Why study music at Monash?

The Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music has been inspiring musicians towards excellence for 50 years and during that time we have grown to become one of the most comprehensive music programs in the country.

We excel in classical as well as jazz and popular music performance. Our ethnomusicology and musicology programs are world-renowned and we have vibrant programs in composition, improvisation and creative music technology.

Apart from our reputation, students choose to study with us because of the exceptional learning opportunities we provide. You will advance your practical skills, collaborate with international artists and study with accomplished teaching staff. You can study and perform in New York and Prato (Italy), and you will engage with the historical, creative, technical and cultural aspects of music. We work with you to ensure that you have the skills, knowledge and creativity to be a successful musician in the 21st century.

Whether you see a future in composition or performance, you are passionate about music technology, or you are drawn to exploring the nature of music as culture, the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music will harness your creative potential and challenge you to excel.
Where can a music degree take me?

There are far more career options available in music-related fields than you may realise.

Our graduates work across corporate and business sectors, the arts industry, government and private sectors. Many are performers but often they have additional income streams and work in fields that may not necessarily be related to music. They can readily do this because the skills and attributes that are inherent to being a musician are so highly sought after.

Music graduates are recognised for being:

» Comfortable with themselves and confident about expressing ideas
» Creative and able to improvise on demand
» Good at planning and project management
» Able to work closely in a team to meet deadlines
» Able to manage budgets
» Able to take the lead and be responsible for outcomes
» Good at juggling projects and managing their time
» Disciplined and goal oriented

Some of the fields our graduates work in are:

**Industry**
» Arts administrator
» Community music officer
» Concert management
» Critic/reviewer
» Film/TV
» Radio
» Instrument building
» Multimedia production
» Music management/promotion
» Producer
» Recording engineer
» Sound engineer
» MIDI/computer programming

**Performance**
» Accompanist
» Conductor
» Freelance performer
» Orchestral player
» Chamber musician
» Popular/rock/jazz musician
» Performer in residence

**Composition**
» Freelance
» Theatre/dance
» Film/video/TV
» Community music
» Composer in residence

**Teaching**
» Primary and secondary schools
» Private tuition

**Academic**
» Composition
» Ethnomusicology
» Musicianship
» Musicology
» Performance
» Technology
» Music archivist
» Research
» Technician
How can I study music at Monash?

The Bachelor of Music

The Bachelor of Music is a specialist degree designed for those considering a career in the music industry. You will build on your particular talent to develop advanced skills and knowledge in your specialisation. In addition, you will be immersed in the ever-changing landscape of the music industry to ensure that you are ready for success and able to engage with the musical challenges of the 21st century.

What will I be studying?

The Bachelor of Music course develops through three themes:

01 Music specialist study
Here you will develop specialist skills in one of four specialisations on offer:
» Music composition
» Music performance (classical or jazz and popular music)
» Creative music technology
» Ethnomusicology and musicology

02 Music theory and ear training
These units will integrate the development of aural skills with the theoretical understanding of music through listening, analysis, performance, notation and composition.

03 Music context study
Here you will learn about music and music making in various cultural, historical, social and professional settings.

About the specialisations

01 Music composition
The Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music offers one of Australia's most innovative and comprehensive music composition programs. We embrace many of today's approaches to music-making: studio-based music composition, chamber music composition, community music composition, jazz music composition, music composition for film and television, experimental music composition and sound art. As a composition student you will be part of a lively, creative community that investigates music through traditional and contemporary approaches.

Opportunities for our composers include performance residencies with leading local and international performers, as well as the Monash New Music Ensemble under the direction of Timothy Phillips (Arcko Symphonic Project). Our composition students also develop their original work under the guidance of active and well-established composers. Visiting experts of new music present their approaches and methods in weekly composition seminars.

This means that as a student in the composition program, you are constantly challenged to develop your own voice and style and skills through exposure to work and practice of others who excel in their field.

Staff include:

Professor Mary Finsterer // Chamber Music
Australia Chair of Composition
Mr Jordan Murray // Jazz composition coordinator
Associate Professor Thomas Reiner // Composition coordinator

02 Music performance
Classical
The vibrant classical performance program is led by a core staff of highly acclaimed performers and teachers. Our students develop advanced practical and theoretical performance knowledge through one-to-one lessons, master classes, seminars and workshops. Students are guided to develop their technical ability on their instrument and interpretive insight into a wide-ranging repertoire.

There are extensive opportunities for solo and ensemble performance and we encourage all of our students to participate. These range from on-campus to regional and international tours and classes. Chamber music is an integral part of the program and is coached by members of pre-eminent ensembles such as Ensemble Liaison, Trio Anima Mundi, Sutherland Trio and Duo Chamber Melange.

The classical program offers choice and specialised focus areas and these include:
» Piano/Keyboard
» Strings
» Voice
» Woodwind, Brass and Percussion

Staff include:

Dr Kenji Fujimura // Deputy Head of School, Coordinator of Classical Performance and Chamber Music, Senior Lecturer in Piano and Keyboard
Mr David Griffiths // Coordinator of Woodwind, Brass and Percussion, Senior Lecturer in Clarinet
Associate Professor Merlyn Quaife AM // Coordinator of Voice
Ms Elizabeth Sellars // Coordinator of Strings, Lecturer in Violin
Ms Tamara Smolyar // Coordinator of Piano, Coordinator of Ensemble Studies, Senior Lecturer in Piano
Jazz and popular music

Our aim in the jazz and popular music program is to offer our students a strong technical and musical foundation that allows them to develop their own musical identity. Our holistic approach also equips students with a diverse range of skills to prepare them for a successful career. For example, the program includes studies in musics of the world, harmony, creativity, style, arranging composition, the music business, film, technology and teaching.

Students are offered outstanding opportunities to perform, record and learn from the best local and international musicians from Australia, USA, Brazil and Europe including via three-week study units in New York and at the Monash Centre in Prato, Italy.

The Jazz and popular music program is also the education partner of The Melbourne International Jazz Festival, which has given students the opportunity to study and perform with the likes of Maria Schneider, Mark Helias, John Abercrombie, Terence Blanchard, Chris Potter, The Fringe, Tarbaby and the Aaron Goldberg Quartet. Ensembles also regularly perform at Bennetts Lane, The Melbourne Recital Centre, Paris Cat Jazz Club, Federation Square and BMW Edge.

03 Creative music technology

Creative music technology focuses on the creative application of technology within professional music, sound, broadcast and multimedia, and research contexts.

Students develop skills for employment within new media, composition, recording and performance industries including sound engineering, computer music, audio-visual production and post-production, mastering, scoring for film and multimedia, audio for games, software development and multimedia production.

Creative Music Technology fuses the exploration and use of technology through creative approaches to music/sound, enabling students to use current and emerging technologies to showcase their creativity.

As part of a large and active school of music we emphasise the integration of musical and technical skills with performance and composition programs, encouraging collaborations that explore new relationships between experimental and traditional approaches to music.

Staff include:

Mr Ben Grayson // Creative music technology coordinator

04 Ethnomusicology and musicology

Monash is world renowned for its work and expertise in the field of ethnomusicology and musicology. We have some of the finest collections of musical instruments and archives in the world to which our students have access.

Studying ethnomusicology and musicology gives you the opportunity to study music from diverse historical, social and cultural perspectives. Students investigate Western and other global music genres, specifically exploring factors that shape the creation, performance and meaning of musical works. Examples of the kinds of subjects you would study in this specialisation are:

» Popular music and global perspective
» Music, identity and place
» Gongs, punks and shadow plays

Staff include:

Dr Joel Crotty // Senior Lecturer in Musicology
Professor John Griffiths // Oficial de la Orden de Isabel la Católica FAHA BA(Hons) PhD DMus (Melb) Head of School, Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music
Professor Margaret Kartomi AM, FAHA // Professor of Music
Ms Bronia Kornhauser // Research officer and Archivist
Dr Jonathan McIntosh // Lecturer in Ethnomusicology
Dr Adrian McNeil // Senior Lecturer in Ethnomusicology
Dr Paul Watt // Musicology and Ethnomusicology Coordinator, and Senior Lecturer in Musicology

05

Staff include:

Associate Professor Rob Burke // Jazz and Popular Studies Coordinator
Professor Paul Grabowsky // Vice Chancellor's Professorial Fellow
Mr Jordan Murray // Lecturer in Jazz and Popular Studies, Jazz composition coordinator
Dr Paul Williamson // Lecturer in Jazz and Popular Studies, Jazz Ensemble Coordinator
To complete a Bachelor of Music you need to study a total of 24 units. These are taken over three years full time or six years part time. Sixteen of these units are music units and the remaining eight are free electives that can be from music or another field outside your music degree.

Free electives can be used to further develop your knowledge of music more broadly or you can select units from across the university. For example, you could complement your music studies with a language or a subject from business or science. Another option is to take advantage of one of the many overseas study opportunities offered by the faculty.

### Bachelor of Music Course Map

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Music Specialist Study</th>
<th>Music Theory and Ear Training</th>
<th>Music Context Study</th>
<th>Free Electives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Music Specialist Study:**
Choose from four specialisations:
- Music Composition / Music Performance / Ethnomusicology, Musicology / Creative Music Technology

There are many choices within the degree, for a full list go to: http://monash.edu/pubs/handbooks/courses/0821.html

Here are some examples of the kinds of subjects you would take in your Music degree.

- Music Ensembles (performance)
- Chamber Music (performance)
- From the erotic to the exotic: Music in the nineteenth century
- Music, identity and place
- The ethnomusicology of improvisation
- Music technology
- Recording and Computer Music Production
- Orchestration
- Conducting
- From Critical Theory to Creating New Musical Work
- Jazz Arranging: Contemporary Arranging Techniques for Small Groups to Large Ensembles
- Popular Music in Global Perspective
- Audio Culture: From Cage to Gaga
- Drumming Traditions of West Africa
- East Asia and its Music: Silk Road Histories and Popular Contexts
- Popular Music and Society
- Gongs, Punks and Shadow Plays
- The Music business: How to be successful in the music industry
- Writing about music: Headlines and hashtags
- Overseas study
You can also study the Bachelor of Music concurrently with another course as part of a double degree. A double degree lets you tailor your qualifications to fit diverse interests and talents. You will graduate with two degrees giving you more career flexibility and opportunities.

The Bachelor of Music is available to study as a double degree with the following courses:

- Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music
- Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Music
- Bachelor of Education (Honours) and Bachelor of Music
- Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Music
- Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Music

One of the great advantages of doing a double degree is that you can complete two degrees in four years of full time study instead of six. (Note: a double degree with Laws will take five years to complete.)

Each year music students have the opportunity to study at New York University learning and playing with some of the world’s greatest musicians.

“During chamber music coachings I witnessed the supportive environment that the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music has fostered; students were eager to help one another by offering constructive comments and understanding different musical perspectives. We very much look forward to working with the Monash students next summer, if not before.”

Cyrus Beroukhim, Music Associate Professor of Violin and String Studies at NYU
Studying music in a Bachelor of Arts course

You can include music in your Bachelor of Arts course as a major, a minor or electives. You’ll develop a foundation in the general study of music and an insight into the music industry.

There is an opportunity to join a range of small and large ensembles, some of which are subject to audition, and you can take overseas study units. Whether or not you have studied music at secondary level, or can read music, you can enrich your degree by including music units in your course of study.

**Study music as a major in your arts course**
There are eight units in your major. You study two in first year, two in second year and four in third year.

OR

**Study music as a minor in your arts course**
There are four units in your minor. You study two in first year and two in second year.

OR

**Study music as electives in your arts course**
There are eight units of free electives. You can study music units as electives.

### Bachelor of Arts Course Map

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Major: can be in music</th>
<th>Minor: can be in music</th>
<th>Electives from Arts</th>
<th>Free electives: can be in music</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sem 01</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sem 02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Major: can be in music</th>
<th>Minor: can be in music</th>
<th>Electives from Arts</th>
<th>Free electives: can be in music</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sem 01</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sem 02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 3</th>
<th>Major: can be in music</th>
<th>Major: can be in music</th>
<th>Free electives: can be in music</th>
<th>Free electives: can be in music</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sem 01</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sem 02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Examples of music units you can study in your Bachelor of Arts course

**First year units**
- Popular music in a global perspective
- Music and history
- Music and culture
- Music ensemble

**Second year units**
- Jazz history
- Music ensemble
- Recording and computer music production
- The ethnomusicology of improvisation
- Writing about music: from headlines to hashtags

**Third year units**
- Music in Australia
- Gongs, punks and shadow plays
- Music research in the digital age
- The music business: how to succeed in the music industry

**Entry requirements**
*There is no audition required to study music in your Bachelor of Arts degree.*

The entry requirements are the same as for the BA. There may be auditions required for some of the ensembles.
Many other Monash courses have free electives allowing you to take music units. This varies between courses but if you were studying the Bachelor of Science, for example, you would have eight free electives that could be taken as music units.

**Free Electives** can be taken as music units

**From our students**

“Music at Monash has given me the opportunity to pursue my love of learning and sharing music with others. I was privileged enough to have participated in the Prato overseas chamber music last year. Learning from Italian musicians who live and breathe music in such a musical culture really inspired me – it was truly an experience I will never forget.”

**Arthur Athan**
Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Laws student
Student ensembles

Participating in a student ensemble is a great way to engage in the vibrant and diverse music that the School encourages, as well as gain performance experience as a musician.

The Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music has a wide range of student ensembles, all reflecting the importance of encouraging diversity and integration of traditional, multi-cultural and contemporary styles of music performance.

Our ensembles include:
- Blackwood Ensemble
- Monash Academy Orchestra (MAO)
- Monash Art Ensemble (MAE)
- Monash Wind Symphony
- Monash String Sinfonia
- Monash Piano Ensembles
- Monash University Singers
- Monash University Big Band
- World Music Orchestra
- Small Ensembles – Jazz, Funk, Australian, Brazilian, World
- Monash Guitar Ensemble
- Monash Classical Guitar Ensemble
- Monash Jazz Vocal Ensemble
- Monash Gamelan Orchestra
- Monash New Music Ensemble
A degree with an international edge

International experience can be a significant part of your time as a student. Overseas study experiences give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in a different culture, deepen your knowledge, appreciation and understanding, as well as take part in challenging but rewarding master classes.

At Monash, we are committed to ensuring our music students are exposed to a diverse and challenging range of learning experiences abroad. We offer students the chance to take part in study programs in Prato, Italy, and New York, US. While away, you will have the chance to take part in a wide variety of activities, from master classes with world-renowned musicians, to performances at local jazz clubs.

Entry requirements

Entry requirements for the Bachelor of Music (single or double degree course)

Applicants must satisfy the university entrance requirements. In addition, composition applicants must submit a composition portfolio and attend an interview; creative music technology and performance applicants must pass an audition. For further information about the entry requirement for the Bachelor of Music, please see the School of Music website: http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/music-auditions

Entry requirements for the Bachelor of Arts course

ATAR 85 Clayton, 81 Caulfield

How do I apply?

Students need to audition for entry to a Bachelor of Music.

Application is via VTAC.

Go here to register for an audition: http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/music-auditions/registration

Students studying music as part of a Bachelor of Arts course do not need to apply for an audition*

Application is via VTAC.  

* If students want to play in an ensemble group there may be an audition required.

Scholarships and prizes

Monash University offers a range of scholarships and prizes to both local and international students enrolled in degrees. The Arts Faculty and the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music offer students support through scholarships and grants. These are designed to make study at Monash, and taking part in our international program, a possibility for students.

Scholarships available specifically to Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music students include:

» Anna Chmiel Memorial Scholarship
» Anna Chmiel Travel Scholarship
» Kartomi PhD in Music Scholarship
» Monash Jazz Music Scholarship
» Monash-Pratt Musician Performance Scholarship
» Vice-Chancellor’s Concertmaster/Orchestra Leader Scholarship
» Yamaha Post Graduate Research Scholarship in Performance Classical
» Yamaha Post Graduate Research Scholarship in Performance Jazz
» Elizabeth Scarlett Award for incoming classical piano/strings student

Further study

Honours

An honours year of study provides an opportunity to take more specialised and advanced work in music performance, music composition, creative music technology, ethnomusicology and musicology.  

http://future.arts.monash.edu.au/undergraduate-courses/arts-honours

Postgraduate Courses

We offer degrees at Master’s and PhD level. The Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music is consistently ranked among the best music research schools in Australia according to data provided by the Australian Research Council and the ‘Group of Eight’ consortium of research-intensive Australian universities.  

http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/music/postgraduate
Contact us today

Contact us today to find out more about the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, how to study music at Monash, and the application process – including auditions. http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/music

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of publication (June 2015). Monash University reserves the right to alter this information should the need arise. You should always check with the relevant Faculty office when considering a course.

CRICOS provider: Monash University 00008C
Monash College 01857J