

Associate Student Scheme and Continuing Professional Development Courses



About the RNCM

The Royal Northern College of Music is an internationally-acclaimed conservatoire located in the creative and dynamic city of Manchester.

The College is a thriving, international community of 320 teaching staff and 800 students from over 40 different countries. Performance is at the heart of everything we do: the College holds a unique position as both a conservatoire and performance venue which ensures that students receive unrivalled performance opportunities and first-hand experience of the music profession. Creativity and collaboration is encouraged within the College, and there are wide-ranging opportunities for students to be involved in all genres of music, be it orchestral or chamber music, jazz, brass, opera, popular or new music.

In 2014, the College undertook a £7 million redevelopment programme to modernise the RNCM Concert Hall and other key teaching and learning spaces, ensuring that the College's four professional main venues continue to provide world-class platforms for our students and visiting artists alike.

Opportunities to be Part of the RNCM Community

Music students and teaching professionals can take advantage of learning opportunities at the RNCM through a range of schemes lasting from one week to a full academic year:

Opportunities for Students/Recent Graduates

- RNCM Associate Student Scheme (one term – one year): available to students from all over the world wishing to take a short period of study at the RNCM without following a specific degree or diploma programme.

Continuing Professional Development

- Teacher Visits (one week)
- Initial Professional Development (one month)
- RNCM Professional Development Scheme (6 months: September-February or January - June)
- Bespoke packages of tuition (negotiable terms)



RNCM Associate Student Scheme

The RNCM Associate Student scheme allows students from all over the world and from within the UK to take a short and intensive period of study at the College without following a specific degree or diploma programme. Associate Students may take a range of studies, drawn from the existing RNCM modular offer at undergraduate and Graduate School levels.

Studentships typically last for between one term and a full academic year. Associate Students are fully integrated into the RNCM community with access to all of the events, facilities and resources of the College. They may elect to be assessed in the modules that form part of their Associate Studentship, but this will not be a requirement.

At the completion of the Associate Studentship the College offers a certificate of attendance, detailing the duration of the studentship, along with a transcript of studies. The transcript includes description of those modules studied, and those for which assessment has been undertaken, and which have led to the award of credit. Results of Associate Students will be held on the same College record system as all other students, although the credit accumulated will not normally build to an award. All modules will carry Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (CATS) points.

For students who subsequently apply for an award-bearing course at the College, credit awarded may, at the discretion of the College, contribute to the programme of study undertaken subsequently.

Anyone may study as an Associate Student if the College considers that they have an appropriate background and the necessary skills to be successful, that they will benefit from the study and that they can be accommodated.

Possible Packages

Terms 1, 2 and 3

Terms 1 and 2 only

Term 1 only

Term 2 only

Term 1 starts in September; Term 2 starts in January;

Term 3 starts in March/April (dependent on Easter holidays)

and ends in June.

Fees

Home and EU Students:

1 term: £3,500

2 terms: £6,750

3 terms: £9,500

International Students:

£6,000 per term

International students can stay for up to 6 months on a Visitor visa.

Making an Application

If you are interested in applying to be an RNCM Associate Student please contact Admissions on admissions@rncm.ac.uk



Associate Junior Students

The RNCM has a limited number of scholarships available for young musicians between the ages of 14-17, who have been identified by their Music Education Hubs or schools as gifted and talented, and aspire to pursue undergraduate studies at a conservatoire. These scholarships are offered on a competitive basis subject to audition, and restricted to those who are unable to attend the JRNCM or RNCM Young Project activities.

Associate Junior Students visit the RNCM once each term for one-to-one instrumental/vocal/composition lessons with a senior member of RNCM teaching staff, complementing the tuition they receive on a weekly basis from their locally-based tutors. Through prior arrangement with the relevant Head of School, they are entitled to observe any Principal Study Classes and/or rehearsals that are taking place on the day they come in for their lessons, but are not given access to other College facilities. They will be offered a free Advice Audition in the year prior to undergraduate entry, receiving invaluable feedback that will give them the best possible chance of being offered a place at the College.



Continuing Professional Development

These courses are open to both UK and International teachers, and cover the following areas:

- Exposure to performance-based conservatoire teaching in the Western art music tradition through mentoring/observation
- Observation of orchestral training
- Observation of chamber music coaching
- An insight into how academic management and administrative systems support the educational experience in the UK

Teacher Visits Course (one week)

- Principal Study Mentoring/Teaching Observation
- Observation of Orchestral Training
- Observation of Chamber Music Coaching
- If English is not your first language, English Language is available as an option in the visit programme which includes one-to-one tuition and classes depending on your level
- Principal Study and other one-to-one tuition (on request)*

Fees:

£500 per week

Initial Professional Development Course (one month):

- Principal Study Mentoring/Teaching Observation
- Observation of Orchestral Training
- Observation of Chamber Music Coaching
- Introduction to Academic Management/Administration Structures at the College
- If English is not your first language, English Language is available as an option in the visit programme which includes one-to-one tuition and classes depending on your level
- Principal Study and other one-to-one tuition (on request)*

Fees:

£1,000

Delegates undertaking a Teacher Visit or the Initial Professional Development Course will be able to undertake (on an optional basis) one-to-one Principal Study lessons across a range of disciplines delivered by tutor or range of tutors(s) recommended by the relevant Head of School.

Notes:

- Delegates will receive a RNCM Certificate of Attendance on completion of their studies recording the time spent at the College and the level of outcome achieved
- Delegates are personally responsible for covering the costs of air fares, accommodation and subsistence
- The RNCM will extend an official invitation to each delegate to his or her home institution
- The RNCM will provide support in finding suitable accommodation
- Non-native English speakers: You will not require an English language qualification (e.g. IELTS/TOEFL) but are personally responsible for ensuring that you can communicate effectively in English prior to attending the College

* Should delegates request Principal Study lessons or other one-to-one tuition classes in addition to what is offered above, these will be charged at £60 per hour.

RNCM Certificate in Professional Development Course (6 months):

- Principal Study Mentoring/Teaching Observation (assessed through observation of teaching)
- Chamber Music (assessed through observation of coaching)
- Orchestral Training (assessed through Viva Voce or reflective journal)
- Overview of Academic Management/Administration Structures at the College (non-assessed)
- Principal Study One-to-One Tuition (24 hours, non-assessed, can be spread across different disciplines subject to need)

Fees:

£6,000

Notes:

- Delegates will enrol for, and be awarded on successful completion of, an RNCM Certificate of Professional Development
- Delegates are personally responsible for covering the costs of air fares, accommodation and subsistence
- The RNCM will extend an official invitation to each delegate to his or her home institution
- The RNCM will provide support in finding suitable accommodation
- International delegates will require an IELTS score of 5.5 minimum prior to applying for the RNCM Professional Development Scheme
- Visas cannot be extended beyond 6 months

Course content:

Principal Study Mentoring/Teaching Observation

The visiting tutor will be assigned a mentor at the RNCM (normally a Head of School or Deputy) who would provide agreed access on an observation basis to his or her Principal Study teaching, and to that of a selected number of tutors from within the School (subject to student and staff agreement). The rationale is to provide insight into a range of teaching styles and students at different levels of study.

Contact Time: 2 hours of teaching observation each week, plus one hour of dialogue with the mentor.

Observation of Chamber Music Coaching

Delegates will be assigned a mentor at the RNCM who will provide some access on an observation basis to his or her chamber music coaching, and to that of a selected number of chamber music tutors (subject to student and staff agreement). The rationale is to provide insight into a range of coaching styles and student ensembles of different formations and at different levels of study.

Contact Time: 2 hours of chamber music observation each week, plus 30 minutes of dialogue with the mentor.

Observation of Orchestral Coaching

Delegates will be given access to all orchestral and large ensemble rehearsals involving students of the College on an observation-only basis. The rationale is to provide insight into the rehearsal process.

Contact Time: The number of observation hours is variable, dependent on the performance programme. 30 minutes of dialogue with a member of conducting staff.

Introduction to Academic Management and Administration Structures

Delegates will be assigned a mentor (normally a senior member of support staff working in the area(s) of interest e.g. Assistant Registrar) who will provide an introduction to policies, procedures, practices and systems underpinning specific areas of management and administrative activity, and opportunities to discuss working practices on an informal basis.

Contact Time: 1 hour of observation each week, plus 30 minutes of dialogue with the mentor.

Principal Study Tuition

Delegates enrolled on the RNCM Professional Development Scheme will be entitled to 24 hours of one-to-one Principal Study tuition (non-assessed) as an integral part of their course. This will not incur any additional charges.

Bespoke Packages

The RNCM is happy to consider requests for bespoke Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses. Courses may be tailored in terms of content and/or duration. Recent CPD packages have provided education in areas including conducting, chamber music and set design for opera. Please contact the International Office to discuss your requirements on international@rncm.ac.uk

Further Information

If you are interested in making an application to the RNCM, please contact Admissions on admissions@rncm.ac.uk. All applicants will either audition or evidence that they are already at the required level to undertake training at conservatoire level. Although it is not a formal requirement, applicants are expected to have achieved grade 8 or equivalent.

Professional Development Conducting Training Course

Our Professional Development courses reflect the core belief that underpins all of the College's world-class conducting programmes: *conductors learn by conducting other musicians*. Unlike many other conducting programmes, we regard traditional one-to-one teaching as a supporting activity to the main business of conducting ensembles and rehearsal pianists.

The College's unique range of conducting provision – from the acclaimed Junior Fellowship and Masters programmes, through elective courses for non-Principal Study conductors, to our range of external masterclasses and short courses – means we are better placed than any other institution to offer bespoke programmes of study which also interact with our existing courses. Every Professional Development Conducting Course will be tailored to the individual's needs but a broad framework is outlined below.

Core Activity

Central to the core activity will be lessons with a conducting teacher and two professional pianists. These sessions allow detailed work on conducting technique in an environment where repetition and experimentation is possible. There is enough of a sense of realism when compared with one-to-one lessons, but without the difficulties presented by keeping a large ensemble of musicians 'entertained'.

The two piano lessons will usually be preparation for sessions with ensemble, which will give opportunities to put the technical work done into practice with instrumentalists, and allow detailed work on rehearsal technique to be developed. The repertoire for these sessions is tailored to the individual's requirements and interests, but we do believe strongly that an exploration of the standard orchestral canon is fundamental to the development of all conductors, regardless of the genre they principally work in.

One-to-one lessons are used as preparation for the piano and ensemble lessons, and review following them. All practical lessons are videoed, and much use of this is made in considering lessons to be learned.

Over the course of a six month visit, students can expect to have 6 hours of piano lessons, 6 hours with ensembles, and 12 hours of one-to-one time.

Observation

The opportunity to observe others being taught is particularly relevant to conducting. At the RNCM, most weeks during term-time will give the opportunity to observe 10-15 hours of conducting teaching in a combination of two piano classes, teaching sessions with orchestras & ensembles, and rehearsals where a conducting teacher is observing and contributing occasionally.

In addition to this, in an academic year the RNCM presents around 16 orchestral projects, two opera productions, at least five wind orchestra and ensemble programmes, six or more contemporary music projects, several brass band and brass ensemble events, string orchestras, and many other ensembles which are conducted. All of the rehearsals for these projects, which are conducted by a combination of RNCM faculty and guest conductors, are available to observe.

Professional Orchestras & Ensembles

Manchester boasts two professional symphony orchestras – the Hallé and the BBC Philharmonic – and Manchester Camerata, the city's chamber orchestra, is based in the RNCM building. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Opera North are both 30 minutes away by train. Access to rehearsals of all of these orchestras is available to RNCM conducting students, offering the valuable opportunity to see leading conductors such as Sir Mark Elder, Vasily Petrenko, Juanjo Mena, Gábor Takács-Nagy and many others at work.



Wind and Brass Bands

The North of England is a major hub for wind and brass bands, and access to rehearsals of professional military bands and some of the world's best brass bands can be arranged.

Supporting Studies

Classes in piano playing, score reading, aural training, instrumental pedagogy, and other musicianship skills can be arranged as part of a Professional Development visit.

External Courses

The RNCM operates a programme of external conducting masterclasses across each academic year. Depending on the timing of a period of study and the amount of notice we have, it may be possible to include participation in these. In any event, observation of them is free of charge.

Typical Course Outline

The content of a 6 month visit is flexible, but a broad outline would generally contain the following activities:

- 12 hours of one to one tuition comprising video review, score discussion and technique work
- 6 hours of classes with 2 professional pianists and a conducting teacher, focusing on technique work and the preparation of repertoire to be worked on with an ensemble
- 3 x 2 hour sessions with a student ensemble and a conducting teacher
- Participation in two of our external conducting day courses
- Observation of classes for Master's and Junior Fellow conductors (generally there are two of these most weeks); orchestral masterclasses with Sir Mark Elder and other leading international conductors; orchestral and ensemble rehearsals. Approximately 8 hours per week

The course of study would be overseen by permanent conducting faculty members Clark Rundell and Mark Heron, although some of the teaching may be undertaken by Junior Fellows in Conducting.

For further information please contact:

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Conducting Administrator

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RNCM contacts

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Disclaimer

Every effort is made to ensure that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of going to print. However, the RNCM reserves the right to make changes to the courses and fees.