

## POSTGRADUATE APPLICATION GUIDANCE NOTES: YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT – WHAT WE EXPECT

Your **PERSONAL STATEMENT** is an extremely important part of the application process. Here you should detail your **own musical aims** and objectives for study, and include some comment as to why graduate study will be beneficial to your career.

We would expect every personal statement to include the following 4 important areas:

### 1. A CAREFUL DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROPOSED AREA OF STUDY

York takes pride in responding to individual needs and interests, and our MA course is setup so that you can specialise to a large extent in your individual submissions and final dissertation or practical/creative portfolio submission.

To this end, your personal statement should **detail exactly as possible** which areas of study you are interested in. If your interests change over the course of the MA, do not worry, we simply need an initial indication of the topics which excite you the most.

When indicating which course you are applying to, please include the discipline you are interested in working on (e.g. Composition, Ethnomusicology, Musicology/Critical Studies, Digital Studies, Performance, Music Technology)

The following hypothetical examples give us a clear picture of your interests:

- MA in Music: Performance – Vocal Baroque Music
- MA in Music: Critical Studies – Gender roles in C17 English composition
- MA in Music: Composition – Exploring spectral processes
- MA in Music: Digital Studies – Creating new radiophonic art works

### 2. LIST YOUR RELEVANT PAST EXPERIENCE

Whilst we enjoy reading applications where candidates display a high commitment to exploring areas of study which might be new to them, we also very much value your previous achievements in your proposed subject area. We are looking for high quality applicants with potential for advanced study, so please help us by carefully listing your previous related experience. This could be in an undergraduate degree (or equivalent) or professional work context. Include this information in your personal statement, and please indicate your individual role within any collaborative work, employed project or external event.

Here are some examples:

#### ***Previous experience relevant to your application***

#### ***Your Role***

Final dissertation: *Analysis, motivic process in Wagner*

Undergraduate Course

Public Performance of new 20 minute work for strings at festival

Composer

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### 3. SELECT A PROPOSED SUPERVISOR IF POSSIBLE

Take a moment to review our website at <http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/music>. Indicate your proposed supervisor clearly in your personal statement. This way we can process your application more quickly than if you leave this area of the application form blank. Some applicants may not be able to directly select a supervisor. In this case, please indicate you wish to discuss this with the department and we will get in touch with you.

You can indicate more than one proposed supervisor. Please also be sure to copy this information into your main application form under the heading 'Interested in the work of staff member:' on the second page of the application.

We highly encourage you to make initial contact with your supervisor if you wish to explore areas of study which are not listed on the website, or to seek advice on your application in general.

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### NOTES FOR APPLYING ON LINE

- Please have ready your academic transcript if possible
- Prepare your personal statement to include the information listed in this guide.

**It is very important that we can see examples of your previous work with your application.** If we need to request it, this will delay your application process.

To this end:

- If you are a **composer**, please prepare any score examples as PDF files, and attach them to your application.
- If you are a **digital media composer**, please attach examples of your work as an mp3 file
- If you are a **performer**, please attach an mp3 file of your performance, or mp4 video file.
- If you are undertaking a degree **by thesis, or analytical or other critical work**, then please include a PDF file of any previous work in your proposed area.