

**Course Code:**[Click here to enter text.](#)**1. Course Title:**

SS1b: Performing Arts Research and the Doctorate Rationale

**2. Academic Session:**

2011/12

**3. Level:**

SCQF 11

**4. Credits:**

15

**5. Lead School/Board of Studies:**

Research and Postgraduate Studies

**6. Course Contact:**

Anna Birch (The Royal Conservatoire)

**7. Course Aims:**

The aim of this course is to provide an overview of current debates on practice-led research in relevant disciplines for supervisors in music and drama, and to link these research practices to the equally contentious debates concerning post-graduate research degrees in the performing arts. The course aims to provide international and interdisciplinary perspectives, and to develop critical thinking through reflection on both examples of practice-led research (doctoral and postdoctoral) and study of critical theoretical literature. A further aim is to stimulate awareness of problems in research communication and documentation in these research areas, and to inspire critical thinking concerning documentation in the context of post-graduate research supervision.

**8. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of current debates around practice-led research in music and drama;
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of standards of doctorate-ness;
- Apply their professional expertise to issues in documentation of practice-led research in

their own speciality;

- Exercise critical judgement concerning these issues in supervisory practice.

### **9. Indicative Content:**

- Theories of 'artistic research', practice as research, and practice-based research in music and drama;
- Synergies between performance study in ethnomusicology and the European practice-based research movement;
- Current issues in practice-led research in drama;
- European reports on performance doctorates (e.g., Polyphonia reports on third-cycle studies in music);
- Communication, documentation and performing arts research, particularly within the research degrees context;
- UK PhD standards, the North American DMA, New Route PhDs, and the DPerf
- Current issues in practice-led research in drama eg documentation, performance analysis, Live Art, digital technology, performance and theatre practices
- Doctoral expectations in the Performing Arts: impact, dissemination, ethics, intellectual property rights, collaboration.

### **10. Description of Summative Assessment:**

Attendance at seminars and group discussions will be mandatory and missing two or more sessions of the overall curriculum will result in a warning of withdrawal. In addition, participants will be asked to submit:

- Submission of two critical interventions (to issues, debates, projects, documents...) of around 500 words on the VLE message board and evidence of significant level of contribution (at least one response per thread created) to other participants' threads. These will be done throughout the course and participants will be required to save records to be included in the final portfolio for assessment;
- Critical piece/commentary on practice-led research in the performing arts at doctoral level:
  - EITHER: example of documentation of own research in the discipline with 1500-word reflective commentary on related practice-led issues in the performing arts and their application in supervisory practice;
  - OR: 2000-word critical piece commenting on specific problems in practice-led research in the performing arts (and their possible solutions), with particular reference to doctoral standards and submissions.

This piece should be of sufficient length to allow participants to engage in both reflection and critical analysis of the relevant material, and address relevant issues for research supervision. The pieces should also include a bibliography/discography/filmography as appropriate to the topic, which will fall outside of the word count.

The percentage breakdown for the assessment will be as follows:

VLE critical interventions and participation 40%

Critical piece / commentary 60%

**10.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:**

Participants on this course will be assessed on their ability to:

- Critically analyse and debate issues around practice-led research in music and drama;
- Relate relevant research concerns to debates on standards of doctorate-ness;
- Contextualise issues around practice-led research in terms of supervisory practice in music and drama.

**11. Formative Assessment:**

Formative assessment takes place during the seminar discussions and tutorials with the course tutor.

**11.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:**

As above.

**12. Collaborative:**

Yes

No

**12.1 Teaching Institutions:**

The Royal Conservatoire

**13. Requirements of Entry:**

None

**14. Co-requisites:**

None

**15. Associated Programmes:**

Postgraduate Certificate in Supervision (Creative Practices); MEd (Creative Practices)

**16. When Taught:**

Stage 1 (of 1)

**17. Timetable:**

The programme runs between January and September each year and taught sessions for this course take place in January, March and May, with tutorials arranged individually with the course tutor.

**18. Available to Visiting Students:**

Yes

No

**19. Distance Learning:**

Yes

No

**20. Placement:**Yes No **21. Learning and Teaching Methods:**

Method	Formal Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours (Including formal contact hours)
Lecture		
Studio		
Seminar/Presentation	8	8
Tutorial		
Workshop		
Laboratory work		
Project work		
Professional Practice		50
E-Learning / Distance Learning		
Placement		
Examination		
Essay		
Private Study	Not Applicable	75
Other (please specify below)		15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>150</b>

**22. Description of "Other" Teaching and Learning Methods:**

VLE assessments and discussion

**23. Additional Relevant Information:**

The notion of doctorate-ness in music and drama is changing in tandem with significant advances in practice-led research in these disciplines. What do these developments mean for supervisory practice?

**24. Indicative Bibliography:**

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Haseman, Brad (2006). *A Manifesto for Performative Research. Media International Australia incorporating Culture and Policy*, theme issue "Practice-led Research"(no. 118): pp. 98-106. [http://eprints.qut.edu.au/3999/1/3999\\_1.pdf](http://eprints.qut.edu.au/3999/1/3999_1.pdf)

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