



Module Leader: Dr D Ferrett

Music Dissertation

STAGE 3 (LEVEL 6)

Semester 1
Specialist Practice in Context (MSI310) Core (30 credits)
Dissertation (MSI320) Core (30 credits)

Semester 2
Professional Portfolio (MSI340) Core (60 credits)

Music Year 3



Dissertation Overview

Drawing on your degree studies in the first and second year, a Dissertation is a written research project undertaken in the third and final year of your undergraduate degree.

A Dissertation involves **independent research** about a topic of your choice within the field(s) of your developing expertise in music and sound.



What is a Dissertation?

Module Lecture Schedule

Week 1 Lectures: Module Launch and Getting Started with Dr D Ferrett

Week 2 Lectures: Researching for Dissertation with Rosie Enys and Writing for Dissertation (both lectures will address the potential of AI and the notion of ethical academic responsibility)



Week 3 Lectures: Analysing Sound and Recording with Dr Antti Saario and Analysing Performance with Frankie Stevens



Week 4 Lectures: Analysing Production with Dr Adem Hilmi and Analysing Music for Wellbeing with Dr Chris Morgan



Week 5 Lectures: Analysing Electronic Music with Will Parker and Analysing Audio-Visual Media with Dr Si Waite

Module Schedule

Compulsory Attendance (please register your attendance)

- Lectures weeks 1-5
- Seminars weeks 2-5, 7-9
- Individual Supervision weeks 2, 4, 7, 10, 11
- Group Supervision weeks 3, 5, 9, 12

Optional Attendance (please register if you attend)

- Reading Café weeks 3-4, 7-11

Key Dates for your Timeline and Organisation



Final Topic Idea Form to be submitted in week 3, Wed 9th Oct, 14.00. You will submit the form via the learning space in week 3. You will be able to access the form via the learning space in week 1.

Draft Submission week 8, Monday 11th Nov. This is an opportunity to submit a draft of your work which can include an introduction, structure outline and one full chapter (maximum). You will submit via Turnitin Link in week 8 and receive written annotated feedback via Turnitin by week 10/wc week 11.

Final Submission week 14. To be submitted via Turnitin (see module assessment brief for details of submission and MyFalmouth to confirm date.)

Feedback and Mark w/c 27th Jan. You will have both written annotated feedback and a 30-minute oral tutorial which will be recorded for the External Examiner.

Feedback

Formative Feedback

You will receive formative (informal) feedback that will help guide your progress primarily in your individual and group supervision as well as an opportunity to submit an introduction, structure and one chapter in week 8. You may also receive formative feedback from seminar and reading café discussions alongside any support that you request from ASK services (e.g., link to [bookable 1-1s](#) for writing support) and/or our Academic Liaison Librarian Rosy Enys (e.g., link to [book an appointment with a librarian](#) for research support).

Summative Feedback (see next page 3)

Your assessor will provide you with your mark, annotations and overall text comment summary via Turnitin. You can access instructions for accessing feedback via Turnitin here: [advice for accessing electronic feedback](#). You will also receive a 20-30 min oral feedback session with your tutor who will go through your feedback comments in Turnitin, explain your mark and answer any questions.

Questions and Extra Support

Please use your sessions with your supervisor and sessions with the Module Leader for questions. Outside of your sessions, please use the Module Forum on the Learning Space for any questions about the module and the assessment. Topic specific questions should be directed principally to your individual supervisor.

Key Links

- **Academic Integrity:** <https://studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/study-guides/referencing/academic-integrity>
- **Music and Sound Library Resources:** <https://library.fxplus.ac.uk/music-sound>
- **Accessibility & Inclusive Learning:** <https://www.falmouth.ac.uk/experience/support/accessibility>
- **Extenuating Circumstances:** <https://fxplus.ac.uk/faqs/how-do-i-apply-for-extenuating-circumstances/>
- **Potentially using AI:** <https://library.fxplus.ac.uk/ai>

Useful Links and Extra Support (see learning space)

Academic Integrity: <https://studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/study-guides/referencing/academic-integrity>

Music and Sound Library Resources: <https://library.fxplus.ac.uk/music-sound>

Accessibility & Inclusive Learning: <https://www.falmouth.ac.uk/experience/support/accessibility>

Extenuating Circumstances: <https://fxplus.ac.uk/faqs/how-do-i-apply-for-extenuating-circumstances/>

Potentially using AI: <https://library.fxplus.ac.uk/ai>

Research and Finding Information: <https://studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/study-guides/research-finding-information>

Book a Librarian: <https://studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/book-librarian-appointments>

Write Time: <https://studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/ask/write-time>

Book ASK: <https://studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/ask/1to1-appointments>

Harvard Referencing: <https://studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/study-guides/referencing/harvard-referencing-falmouth-university>

Aims

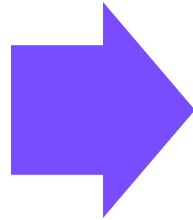
Maximum of 3

1. The development of the skills required for effective independent research;
2. The confidence and skills necessary to make written contributions to pertinent discussions and debate in your field;
3. The knowledge and ability to reflect upon and critically interrogate practice in a manner consistent with contemporary academic discourse.

Task: 7500-8000 word
Dissertation

Brief

Building on your work in the first and second year, the problem or question you propose should be based on contextual understanding of relevant and contemporary debates and discussions in your specific area of music and sound. You should carry out an **in-depth and critical investigation** into your Dissertation topic and research question with the aim of producing a well-structured written response to your research question that contributes to the **wider knowledge** on your topic.



All Dissertations need to adhere to the presentation conventions outlined in the module handbook guidance which you will find on the learning space. The word count includes all text from the beginning title in the introduction until the last word of the conclusion (excluding title pages, content list, abstract, bibliography, appendices). You will need to follow all presentation conventions as explained in the module handbook guidance and this includes Falmouth Harvard referencing.

Learning Outcomes		
LO	Learning Outcome	Assessment Criteria
2	<p>Critical Thinking <i>Think critically about concepts, contexts and practice, evaluating these through scholarship, and/or self-reflection.</i></p>	<p>Engage (via analysis and evaluation) with other – possibly opposed – views within a debate, as part of a contextually appropriate discussion. Present ideas systematically, locating them within relevant cultural debates and existing bodies of knowledge. Adopt a creative and innovative approach to making considered connections between your ideas, questions and research.</p>
5	<p>Research <i>Produce informed work through the use of appropriate research methods.</i></p>	<p>Identify and employ appropriate research methodologies and strategies to produce an informed discussion. Evidence the deployment of a relevant, well-developed and well-considered list of resources.</p>
6	<p>Skills <i>Demonstrate a sufficiently high-quality skill-set to realise your work.</i></p>	<p>Present a focused line of argument and shape a written discussion. Demonstrate the ability to observe and work with research protocols, and appropriate publishing and editing conventions. Sustain a quality and appropriateness of written expression.</p>

Assessment

How to develop a good research question

1. Choose and distinguish your topic (identify the subject under discussion).

2. Identify the field/s of research that are appropriate to your topic (where do you go to find informed and interesting research about this topic?).

3. With some preliminary research, are you able to identify a problem/ problem area/ gap in the discussion and understanding of the topic (what is the 'problem' your dissertation would like to address)?

4. Develop and focus a 'research question' from this problem, trying to ensure you have pinpointed a question that is feasible and relevant to your field.



Your Research Question is the catalyst and driving critical momentum for your Dissertation – it allows you to understand the purpose of your work (goals and targets/aims and objectives).

Dissertation Topic Form

You can find and download the Dissertation Final Topic Proposal Form on the Learning Space in week 1. You can submit your form in week 3 on the learning space via the submission link.

Deadline Wed 9th Oct, 14.00

1. Please insert name and the course you are studying:
2. Describe your Topic and explain why the topic is interesting and how it is relevant to the field of your developing expertise in music and/or sound.
3. How does your dissertation topic pick up from previous work in your degree studies?
4. What is your research question (or questions) about your topic?
5. Please list and explain some of the key questions/ideas/resources you have engaged with so far that are going to be essential.
6. So far, how do you plan to research and analyse your topic?
7. What are the aims and objectives for your dissertation? ('aims' are the overall long-term goals and objectives are specific short-term effective and achievable targets that support the aims). For example, you might have 2 or 3 aims and 5 or 6 objectives that help you to understand how you will achieve your aims.
8. What are the challenges you have experienced so far (this will help the supervisor identify the support you might need and the discussions that it will be useful to have)?

Do you have a hypothesis?



“A [hypothesis](#) is an assumption, an idea that is proposed for the sake of argument so that it can be tested to see if it might be true.”
(Merriam-Webster Dictionary)



“A hypothesis is usually tentative; it's an assumption or suggestion made strictly for the objective of being tested.”



“A [theory](#), in contrast, is a principle that has been formed as an attempt to explain things that have already been substantiated by data.”



“In non-scientific use, however, *hypothesis* and *theory* are often used interchangeably to mean simply an idea, speculation, or hunch, with *theory* being the more common choice.”

- Women are excluded from the Music Canon
- A Singer-Songwriting practice can be creatively expanded by engaging with free improvisation
- The singing voice is expressive of an individual's soul
- The Digital Age is changing the way we listen to and experience music
- Sound art changes the way we perceive the world
- Disabled people have limited access to music practice
- Music education is potentially radical and political



Any questions?

