

Royal Northern College of Music

Candidate Pack

Vacancy: Lecturer in Music Education

Reference No: 2526-10

Closing Date: 12 Noon, Friday 16 January 2026

Interview Date: Thursday 29 & Friday 30 January 2026

RNCM
ROYAL NORTHERN
COLLEGE of MUSIC

Job Description

Job title: Lecturer in Music Education

Department: School of Academic Studies

Responsible to: Programme Lead, Music Education

Responsible for: Part-Time Tutors (As applicable)

Overall Purpose of the Job

The role holder will contribute to the delivery, coordination, assessment, and supervision of modules in music education across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, with a particular focus on the Master of Education (MEd) degree.

They will design and deliver teaching in areas such as music pedagogy, curriculum design, educational theory and practice, music learning in schools and communities, and inclusive education. The role will involve supervising postgraduate dissertations and contributing to student teacher observations where appropriate.

The post holder will promote diversity and inclusivity in both curriculum content and pedagogy, supporting students to become reflective, research-informed practitioners across school, community, and other educational settings.

They will contribute to the ongoing development of the College's music education provision, linking practice and theory, and connecting pre-tertiary and higher education contexts.

The role holder will also engage with colleagues across other curriculum strands such as performance, composition, community engagement, and health and wellbeing, ensuring that music education remains a central and connected element of the College's academic and professional programmes.

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties

- Deliver high-quality teaching, supervision, and assessment across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, including the Master of Education (MEd).
- Plan and deliver lectures, seminars, and workshops in music education, drawing on current theory, research, and practice.
- Supervise postgraduate dissertations and support undergraduate projects where appropriate.
- Undertake student teacher observations where appropriate and provide feedback and guidance to students in professional practice settings.
- Contribute to the development of teaching materials, curriculum innovation, and inclusive pedagogical approaches.
- Engage with external partners, including schools, music hubs, and community organisations, to support students' learning and professional development.
- Assess and moderate student work at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

- Participate in relevant programme meetings, examination boards, and other academic or administrative duties as required.
- Maintain and develop subject knowledge and professional practice in music education, including awareness of developments in policy and pedagogy.

Additional Information

Safeguarding

The RNCM is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All staff are required to complete mandatory safeguarding training, and to report promptly any concerns relating to the safeguarding of children and / or adults at risk in accordance with agreed Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding procedures.

Health and Safety Responsibilities

To ensure that reasonable care is taken at all times for the health, safety and welfare of yourself and other persons and to comply with the policies and procedures relating to health and safety within the RNCM.

To promote and sustain student wellbeing, working with the Health and Wellbeing Hub and other colleagues as appropriate.

General

This job description sets out the duties of the post at the time when it was drawn up. Such duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or the level of the responsibility entailed. Such variations are a common occurrence and cannot of themselves justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential (E) / Desirable (D)	Method of Assessment
Experience		
A track record of individual or collaborative research activity in academic or practice-based disciplines	E	Application Form/Interview
Experience of teaching and assessing at HE level, preferably in music education or a related field	E	
Experience of postgraduate dissertation supervision	E	
Experience of student teacher observation or mentoring	E	
Experience of supporting the learning of international students in music education	D	
Experience of working with schools, music hubs, or community music organisations	D	
A developing research or professional practice profile in music education	D	
Skills		
Evidence of excellent teaching skills and the ability to communicate effectively with HE students	E	Application Form/Interview
Ability to design and deliver inclusive, well-structured learning experiences linking theory and practice	E	
Strong interpersonal, communication, and organisational skills	E	
Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues and external partners	E	
Ability to integrate blended and digital learning methods effectively	D	
Experience of supervising professional practice placements	D	
Knowledge		
Excellent knowledge of the music education sector, including music in schools, music services, and community settings	E	Application Form/Interview
Awareness of current pedagogical, policy, and curriculum developments in music education	E	
Understanding of inclusive and culturally responsive music teaching approaches	E	

Understanding of cultural policy and the connections between pre-tertiary and higher education in music	D	
Familiarity with the specialist environment of a conservatoire or arts-based HE context	D	
Qualifications		
Master's degree (or equivalent) in Music Education or a closely related discipline, alongside sustained teaching experience	E	Application Form/Interview
Doctoral degree (or equivalent) in Music Education or a closely related discipline, alongside sustained teaching experience	D	
QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) and experience of school-based teaching	D	
Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (or willingness to achieve it)	D	
Extensive professional experience in other relevant settings (for example community music, conducting, further/higher education, music service teaching, or instrumental/vocal teaching)	D	
Other requirements		
Professional, punctual, and committed to high standards in teaching and learning	E	Application Form/Interview
Ability to use own initiative and work independently	E	
Willingness to follow College procedures on health and safety and safeguarding	E	

Summary of Terms and Conditions	
Salary	Grade 8a, SCP 36 to 39, £46.08 to £50.29 per hour, inclusive of rolled-up holiday pay.
Hours of Work	Variable, according to teaching allocation and agreed duties. Teaching during the academic year as required for delivery and assessment of assigned modules.
Pension	The post-holder will be eligible to join the Teachers' Pensions Scheme or Universities Superannuation Scheme

Issued by: Dr Robert Gardiner, Programme Lead Music Education

Date of issue: December 2025

About Us

The RNCM

Founded in 1973 through the merger of the Royal Manchester College of Music and Northern School of Music, the RNCM is continually recognised as one of the world's most progressive conservatoires.

Home to over 900 students from more than 60 countries, we're dedicated to providing an outstanding education that propels students into careers as inspiring and versatile musicians, fully-equipped for exciting futures both on and off stage.

Our Undergraduate School includes the Bachelor of Music with Honours and the ground-breaking Bachelor of Music with Honours in Popular Music - the UK's first four-year degree in this subject. Both programmes offer students the flexibility to create bespoke packages that fully support their career aspirations. They also complement degrees within our Graduate School, which provides a stimulating environment for advanced studies in performance (including conducting), composition, musicology, music psychology, and music education.

Additionally, we're home to Junior RNCM, our Saturday school for eight to 18-year-olds, and deliver an award-winning programme of free and subsidised projects for children and young people across the North West.

What it's like to work here

Our vibrant and creative community of academic and professional services staff work together to ensure that the RNCM remains a destination of choice for talented young musicians worldwide.

Friendly, collaborative and supportive, we proudly promote an inclusive and equitable working culture, offering family-friendly policies and regular opportunities for personal and professional development.

As a small specialist organisation, the staff voice is very important to us and there are numerous opportunities for colleagues to get involved in RNCM life throughout the year via our active staff engagement programme. We also have a Wellbeing Hub for staff and students, and are a Disability Confident Employer. If you feel there are adjustments that could be made to support you if invited to attend an interview, or if you join us as an employee, please get in touch via recruitment@rncm.ac.uk.



Staff Benefits

Annual leave

Minimum of 25 days (increasing to 30 days after 5 years' service and 33 days after 20 years' service) plus 8 bank holidays and closure days between Christmas and New Year.

Working hours

35 hours per week for a full-time role

Flexibility

Offered through formal flexible working (part-time, job-share, term time only, compressed hours, annualised hours and flexibility of working pattern depending on the role). Where roles are suitable we also offer blended working with a minimum of 2 days in RNCM and 3 days from home.

Family friendly policies

Enhanced maternity and paternity pay above statutory payments.

Pensions

GMPF (Greater Manchester Pension Fund) for Professional Services staff and Teachers' Pensions Scheme or USS for Academic staff. RNCM tops up pensions via an employers' contribution, adding to your pension pot.

Employee Assistance Programme

All staff can get free and confidential advice from Health Assured. The service is open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, by telephone or via the web for staff support (mental health, physical health, counselling etc.) as well as general support such as financial, benefits or housing advice.

Eye Tests

Staff are offered a free eye test and a contribution towards glasses where they are required for display equipment work.

Events

Staff can book one free or discounted ticket to most RNCM promoted events.

Professional Development

The RNCM is committed to the supporting training and professional development for all members of staff and a range of opportunities are available.

Travel

We have on-site parking at a reasonable cost, loans for season tickets and offer a cycle to work scheme (savings on the cost of a new bicycle and associated safety equipment by providing vouchers taken out of your salary before tax).

Staff Discounts

Offered on the RNCM Food and Drink menu which includes hot drinks, cakes and snacks in the Café. You can also get loyalty points and further offers on food and drink by using our Rewards app.

Staff Wellbeing

Our Staff Wellbeing Hub provides information, support, training and social/networking activities so you can get to meet other staff (important in a blended working environment).

Staff Voice

The views of our staff are very important. We have a staff engagement programme and we involve staff in much of our decisions/policy-making. In our latest staff satisfaction survey 98% of staff were satisfied to work at the RNCM.