The MA in Music Education helps students to develop pedagogical skills by drawing on and deepening their existing practical experience as instrumental/vocal teachers. Students have the opportunity to advance their theoretical understanding of instrumental/vocal teaching, strategies for reflective practice, and research enterprise. These are all skills that will enhance students’ employability.

The course is led by Dr Elizabeth Haddon LRSM. Her research on instrumental pedagogy has been published in peer-reviewed journals and in her two co-edited volumes on creativity. In addition to her academic work, she also has considerable experience of private studio instrumental teaching, as a piano, violin, and music theory teacher.

Delivering the course alongside her are Dr Naomi Norton and Dr Richard Powell. Naomi’s portfolio includes music education research, with specialist expertise relating to musicians’ health and well-being, and educational work as Teaching Artist with In Harmony Opera North. Dr Richard Powell is a violinist, teacher, and researcher specialising in music analysis.

“This course is perfect for any musician wishing to hone their teaching skills. There is so much to being a good teacher that I didn’t know about before doing this course. Understanding effective pedagogy has made my teaching all the more rewarding. This unique, intellectually stimulating and fascinating course, with the help of the course leader, has helped me secure teaching jobs and build up a plethora of private pupils” – Katie, recent MA graduate
COURSE STRUCTURE
Students participate in seminars and practical sessions in which they have the opportunity to teach others and to receive feedback on their teaching. Regular meetings with course tutors enable students to discuss their progress and prepare work for assessment, which includes both written and practical work. The final submission consists of either an extended essay or a portfolio of lessons plus commentaries.

Students have opportunities to engage in the many ensemble and performance activities on offer in this vibrant music department, and are encouraged to take advantage of study spaces including the library and dedicated postgraduate working spaces.

OUTCOMES
The academic qualification and experience gained through this programme enhances students’ employability in a competitive international field. The programme helps students to develop skills vital for engaging in a wide range of educational activities, including studio and institutional teaching. It also equips students for further academic study; graduates have gone on to pursue doctoral research as well as a variety of other related qualifications.

Weekly seminars explore areas of instrumental and vocal pedagogy including:
- the pupil-teacher-parent relationship
- our motivations as teachers
- professional concerns and obligations
- teaching materials
- working with students of different ages and abilities, including special needs
- learning and teaching approaches
- learner motivation
- teaching particular skills including practice, aural, sight-reading, improvisation, technique and repertoire
- understanding the development of expertise
- working with groups
- preparing students for performance
- using technology in teaching
- promoting musician’s health and well-being
- working creatively and compassionately with others.

MODULES
Autumn Term
Module 1: Effective Pedagogy
Module 2: One-to-one teaching (Beginner)
Spring Term
Module 3: Teaching techniques
Module 4: One-to-one teaching (Intermediate)
Summer Term
Module 5: Enhanced teaching skills
Module 6: One-to-one teaching (Advanced)
Summer Period (June – September)
Module 7: Independent study module comprising an extended essay, or a portfolio of recorded lessons accompanied by a written commentary.