Department of Music

Masters in Composition

• One year full time or two years part time
• Small classes taught by a team of leading professional composers
• Flexible course structure
• World-leading music department, ranked no.1 in the UK for research
• Thriving, friendly and supportive postgraduate culture
• Opportunities to explore diverse types of composition including chamber, orchestral, choral, opera, fusion and electronica, scoring for film and television and writing for live laptop and computer

I consider myself very fortunate to have studied at Royal Holloway. It was a very inspiring and fruitful time for me. Composition in the department has gone from strength to strength with bright sparks Mark Bowden, Helen Grime, Brian Lock and Ed Bennett on the staff, plus many opportunities for live performance and recording, and, of course, the extraordinary library. It is surely one of the top places in the UK to study composition today.

Tansy Davies
At Royal Holloway we believe that being a composer today is about finding your individual voice, developing technical skills and a professional attitude, and building the confidence to explore your own creativity.

The recently-redesigned postgraduate programme is designed to advance your skills in composition and to develop your own creative musical language. A range of courses in composition and contemporary music is available with specialisms in acoustic, film and multimedia. The degree will develop your intellectual and creative abilities to a professional level.

In addition to practice-based class teaching and individual supervision a regular composers’ seminar series underpins all of the composition courses. Recent speakers have included: Julian Anderson, George Benjamin, Rolf Hind, David Horne, Colin Matthews, Melinda Maxwell, Anna Meredith, Claudia Molitor, Howard Skempton, Errollyn Wallen, Judith Weir, Mark Anthony Turnage, esteemed television composer Lawrence Oakley and leading music publishers.

Composers at Royal Holloway have their music played and recorded regularly by resident and visiting professional musicians, the Royal Holloway Sinfonietta and, of course, by fellow students. Our award-winning New Music Ensemble-in-Residence CHROMA provides unrivalled workshop and performance opportunities. Composers also benefit from our industry standard composition studios which are specially geared to writing music to picture, electronica and media music.

Many Royal Holloway graduates are now making careers as professional composers including Tansy Davies, Richard Baker, KT Tunstall, Joby Talbot, Michael Zev Gordon, Deirdre Gribbin, Jonathan Cole and Paul Newland.

For more information and details of how to apply, visit [www.rhul.ac.uk/music](http://www.rhul.ac.uk/music)