

Get ready for MA Music Therapy

I hope that you are enjoying a summer break and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you onto the MA Music Therapy programme.

Please note that the MA Music Therapy is one course where you do need to complete relevant disclosure and barring checks and an occupational health check.

I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us. I and the team (Joy Gravestock, Adam Kishtainy, Simon Hall and Cathy Warner) look forward to meeting you.

Luke Annesley
Programme Leader

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you on 15 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practise the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the [Starting Block website](#) with more details.

Your [timetable](#) will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the registration process. Please visit the '[Understanding your teaching timetable](#)' website to find out when your timetable will be published. Once you have access to Blackboard, more detailed module timetables will be available there.

Preparing and arrival

You can find everything you need to know about registration, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our [Preparing and Arrival](#) webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the [library](#), [study skills](#), [academic support](#), [health and wellbeing support](#) and much more.

Registration

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the [MYUWE](#) platform where you can register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can

find guidance and further information on our [Registration](#) website.

ID card - upload your photo now

We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to [MYUWE](#). To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our [student card guidance](#).

Teaching Blocks

Face to face sessions begin on **30.9.25**. Theoretical lectures and discussions will take place on Glenside campus with preparation materials being made available in advance. All musical therapeutic skills need to be taught face to face in small or medium sized groups, and we have other experiential elements that need to be taught together. We will ensure that the teaching environment is safe.

Teaching days are on Tuesdays during term time with the exception of the two-day induction in September (see dates below). Face to face lectures and seminars will usually take place at Glenside campus, with occasional weeks involving online delivery. All face to face and online lectures will be video recorded where possible and available on our online learning environment, Blackboard. This will enable you to go over details from the lectures and seminars. Sometimes there will be short videos to watch and material to be prepared in advance of the teaching day.

The following key dates should be noted for the MA Music Therapy programme:

Induction: 15-16 September 2025

Term 1: 30 September 2025 – 2 December 2025 (Tuesdays only at Glenside)

The observational phase of placements begins first week of November at the earliest. The placement day will be agreed in advance with you. Please wait for further communications about this.

Term 2: 13 January 2026 – 26 May 2026 (this includes an Easter break and 3 weeks of assessment)

*Individual clinical work on placement ideally starts **first week** of January although this may vary by student to student.*

Placements end third or fourth week in May (usually coinciding with school half term).

How to make a successful start to your programme

Specific for your course

In previous correspondence you will have already been informed about our additional requirements which must be completed ahead of Registration and Induction:

- **Academic certificates**
- **Disclosure and Barring Service check**
- **Occupational Health clearance**

Please also bring:

- Musical instrument(s) that you specialise in – unless it's voice!
- For our occasional online learning, a good headset and microphone are advised.

If any of these requirements are still outstanding, you must send the relevant paperwork to us, as instructed, as soon as possible.

Please be aware that Incomplete Disclosure Barring Service and Occupational Health Checks will impact on your ability to access learning materials, attend placements and complete your registration onto your degree programme.

Engage with your programme

Start your learning

Before beginning your study, we are asking you to complete three tasks:

- Start initial reading – see below.
- Work on any musical skills which will be helpful for you. We will send some separate advice on this, and you may also have received some personal recommendations following your audition.
- Start considering what form your personal therapy will take – a guidance sheet will be sent shortly. It's a good idea to initiate inquiries as soon as you feel ready, as this can take some time.

Read around your subject

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive. Explore the [Library](#) web pages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

We do not recommend that you purchase books at this stage as all our recommended reading for the course will be available through the UWE library (most library material is online). Reading list for enthusiastic readers will be sent to you along with the skills sheet and observation guidelines.

Here are some of our recommended titles for you to read, to be inspired by and to understand the scope of your degree programme:

- *Music Therapy* by Darnley-Smith and Patey: Sage Books 2003 (an introductory text)
- Chapter 1 of *Music Therapy: an Art Beyond Words* by Bunt and Stige: Routledge 2014 (second edition)
- *The Theory and Practice Psychodynamic Music Psychotherapy*. By Alanne, S. (2023) Dallas, TX: Barcelona Publishers
- *Handbook of Music Therapy* Bunt, Hoskyns and Sangeeta (second edition 2024)
- *Free Play: Improvisation in Life and Art* by Namanovitch: Penguin 1990
- *Improvisation* by Wigram: JKP 2004
- *Improvisation* by Bailey: Hachette Books 1993
- *Songwriting* by Baker and Wigram: JKP 2005
- *Music Therapy in Context* by Pavlicevic: JKP 1997
- *Intimate Notes* by Pavlicevic: JKP 1999
- *Playing and Reality* by Winnicott: Routledge classics 2005
- *Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy* by Blake: Karnac books 2011
- *On Becoming a Person: A Therapist's View of Psychotherapy* by Rogers: Mariner Books (second edition)
- *The Gift of Therapy* by Yalom: Piatkus 2011 (second edition)
- *Love's Executioner* by Irving Yalom
- *Intersections of Privilege and Otherness* by Dwight Turner
- *Dibs: in search of self* by Axline: Ballantyne books 1964

Connect with others

The academic team is very happy to answer your questions. In addition, all students have an [academic personal tutor \(APT\)](#) and can go to that staff member with academic questions and concerns.

We advise you to join the [British Association of Music Therapists](#) (BAMT) as a student member. Please note that you will still be able to access the student events that BAMT provide even if you are not a member. Membership will provide you access to broader information about the profession, and you will also receive employment notifications, which will help you understand more about the jobs market for music therapists.

You are encouraged to make contact with the [Centre for Music](#) (CFM), based at Frenchay campus. The CFM has practice facilities, and the opportunity to have instrumental lessons or voice coaching, and the opportunity to join various ensembles.

Be prepared

Access support

Check the information on our [Disability web pages](#) so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. See the UWE website for detailed information on [choosing your IT equipment](#) including [recommended specifications](#).

If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the [Student Money Service](#) team for advice and guidance.

International students

[The Global Student Support Team](#) offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact the Programme Leader **Luke Annesley** via email at Luke.Annesley@uwe.ac.uk or Admissions Tutor **Adam Kishtainy** at Adam.Kishtainy@uwe.ac.uk

Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2025

Last updated: Spring 2025