

2.2 Graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music (GRNCM) Specification

UCAS Code: 399F
Awarding Institution: Royal Northern College of Music
Course Leader: Dr Annika Forkert

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1. INTRODUCTORY COURSE INFORMATION

Award On successful completion of the course, students will receive:	Duration		Mode of study
Graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music (GRNCM)	4 years		Full-time

No part-time study is permitted.

Awarding Institution: RNCM
Teaching Institution: RNCM
Period of Registration: **Minimum:** 3 Years **Maximum:** Normally, 5 Years
Academic Year: September to July

Date of Writing:	March 2021
Programme Approval:	From: September 2021 To: August 2022

2. CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION AND ENTRY

Applicants will normally be expected to achieve the following minimum requirements before entry to the GRNCM programme:

- a successful audition by RNCM staff in the year prior to entry demonstrating a high standard of performance/composition ability and potential, of at least ABRSM Grade 8 standard
- normally be 18 years of age by 31st December in the year of entry
- successful interview by the University of Manchester
- meet the detailed academic and language entry requirements of the University of Manchester Mus.B.)

Selection Process

Around 20-25 applicants are shortlisted for audition at the College. Shortlisted applicants will be given an audition in their Principal Study and an interview with staff from the School of Study within which their Principal Study will reside. This audition/interview is conducted to assess the suitability of applicants for the GRNCM programme.

Shortlisted applicants, who are deemed to be potentially suitable both for the GRNCM programme and for the Mus.B. (Hons) programme of the University of Manchester will undertake a further interview with the Admissions Tutor of the University of Manchester Music Department (or her/his representative). The interview panels in both institutions will assess an applicant's potential to flourish as a consequence of the rigours of the parallel programmes. Applicants will therefore normally demonstrate a record of practical and academic excellence.

The nature of the parallel programmes, and the accumulation of credits separately from both the RNCM and the University of Manchester, mean that the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) and the Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning (APCL) will rarely be possible. In exceptional circumstances, for the purposes of APEL and APCL applicants, a panel will be constituted of the V-P (Academic), the Head of the relevant Principal Study School and the Admissions Tutor of the University of Manchester, Department of Music to discuss the relevance of the applicant's previous experience and/or qualifications.

Transfer

Transfer onto the Graduate Diploma course (GRNCM) from either of the Bachelor of Music courses, at the University of Manchester or RNCM, is not permitted

* The policy for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) may be found in the Student Regulations and Associated Information, see Annex for links. All the credits awarded through APL must be endorsed by the Board of Examiners.

3. COURSE OVERVIEW

All areas of the programme are complementary, cross-referencing one another wherever possible. The programme is also adaptive: as students progress, they select options enabling them to explore and develop their areas of specialism. This may happen through the selection of electives, or options in Artist Development modules, in Years 3 & 4 for example.

Years 1 & 2:

- You will spend at least one hour per week in your one-to-one lesson with your vocal, instrumental or composition tutor. This study prepares you for a technical assessment (indicative elements might include scales and extracts, quick studies, composition according to a specific brief, etc.), and a final performance assessment in summer. You will take part, and be assessed in, ensemble and collaborative projects.
- Additionally, you will attend various other classes with your school (Composition; Keyboard; Strings; Wind, Brass and Percussion; Vocal and Opera), such as masterclasses with visiting internationally recognized artists, performance classes, and ensemble training.
- Popular Music students taking the GRNCM will attend Production 1 in Year 1 and Composition 2 in Year 2.

Years 3 & 4:

- You will continue with your weekly one-to-one instrumental / composition / vocal lesson.
- You will choose specialist areas of study each year from a choice of electives. In Year 3 you will take a Principal Study Elective option or one Artist Development 3 Elective (Popular Music). In Year 4 you can take another Principal Study Elective option, or options from other electives exploring topics including education, health and wellbeing, psychology, musicology, technology, media and technology, and the music industry. In year 4, you will complete a work-based Professional Placement, for example, working with staff and College partners in the field of music and health, arts administration, education, sound engineering, and recording. Popular Music students taking the GRNCM will choose one Artist Development 3/4 Elective and the Artist Development 4: Professional Engagement module. Along with this tuition, instrumentalists and singers join a variety of college ensembles and opera cast(s), delivering performances throughout the year. Composers hear their own compositions for any ensemble performed in full. Students have many opportunities to perform as part of their own ensemble(s) or as soloists in a wide range of concerts and productions.

MODULE MAP

Modules	Credit Available	Four Year Route
Principal Study 1 / Performance 1 (Pop)	40 (20 ECTS)	Year 1
Ensembles 1 / Production 1 (Pop)	20 (10 ECTS)	Year 1
		60 Credits
Principal Study 2 / Performance 2 (Pop)	40 (20 ECTS)	Year 2
Ensembles 2 / Composition 2 (Pop)	20 (10 ECTS)	Year 2
		60 Credits
Principal Study 3 / Performance 3 (Pop)	40 (20 ECTS)	Year 3
Principal Study Elective / Artist Development 3 Elective (Pop)	20 (10 ECTS)	Year 3
		60 Credits
Principal Study 4 / Performance 4 (Pop)	60 (30 ECTS)	Year 4
Elective / Artist Development 3&4 Elective (Pop)	20 (10 ECTS)	Year 4
Professional Placement / Artist Development 4: Professional Engagement (Pop)	20 (10 ECTS)	Year 4
		100 Credits
TOTAL Credits	280 (170 ECTS)	280 (170 ECTS)

Work-Placement	Compulsory in year 4, concurrently with your studies, include training and contact with industry partners
Timetables	Normally available two weeks before each part of the academic year begins, although alterations may be made during the first weeks. Please note that students are expected to schedule their own one-to-one Principal Study tuition with their designated tutor, avoiding any clashes.

4. TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

Teaching methods aim to support the learning needs of all students. The essential specialist training for performers and composers is necessarily one-to-one, complemented and supported by performance classes, masterclasses and small ensemble coaching. Alongside Principal Study/Performance and Ensembles/Production & Composition tuition, students may attend lectures, seminars, workshops and tutorials for Artist Development and Professional Placement. Electives take many forms, and their teaching methods include all of the above approaches.

This variety allows students to learn in numerous different contexts within each year and module of the programme. Most modules include more than one teaching method and all teaching at the RNCM requires students to take responsibility for their own private study, practice, reading, and listening.

The College's virtual learning environment, Moodle, is used to support all areas of study, and includes activities, supporting materials, details of modules, and multimedia content. Moodle is also the repository for student assignment submissions and the return of feedback. It links directly to library resources, including online content, facilitating research and enabling ready access to materials set by tutors for preparation in advance of classes.

INDEPENDENT LEARNING

When not attending lectures, seminars or other timetabled sessions, students are expected to continue learning independently through private study. Typically, this will involve practising or composing, reading journal articles, books and online research resources, working on individual and group projects, undertaking research in the library, preparing coursework assignments and presentations, and preparing for assessments. Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent facilities, including the library, practice rooms, labs, and state-of-the art performance venues.

5. ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Assessment methods are designed to develop and evaluate various skills in all students. Feedback is provided on all assessments, enabling students to enhance their learning by acting on constructive criticism and appraisals given in the context of all modules, both formatively and in relation to summative, credit-bearing assessments.

Students constantly receive informal feedback on their progress in lessons, performance classes, and in many other teaching encounters. For formal assessments, we aim for students to receive feedback within three weeks of submission or performance, and often sooner. Feedback is uploaded to the virtual learning environment, Moodle, following moderation.

Assessment methods are diverse, and include the following:

- Live performance or composition portfolio assessment (e.g., Principal Study/Performance modules, Ensembles, many Elective options)
- Written assessment (e.g. Electives)
- Reflective portfolio (e.g., Professional Placement)
- Presentation (an option in many Electives)
- Vlog or blog (Professional Placement, Artist Development 4: Professional Engagement)

The assessment regulations for the College are contained in the Academic Regulations.

Progression

- The pass mark throughout the programme is 40%
- To progress from Years 1 to 2 and Years 2 to 3 the student must have successfully completed 60 credits at FHEQ Levels 4 and 5 respectively
- There is no element of compensation for this programme
- For the purpose of differentiating the award the Board of Examiners will consider marks from those modules, totalling 100 credits, undertaken in Year 4 of the programme.
- Summary of marks and their interpretation for honours degree classification:
 - Upper level: 60% or above
 - Lower level: 40% and above but less than 60%
 - Fail: less than 40%

The RNCM Academic Regulations may be found on the College Website – see References and Further Information in the Annex.

Feedback

You will receive feedback on all formal assessments undertaken by coursework and recital. Feedback is intended to help you learn and you are encouraged to discuss it with relevant tutors.

We aim to provide you with feedback within three weeks of assessment.

Note: You must achieve a pass mark of 40% and above in all modules as a prerequisite, before progression / award.

The RNCM Academic Regulations may be found on the College Website – see References and Further Information in the Annex.

Graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music (GRNCM)

Award Title	Credits Required
Graduate of the RNCM (GRNCM)	280 credits: 60 credits at level 4; 60 credits at level 5; 160 credits at level 6
The award of the Pass Degree is conditional upon: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) the candidate submitting herself/ himself for the examination in all 100 credits which constitute Year 4 of the programme;ii) A student who fails or who elects to leave before the completion of the four year programme is not entitled to an interim award from the RNCM.	

5. ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

6. STUDENT SUPPORT, DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING

7. EMPLOYMENT

8. COURSE COSTS

9. THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

10. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND DIVERSITY

ANNEX: BENCHMARKING, REFERENCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

See above, pp. 21-25.