study.

The programme is typically made up of the following modules:

## **English for Academic Purposes - Academic Reading and Writing and Academic Listening and Speaking**

Students on all IFC Pathways take both of these core modules, designed to develop your

ability and confidence in the four key areas of writing, reading, listening and speaking.

## **Composition and Music Technology**

You'll be introduced to a number of compositional techniques and develop basic musico-technological skills.

## **Performance and Analysis**

You'll develop not only performance techniques, which will make you a more confident performer, but also analytic methods of musical investigation, which will enable you to understand music more fully and to reflect that understanding in your performance. As part of the module, you'll be given 12 hours of individual instrumental/vocal tuition.

## **Music in Context**

You'll be introduced to the development of music in its historical and cultural context. The module explores musical repertoires of all kinds (from classical, electronic, to popular) and of all periods (from medieval, renaissance, to contemporary). You'll focus particularly upon the stylistic/formal changes in music. As part of the course, you will develop your understanding and aural perception of diverse musical styles, and familiarise yourself with technical terms and definitions important in musical studies.

## **Topics in Music Studies**

You'll develop your understanding of music studies and be introduced to a variety of musical works that have acquired importance in western culture. The works will be chosen from not only the art music category but also from music in popular or commercial vein to demonstrate a variety of forms, performance forces, styles and cultural functions. Also the module will require you to reflect on why musical works have become accepted in the way they have, and whether things might have been otherwise.

# International Foundation Certificate in Music Computing

1 year full-time

[gold.ac.uk/ug/foundation-music-computing](http://gold.ac.uk/ug/foundation-music-computing)

This programme is ideal for students who need a year to develop or consolidate their language skills in academic English and familiarise themselves with ways of working in British academic culture and with the standards required at degree level.

You'll have a personal tutor who you'll meet in small groups or on a one-to-one basis to discuss your progress. Your tutor will also support you in finalising your plans for future study.

Half of your programme focuses on the four aspects of your English language development: academic writing, reading, listening and speaking. The other half of the programme will introduce you to the historical and cultural context of music studies and the foundations of computing and programming.

You'll cover essay writing, and the logic underlying Western academic writing conventions. You'll enhance your listening skills with a wide range of challenging recordings related to the arts, current affairs and the media, and improve your speaking skills by giving presentations and receiving input on effective seminar techniques.

The programme is typically made up of the following modules:

**English for Academic Purposes - Academic Reading and Writing and Academic Listening and Speaking**

Students on all IFC Pathways take both of these core modules, designed to develop your ability and confidence in the four key areas of writing, reading, listening and speaking.

## Music in Context

You'll be introduced to the development of music in its historical and cultural context. The module explores musical repertoires of all kinds (from classical, electronic, to popular) and of all periods (from medieval, renaissance, to contemporary). You'll focus particularly upon the stylistic/formal changes in music. As part of the course, you will develop your understanding and aural perception of diverse musical styles, and familiarise yourself with technical terms and definitions important in musical studies.

## Foundations of Computer Programming

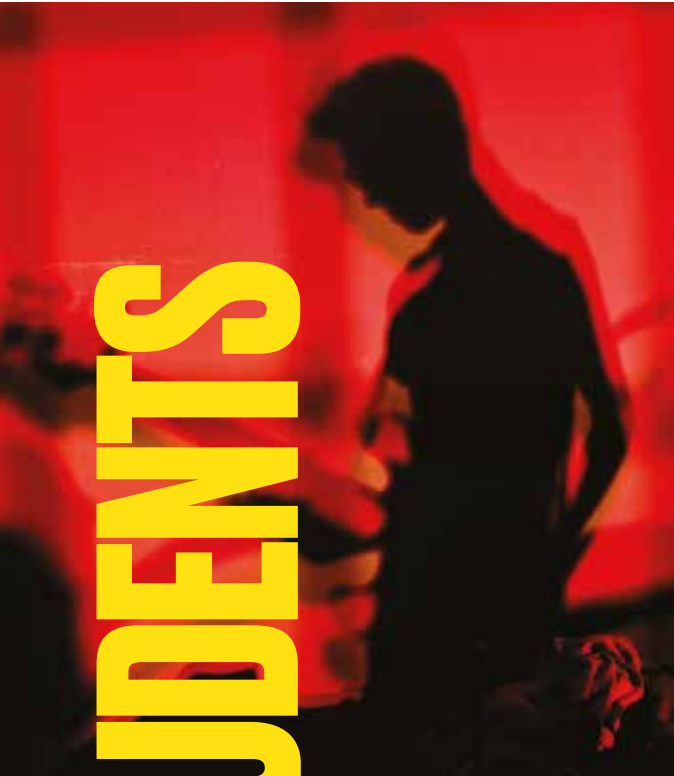
You'll be provided with the background you need to use a computer to develop and execute simple software programs. This will prepare you for the programming modules in the first year of the Music Computing degree (page 6). This module is appropriate for everyone, including those with no prior knowledge of programming.

## Topics in Music Studies or Composition and Music Technology

You choose whether to take a music studies module or focus on composition and the role of technology in music.

In Topics in Music Studies you'll be introduced to a variety of musical works that have acquired importance in western culture. You will reflect on why musical works have become accepted in the way they have, and whether things might have been otherwise. Composition and Music Technology introduces you to a number of compositional techniques and gives you a grounding in basic musico-technological skills.

# OUR STUDENTS



Sharon  
BMus Music

“I’ve grown in confidence as a person and in my knowledge, understanding and appreciation of music. Lecturers are inspiring and really know their subject; they supported and encouraged me to succeed. There is an infectious thirst for learning at Goldsmiths; I will never forget my time there, and I remain friends with those I studied with.”

Zebedee  
BMus/BSc Music Computing

“Above all others, there are two subjects that have captivated me for my entire life: music and technology. On this degree I learned to program computers as a compositional technique; I learned how effects and synthesisers work by building them in code; I even learned how to utilise advanced artificial intelligence to create my own virtual musicians.”



Goldsmiths is ranked 22nd in the world for performing arts in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2017



Paul Englishby  
(BMus Music), Emmy  
Award-winning composer

“I had a brilliant time at Goldsmiths; I wrote music for the concert hall, dance pieces, scores for plays in

the drama department, and worked with artists from the art department on installations. I wrote for the big band, the orchestra and choir, conducted a lot and played the piano in the evenings in hotels and bars to earn some money.

The teaching was great, and I also felt there was an understanding of the individual’s particular musical personality, which meant that I was encouraged to create outside the BMus

course. I learnt a great deal about collaboration with people working in other media. All of these skills I use in my work today. I write music every day, for theatre, TV, film or concert pieces, collaborating all the time. I’m lucky enough to conduct orchestras and ensembles here and abroad, work in London’s best studios with the best players around. I wouldn’t have the grounding or confidence had it not been for my time at Goldsmiths.”



# BMus (Music)

## Typical options in Year 2 & 3

### Group A

Classical Versus Common Music  
(1700-1800)

Musicians, Commerce  
and Commodification

Russian Music in Context:  
Glinka to Stravinsky

Music and Identity

Music in Film

Music of Africa and Asia

Romanticism and its Legacy

Mapping 20th-Century Music

Aesthetics, Meaning and Culture

What is Jazz?

### Group B

Performance: Styles and Contexts

Sonic Art Techniques

Techniques of Contemporary Composition

Composition: Creative Strategies

Sonic Art Practice

Media Composition

Techniques in Jazz and Popular Music

Arranging in Jazz and Popular Music

### Group C

Advanced Performance

Composition Portfolio

Creative Research Project

Research Essay

### Group D

Minimalism and Postminimalism

Phonography

Live Electronics

Improvisation

Performing South-East Asian Music

Psychological Approaches to Music

Creative Orchestration and Arrangement

Advanced Topics in Music History

Advanced Topics in Music and  
Screen Media

Soviet Music and Politics

Musical Structure and Understanding

Outsider Sound and Fringe Aesthetics

Music/Modernities

Introduction to Audiovisual Composition

Music Workshop Skills

Music Teaching Skills

MUSIC OPTIONS



# BMus (Popular Music)

## Typical options in Year 2 & 3

MUSIC  
OPTIONS

### Group A

Music in Film  
Musicians, Commerce  
and Commodification  
Music of Africa and Asia  
Music and Identity  
Mapping 20th-Century Music

### Group B

Sonic Art Techniques  
Performance: Ensemble  
Songwriting  
Popular Music Production  
Sonic Art Practice  
Media Composition  
Performance: New Contexts  
Techniques in Jazz  
and Popular Music  
Arranging in Jazz  
and Popular Music

### Group C

Creative Performance  
Creative Research Project  
Research Essay

### Group D

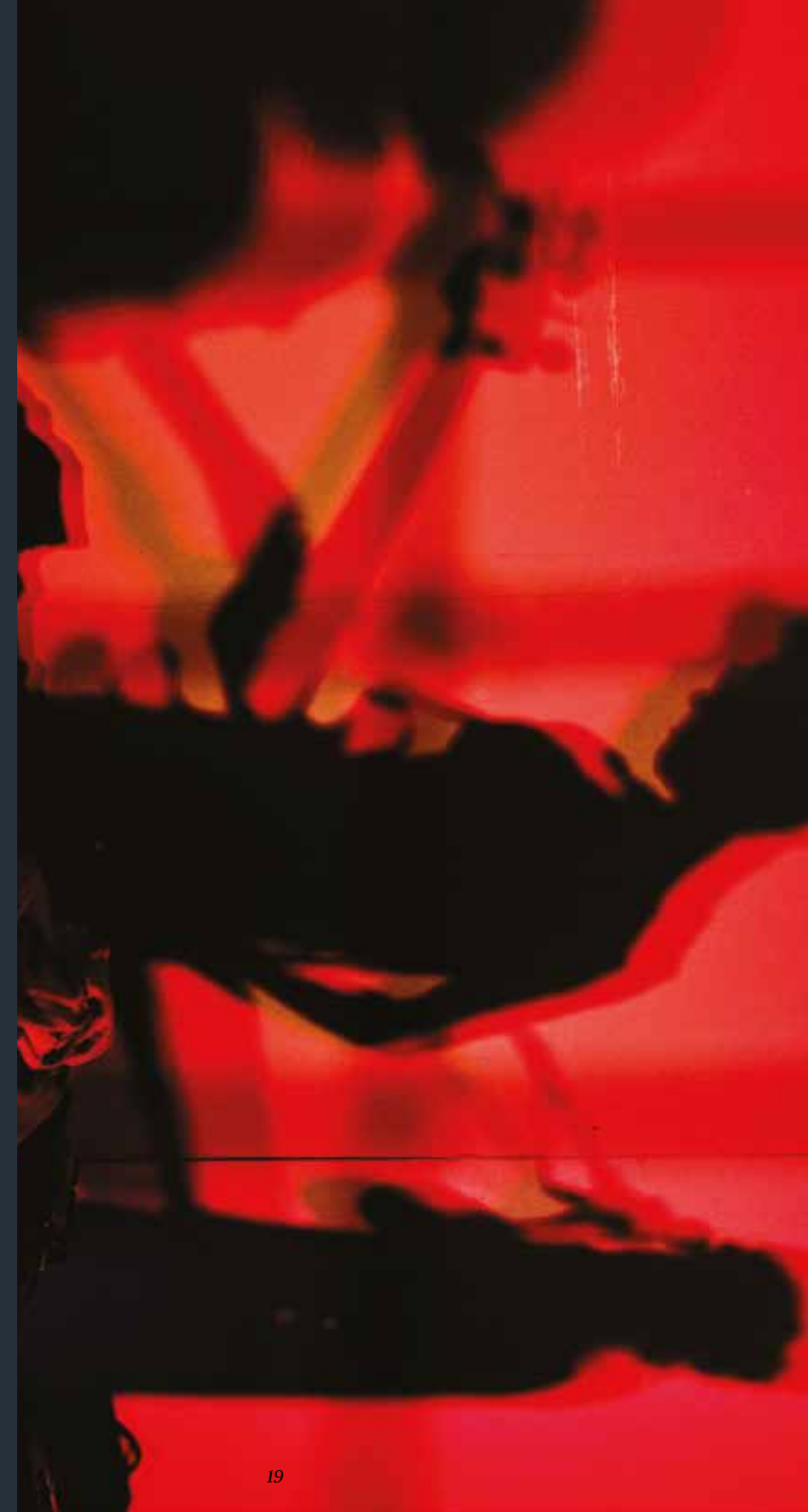
Minimalism and Post-minimalism  
Phonography  
Live Electronics  
Narrative, Representation  
and Popular Song  
Improvisation  
Performing South-East Asian Music  
Psychological Approaches to Music  
Creative Orchestration  
and Arrangement  
Outsider Sound  
and Fringe Aesthetics  
Music/Modernities  
Introduction to Audiovisual Composition  
Advanced Topics in Music and  
Screen Media  
DIY Practice and Alternative Sites for Music  
Music Workshop Skills  
Music Teaching Skills

## Goldsmiths prepares you for life beyond study.

Music graduates have very good employment rates, because they are often highly trained in the kinds of transferable skills employers are seeking, such as individual motivation, team work and effective communication.

Our graduate destinations include: classical and popular music performance, composition, songwriting, media and theatre composition, songwriting, music production, education, music publishing, orchestration and arranging, and conducting. Many of our students also proceed to Masters' and Doctoral study in performance, composition, sonic arts and musicology.

YOUR FUTURE





FIND OUT MORE

Find out more about the  
department and degrees:  
[gold.ac.uk/music](http://gold.ac.uk/music)

Watch our departmental film at:  
[vimeo.com/goldsmiths/music](http://vimeo.com/goldsmiths/music)

Get in touch with our  
Enquiries team:  
+44 (0)20 7078 5300  
[course-info@gold.ac.uk](mailto:course-info@gold.ac.uk)

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The information in this booklet reflects the 2017-18 programme specifications and was correct at the time of print in June 2017. It is intended as a guide only and the information here is not intended to be binding. You can download the most up-to-date programme specifications from our degree pages by visiting [gold.ac.uk/course-finder](http://gold.ac.uk/course-finder)

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