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Sacred Music Studies

EXPLORING MUSIC, WORSHIP AND MINISTRY

Work towards highly regarded RSCM qualifications:
CertRSCM and DipRSCM
and a **Certificate in Higher Education**

*Do you want to **explore** the use of music in church,
understand the role of music in worship,
and **learn** how to use your skills more effectively?*

- ✦ study by distance learning in the context of your own church
- ✦ a flexible, part-time course over 1-4 years
- ✦ intended for musicians, worship leaders, clergy
- ✦ possibility to undertake postgraduate work

“...it has completely changed the way I work in church”

“...most enjoyable and rewarding”

“...looking at different patterns of worship has been inspiring”

“...given me a huge amount of confidence – both musically and liturgically”

Sacred Music Studies is one of the RSCM's education programmes, the others being *Voice for Life* and *Church Music Skills*.

It enables us to explore music and its use in worship, both in its practical use and in the theological basis for this exploration.

Bangor University's School of Music offers a flexible, distance-learning Certificate in Higher Education in Sacred Music Studies from the University of Wales.

This course is supported by the **Royal School of Church Music**, some of whose staff are part of the tutorial team.

The RSCM affirms a student's progress through their studies by the awards of Preliminary Certificate, CertRSCM and DipRSCM.

The course is intended primarily for those who lead music or worship in their church, or who are training to lead music or worship. However, it is now also possible for members of congregations and choir/music group members to do the course.

You can enrol if you are eligible either by qualifications or experience to be admitted as an undergraduate student of Bangor University. All students are required to have an email account and access to the internet.

The **aims** of the programme are to develop:

- ✦ understanding of worship and ministry,
- ✦ knowledge and understanding of music in worship (both contexts and repertoires),
- ✦ awareness of the applied and practical skills required by those who lead music or lead worship with music (optionally you may undertake these applied and practical skills.

in partnership

who is the course for?

who can enrol?

aims of the course

Studies are related to the place where you currently undertake your regular work as a church musician or leader of worship, or your local place of worship if you are not formally working there.

objectives of the course

The **objects** of the programme are to enable you to

- ✦ plan, lead and/or share leadership of worship with music in your local church or community with understanding and discrimination,
- ✦ use your knowledge and understanding of the Christian seasons, rites and liturgies, and the related repertoires, to support your planning, choice and appropriate use of music in worship,
- ✦ affirm, develop and learn to make best use of relevant skills required by those who lead music or lead worship with music.

a modular course

This is a modular course – a series of separate but interlocking units of study.

six study areas

- ✦ Worship and ministry
- ✦ Music in worship
- ✦ Church music in practice
- ✦ Skills for church musicians (including Additional skills)
- ✦ Cathedral music (intended for organ and choral scholars only)
- ✦ Using music in worship (with the additional option of Practical skills for clergy – both intended for clergy and worship leaders only)

Projects will continue to relate to one or more of these study areas, but will be optional.

Two study areas form the core for all students: *two core study areas*

✦ Worship and ministry
(three 10-credit modules)

✦ Music in worship
(three 10-credit modules)

Together these amount to 60 credits – i.e. half of the HE Certificate in Sacred Music Studies.

There are currently two pathways:

1. local music directors and leaders
2. other local church musicians (singers, players, composer/arrangers, others interested in music and worship)

Coming soon will be two more pathways, for:

3. organ or choral scholars in cathedrals and greater churches
4. clergy and other leaders of worship

The course is designed so that all the study can be undertaken by distance-learning anywhere in the world. Your studies will be supported by workbooks and by personal tutorial support (normally e-mail, postal mail, and telephone, as appropriate).

There will also be opportunities for optional short residential courses for those who wish to have direct personal contact with tutors.

Part-time study: normally two academic years, but the course can be paced to match the time you have available for study. The minimum period to complete the course is normally 24 months, and the maximum is 48 months. That means that you can take as many as six modules in one year, or as few as three modules in each year. However, it will be possible to vary the pace, including enrolment for just one module of study at a time.

Full-time study: it is possible to do the whole course in 15 months.

*pathways through
the course*

distance learning

optional residentials

*how long does
the course take?*

course structure

*(items marked * are available from Autumn 2009)*

Stage I: Initial Studies

(10 credits each unless indicated)

Stage II: Core Studies

(10 credits each unless indicated)

Stage III: Project Work

(credits as indicated)

course curriculum: a summary

Worship and ministry

The course is divided into three sections:

Stage I: Initial studies

Stage II: Core studies

Stage III: Project work

Worship and Ministry A

Music in Worship A

Church Music in Practice A

Skills for Church Musicians A

Additional Skills A

* Cathedral Music A (20 credits)

Worship and Ministry B

Worship and Ministry C

Music in Worship B

Music in Worship C

Church Music in Practice B

Church Music in Practice C

Skills for Church Musicians B

Additional Skills B

* Cathedral Music B (20 credits)

* Using Music in Worship (20 credits)

* Practical Skills for Clergy (20 credits)

Sacred Music Project A (10 credits)

Sacred Music Project A (20 credits)

Sacred Music Project C (30 credits)

A summary of the current modules appears here; more details will be added to the RSCM website (www.rscm.com/sms).

Initial study of the foundations of Christian worship and ministry.

Core study of basic theology of worship and ministry, with pastoral emphasis; aspects of pastoral, formal, ecumenical and civic worship and ministry; distinctions of language, style and presentation of worship; musical ministry – calling, leadership, giftedness, encouragement, spirituality in communal prayer.

Initial study of the Eucharist and its music, and introduction to chant, congregational song, choral polyphony, music with instruments, music with instruments and voices. ***Music and worship***

Core study of Eucharist, Service of the Word; Christian seasons and feasts; availability and use of musical resources; consideration of genres and repertoires for selected styles and settings of worship.

Exploration of good practice, including issues such as recruitment, child protection, copyright, health and safety. ***Church music in practice***

Core basic knowledge relevant for use of music in church.

Exploration of the skills relevant to music director, supplemented by up to three further skills. ***Skills for church musicians***

Students may choose to focus on the development and application of one further skill over three modules, or to extend their study to three further skills over three modules, or a balance between these extremes. The skills are those of: singer, voice trainer, choir trainer, music leader (cantor or instrumental), organ player (solo), organ player (accompanying and leading), composer/arranger.

The projects offer students an opportunity to consolidate and develop their work in areas where they have particular interests and/or skills. They also enable them to demonstrate assimilation of the whole programme, and the opportunity to relate their work more specifically to their regular work and local experience of music in worship. ***Project work***

**Details of the new modules and their assessment will be made available on the RSCM website*
www.rscm.com/sms

the learning experience

Throughout the course, the learning process will be related to your ongoing engagement with and experience of worship and music in your own church.

In each module there will be

- ✦ initial guided study, principally through distance-learning;
- ✦ guided reflection and evaluation, where you will consider the connections between your studies and your experience in your own worshipping environment, and the ways in which each can inform and develop the other;
- ✦ consolidation of study and reflection, focused through preparation for submission of a concluding assignment.

assessing my progress

Each module will have its own assessment procedures, suited to the nature of the study.

Assessment is designed to establish your

- ✦ understanding of and ability to use the knowledge base of each module, and – in the project work – of the programme as a whole;
- ✦ ability to relate this understanding to your own worshipping environment, and identify ways of making use of it in that context;
- ✦ (in skills modules) competence to use the skills studied and to apply them appropriately in your own worshipping environment.

qualifications

*from Bangor University
and the RSCM*

From Bangor University:

If you successfully complete the course (120 credits) you gain a **Certificate of Higher Education in Sacred Music Studies**. This represents the equivalent of the first year of undergraduate study. As many of the modules are at Level 2 this will be particularly helpful if you wish to use the credits gained from this course towards a degree.

From the Royal School of Church Music:

The RSCM makes awards when a student successfully finishes their studies, after completing:

Initial Studies (30 credits):

RSCM Preliminary Certificate

Core Studies (a further 60 credits, 90 credits in total):

CertRSCM (with hood)

120 credits (including at least 20 credits of practical and applied elements):

DipRSCM (with hood)

The university fixes fee levels each year. If you are permanently resident in the UK or elsewhere in the European Union, it is likely to cost approximately £100 for each 10-credit module. This includes the costs of tutorial support and assessment. Students from elsewhere in the world should contact the Sacred Music Studies Administrator at the address below. The RSCM reserves the right to charge a set-up fee.

An application form is available on the RSCM website, or by writing to the RSCM Education Administrator, The Royal School of Church Music, 19 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2EB UK (sacredmusic@rscm.com).

There may be instances where the university may consider some elements of pre-accreditation. Each case will be dealt with on its own merits.

what will it cost me?

how do I apply?

previous study

***bangor.ac.uk/music
rscm.com/sms***