

MA Sound Arts
Programme Specification 2022/23

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	London College of Communication
School	Screen
Programme	LCC Sound and Music(L061)
FHEQ Level	Level 7 Masters
Course Credits	180
Mode	Full Time
Duration of Course	1 year
Valid From	September 1st 2022
Course Entry Requirements	<p>The course team welcomes applicants from a broad range of backgrounds, from all over the world.</p> <p>Applicants to MA Sound Arts will have a good honours degree in a relevant subject such as sound arts, fine art, film and video or other related fields, or a professional or academic qualification recognised as equivalent to an honours degree.</p> <p>We also welcome applications from prospective students with a background in fine art or other related fields and those who wish to move their practice or research in other areas towards sound art and sonic practices.</p> <p>Key subjects in Sound Arts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition • Sound recording and mixing • Photography • Field recording and acoustic ecology • Interactive work • Sound installations • Live performance • Radiophonic practices • Sound for film • A variety of cross-platform work

Your educational level may be demonstrated by:

- Honours degree (named above);
- Possession of equivalent qualifications;
- Prior experiential learning, the outcome of which can be demonstrated to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required, demonstrating relevant experience and an aptitude for film, television or other moving-image production subjects;
- Or a combination of formal qualifications and experiential learning which, taken together, can be demonstrated to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required.

APEL (Accreditation of Prior Learning)

Applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered in exceptional cases. The course team will consider each application that demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might, for example, be demonstrated by:

- Related academic or work experience
- The quality of the personal statement
- A strong academic or other professional reference
- OR a combination of these factors

Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case.

Language requirements

All classes are conducted in English. If English is not your first language, we strongly recommend you let us know your English language test score in your application. If you have booked a test or are awaiting your results, please indicate this in your application. When asked to upload a CV as part of your application, please include any information about your English test score.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS 6.5 (or equivalent) is required, with a minimum of 5.5 in each of the four skills. • If your first language is not English, you can check you have achieved the correct IELTS level in English on the Language Requirements page. <p>For further details regarding international admissions and advice please visit the International Applications page.</p>
Selection Criteria	<p>Offers will be made based on the following selection criteria, which applicants are expected to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An informed enthusiasm about sound arts and related sonic practices. • A critical approach to working with sound.
Scheduled Learning and Teaching	<p>Following two years of disruption due to Covid 19 we are glad to be returning to normal delivery in 2022/23. This means on campus face-to-face activities such as course projects, lectures, seminars, and studio work, except for courses designed to be delivered online.</p> <p>Scheduled learning and teaching activity may include lectures, seminars, studio and workshop briefings, tutorials, external visits and project briefings.</p>

Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning Year 1

Awards	Credits
Postgraduate Certificate	60
Postgraduate Diploma	120
Master of Arts	180

Scheduled Learning Split by Level	
Level 7	16%
Total Scheduled Learning Split	16%

Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	Substantially develop and mature your creative abilities, techniques, self-reflection, evaluation and personal vision within the field of sound arts.
Aim	Establish a framework for critical understanding and awareness of the artistic and theoretical discourses informing all aspects of sound arts practices and enable you to situate your work within that framework.
Aim	Develop you as a self-aware practitioner who can articulate, present and document your work and work processes for a variety of audiences.
Aim	Equip you with the necessary knowledge, skills and critical awareness to develop as a professional in the context of contemporary sound arts practices.
Aim	Prepare you to undertake further postgraduate research within the field of sound arts practice.
Aim	Enable you to work autonomously to resolve, bring to completion and exhibit, publish or otherwise present in the public domain a Major Project that displays originality, critical reflection and an understanding of the theoretical and practical issues related to sound arts practice.
Outcome	Propose, plan and develop an original piece of sound art work through a process of research, experimentation, interaction with your peers and the acquisition and application of a high level of knowledge and skills (Enquiry / Knowledge)
Outcome	Demonstrate through your work and written reflection a critical awareness of sound arts practice that engages with problems and insights at the forefront of the discipline and be able to situate your own practice in this context (Knowledge)
Outcome	Make effective written and verbal presentations of your practice and associated research process as appropriate to a range of contexts and audiences (Communication)

Outcome	Demonstrate the ability to work experimentally and creatively towards an agreed outcome in a self-directed, sustained and deliberate manner (Enquiry)
Outcome	Demonstrate a clear and critical understanding of the role of research and appropriate theoretical frameworks in relation to your own practice (Enquiry)
Outcome	Work individually and with others to prepare and promote an exhibition and symposium and ensure the success of these public outcomes (Process)
Outcome	Bring to completion and present to a professional standard a Major Project which is fully researched and supported by clearly articulated written submissions (Knowledge / Realisation / Process)

Distinctive Features	
1	The taught programme of the MA Sound Arts is designed to support you and allow you to define and develop your ideas for a specific project or for an area of creative practice. You will be encouraged to propose an idea for a project or area of work that you wish to pursue on entry.
2	The course culminates in a curated show and a public symposium where you will have the opportunity to present your work and research to an audience.
3	The course takes an integrated approach to the inter-relationship of theory and practice. Some of the research methods that are taught will be related to Masters level practice in general and some will be specific to sonic research, such as research into sound, research through sound etc. This emphasis on the investigation of research and knowledge production through sound is believed to be unique at Masters level in the UK.
4	The close interconnection with the CRiSAP (Creative Research in Sound Arts Practice) research centre creates a vibrant research culture and diverse artistic community.
5	A further advantage of studying at LCC comes from the collaborative opportunities which are available, which include the full range of disciplinary contexts provided by the CILECT accredited Screen school and wider UAL environment, allowing a diverse discourse to take place across courses and subject areas.

Course Detail

Intensive and specialised, MA Sound Arts is designed to further develop your conceptual and contextual understanding of practice and discourse relating to the field.

Combining a strong taught component with ample opportunities for practical work, you'll extend your portfolio within an academic context, engage in theoretical and practical research, develop your creative and critical skills, and explore your personal areas of interest.

What to expect

- You'll be encouraged to adopt a personal, distinctive approach to your work.
- You'll be taught by staff who are active practitioners and researchers specialising in areas including field recording and acoustic ecology, composition, sound installations, improvisation, and a variety of cross-platform work.
- You'll have opportunities to collaborate with other students both inside and outside the College.
- The Sound Arts department is committed to extending the boundaries of this evolving field while developing links with other disciplines and institutions.
- The course is closely connected to the [Creative Research into Sound Arts Practice \(CRISAP\)](#) and further underpinned by wider disciplinary contexts across [LCC's Screen School](#) and UAL.

Work experience and opportunities

We facilitate individual practice, guiding you towards a professional career as a sound artist, or into research.

We host an extensive programme of visiting artists and performers who can provide broader insight into the field – recent guests have included Jennifer Walshe, Annea Lockwood, Robert Henke and Christine Eyene.

For your Final Major Project, you'll also have the opportunity to work with a professional curator of sound – a key way to develop your professional practice.

Who is this course for?

MA Sound Arts is designed for students who have a substantial background in producing sound-based work within the context of contemporary arts and media practice.

You may have studied some aspect of sound arts at undergraduate level, such as sound design, music technology or sonic art, or have a background in other disciplines like fine art, digital arts, time-based art or performance art.

Alternatively, you may not have formal qualifications but significant experience of producing creative work with sound instead, and wish to develop this further in an academic context.

You'll have already achieved a distinctive and enquiring approach to sound arts, and you'll understand the areas you wish to develop further in our creative and experimental academic environment.

Mode of Study

MA Sound Arts is in Full Time mode which runs for 45 weeks over 15 months. You will be expected to commit 40 hours per week to study.

Course Units

Each course is divided into units, which are credit-rated. The minimum unit size is 20 credits. The MA course structure involves 6 units, totalling 180 credits.

In addition to focusing on the development of your creative practice, units on MA Sound Arts have been designed to help you consider how sound can be understood and used to critique and question relationships of power that are linked to critical themes of gender, decolonisation and sustainability. All units on MA Sound Arts are compulsory.

Autumn, term 1

Practice-Based Research (40 credits)

This unit helps you to plan, develop and realise an applied research project which results in the production of creative sound work. You'll learn about different ideas of art as both professional practice and practice-based research before presenting your work and research ideas to your fellow students.

Contemporary Themes in Sound Arts Practice (20 credits)

You'll build a practical understanding of contemporary themes in sound arts practice by exploring different genres and strategies, enabling you to develop an understanding of discourse in relation to creative production. You'll also research and review how a particular artist's practice is sited in the broader field of sound art.

Spring, term 2

Practice-Based Research (continued)

Contemporary Themes in Sound Arts Practice (continued)

Collaborative Unit (20 credits)

This unit will enable you to explore collaborative practice and the social experience of sound, both from within sound arts - where you'll develop a diverse range of collective responses - and between disciplines, where you'll work with students from other areas on individual projects.

Summer, term 3

Project Development (20 credits)

In this unit, you'll present a Development Proposal which will identify the area of work that you're going to explore – building on, experimenting with and focusing the range of ideas, experiences, skills and interests developed in Terms 1 and 2.

You'll be supported to develop your ideas through practical and scholarly research as well as creative experimentation, and you'll also consider the appropriate format for your final project.

Curatorial Contexts for Sound Art (20 credits)

This unit explores issues around the curation, exhibition and perception of work relating to sound arts. It provides an understanding of the contexts through which sound arts practice is presented, curated and distributed in the public domain - in the gallery, in the concert hall and other performance spaces, on the internet, on the radio, or in public spaces outside the traditional curatorial reach.

Major Project (60 credits)

This final unit of the MA consolidates your learning experience of the previous units through the completion and presentation of a Major Project. This will take place in the context of a curated show hosted in an acoustically and visually compelling public space, which maximises the appreciation of your work as a sound arts practitioner.

Autumn, term 4

Major Project (continued)

If you are unable to continue or decide to exit the course, there are two possible exit awards. A Postgraduate Certificate will be awarded on successful completion of the first 60 credits and a Postgraduate Diploma will be awarded on successful completion of the first 120 credits.

Learning and Teaching Methods

- Individual and group tutorials
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Symposium
- Self-directed study
- Peer review

Assessment Methods

- Critical reflection reports
- Self-evaluation
- Written reports
- Audio visual presentations

Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- The Learning and Teaching policies of the University of the Arts London
- The College policies and initiatives
- Level descriptors
- Benchmark statements
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- QAA Benchmark statement

The University will use all reasonable endeavours to provide the Course and the services described in this Output. There may be occasions whereby the University needs to add, remove or alter content in relation to your Course as may be appropriate for example the latest requirements of a commissioning or accrediting body, or in response to student feedback, or to comply with applicable law or due to circumstances beyond its control. The University aim to inform you of any changes as soon as is reasonably practicable

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