

2025/26 Postgraduate Erasmus Programme Information

Updated January 2025

Contents:

General Information

Duration and start date	1
Eligibility	1
How to apply	1
English language support	2
Credits & assessments	2

Course Content

International Orientation & general induction activities	4
Reflective Practice Module	4
Principal Study Module Information by Department	4
Elective Module details	9

If you have any questions, please contact erasmus@gsmd.ac.uk

General Information

Following the UK's departure from the EU, the UK can participate in the Erasmus+ programme as a non-associated third country. The home (sending) institution must be located in an EU member state or a third country associated to the programme, and awarded the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education. A bilateral agreement between the home (sending) and host (receiving) institution will be organised once a successful student has accepted their offer.

Duration and start date

Guildhall School can accept students for the following two periods only:

Term 1: (Autumn term)	Friday 12 September 2025 - Friday 5 December 2025
Semester 1: (Autumn term and part of spring term)	Friday 12 September 2025 - Friday 20 February 2026 <i>Christmas break: 6 December 2025 - 4 January 2026</i>

A September start date is required to enable students to attend induction events and to get the most benefit from the study period. Students may not extend their stay after 20th February 2026.

Eligibility

- Students on the postgraduate Erasmus programme must have already undertaken at least three full years of undergraduate degree study in music.
- Students should be nominated by their home institution and must apply through their Erasmus Coordinator

How to apply

This course information document provides detailed information about principal study lessons and electives available to Erasmus students. Please refer to it when completing your application form and learning agreement.

- Applications and supporting material should be received by **27 March 2025**.
- Erasmus Coordinators should send an email to Erasmus@gsmd.ac.uk with their student nomination(s) and email address for each nominated student(s).
- The nominated student will receive a direct link to Guildhall School's online application form.
- Students must be prepared to upload the following supporting documents as part of their online application:
 1. Learning agreement (supplied by the home institution)
 2. CV / Resume
 3. Academic Transcript
 4. Evidence of English language ability. This can be in the form of:

- Reference from a teacher confirming your English language ability, OR
 - English language qualification / exam
5. Video audition recording or Composition Portfolio with at least three contrasting pieces. Video auditions can be submitted as a high quality streamed web link (e.g. Vimeo/YouTube). Composition portfolios can either be shared via a link or emailed to Erasmus@gsmd.ac.uk. Please do not provide links that will expire before or shortly after the application deadline.

Any questions regarding applying can be sent to erasmus@gsmd.ac.uk.

English language support

Incoming students are expected to be competent in English at a minimum of level B2 of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages*. Referees will be asked to confirm the competency of incoming students.

However, students are invited to undertake a non-credit bearing *Written English* module alongside their Erasmus studies. This class focuses on the development of skills in written English for academic purposes. It includes written and spoken exercises for developing the acquisition of grammar and vocabulary. If you wish to attend, please discuss this at your entry meeting with Academic Studies in September.

Students will also be put in touch with an ‘International Buddy’ before the start of term. This is a student at Guildhall School who can help answer questions about settling in to the School and life in London.

Credits & assessments

The Guildhall School operates a credit equivalency of 20 notional learning hours to 1 ECTS credit. Notional learning hours are a combination of contact time and private study. Assessments will not normally be offered for a September – December mobility. Where applicable, assessments are graded on a scale of 0 to 100 which fall under the following scheme:

Percentage mark out of 100	Award
70 and above	Distinction
60 and above	Merit
50 and above	Pass
49 and below	Fail

Term 1 (autumn term) programme: 12 September 2025 - 5 December 2025	ECTS
International Orientation Day & Induction activities Including all general induction activities within first week	0.5
Principal Study See content by department on pages 5-8	14.5

Reflective Practice Module See content on page 4	5
TOTAL	20

Semester 1 (autumn and part-spring term) programme: 12 September 2025 - 20 February 2026	ECTS
International Orientation Day & Induction activities Including all general induction activities within first week	0.5
Principal Study See content by department on pages 5-8	24.5
Reflective Practice Module See content on pages 4	5
Elective Module See content on pages 9-10	4
TOTAL	34

Course Content

International Orientation and general induction

The International Orientation is arranged by the Student Affairs department and takes place each year on the Friday before the start of Term 1 (Friday, 13 September 2024). You will have an opportunity to meet fellow students and staff, and there will be a programme of presentations, tours and discussion groups.

All students are required to engage in the induction activities within the first week of Term 1, including attendance at group meetings with the Director of Music and senior members of the Principal Study and Academic Studies Departments.

Reflective Practice Module

All postgraduate Erasmus students **will attend** and **be assessed** in the Reflective Practice module. This will normally be delivered through two seminars at the start of the autumn term. These seminars, and associated written task, are supported by discussion groups which normally meet twice a term.

This module aims to:

- Introduce professional development issues of relevance to all postgraduate students
- Develop the students' capacity to reflect intelligently on the nature of musical excellence and on their own emerging professional relationship with musical performance, composition and leadership.
- Allow an opportunity for consideration of aspects of the students' long term artistic professional development.

Students will be asked to submit, by the middle of the first term, a short piece of written work (a self-reflective account) which they will be assessed on.

Principal Study Modules

Students' activities vary by department. All aspects of the Principal Study Module are expected to be attended by the student during their period of study including all scheduled rehearsals. A Leave of Absence form must be approved for any absences during term-time.

The allocation of the Principal Study teacher is determined by student preference and tutor availability, and the final decision is made by the Head of Department. The School does not guarantee study with a particular Principal Study teacher.

Please see the available Principal Study modules below for further details. Incoming students should use the following information to complete their learning agreement.

1. Composition
2. Historical Performance

3. Jazz
4. Keyboard AIS (Advanced Instrumental Studies)
5. Keyboard PACC (Piano Accompaniment)
6. Strings
7. Vocal
8. Wind, Brass & Percussion

Composition		
	Term 1 programme	Semester 1 programme
ECTS	14.5	24.5
Principal Study lessons:	10 hours	16 hours
Exams:	None, but formative feedback will be given during the course.	Mid-year portfolio
Workshops:	Participation in Composition projects to be determined in consultation with principal study teacher and Head of Department	Participation in Composition projects to be determined in consultation with principal study teacher and Head of Department
Other classes:	Attendance required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly postgraduate seminars • Weekly open sessions 	Attendance required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly postgraduate seminars • Weekly open sessions

Historical Performance		
	Term 1 programme	Semester 1 programme
ECTS	14.5	24.5
Principal Study lessons:	15 hours	24 hours
Exams:	None	Mid-year exam
Platforms:	Attendance required and at least one performance	Attendance required and at least one performance
Ensemble:	Participation in ensembles and performance projects according to availability and with agreement of Head of Department	Participation in ensembles and performance projects according to availability and with agreement of Head of Department
Other classes:	Attendance required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Performance: Principles and Research 	Attendance required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Performance: Principles and Research

	Optional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to continuo playing on the harpsichord (for singers and instrumentalists of other disciplines) 	Optional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to continuo playing on the harpsichord (for singers and instrumentalists of other disciplines)
--	---	---

Jazz		
	Term 1 programme	Semester 1 programme
ECTS	14.5	24.5
Principal Study lessons:	12 hours	19 hours
Exams:	None	Mid-year exam
Platforms:	Attendance required and at least one performance (small band)	Attendance required and at least one performance (small band)
Ensemble:	Participation in ensembles and performance projects according to availability and with agreement of Head of Department.	Participation in ensembles and performance projects according to availability and with agreement of Head of Department.
Other classes:	Other classes available in discussion with Jazz department.	Other classes available in discussion with Jazz department.

Keyboard: AIS (Advanced Instrumental Studies)		
	Term 1 programme	Semester 1 programme
ECTS	14.5	24.5
Principal Study lessons:	20 hours	32 hours
Exams:	None	Mid-year exam
Platforms:	Attendance required and at least one performance	Attendance required and at least one performance
Other classes:	Other classes may be available in discussion with Keyboard department	Other classes may be available in discussion with Keyboard department

Keyboard: PACC (Piano Accompaniment)		
	Term 1 programme	Semester 1 programme
ECTS	14.5	24.5
Principal Study lessons:	15 hours	24 hours
Exams:	None	Mid-year exam
Classes & Platforms:	Students are required to attend & play at one or two classes per week, plus performance at the Vocal Platforms	Students are required to attend & play at one or two classes per week, plus performance at the Vocal Platforms

Strings

Chamber Music:

Participation in chamber music cannot be guaranteed. On occasion, optional **non assessed** participation in chamber music may be authorised, but this requires the approval of the Head of Chamber Music. Please consider this carefully if your home institution requires you to participate in chamber music during Erasmus.

Optional non assessed participation can also be authorised in a broad range of other activities, including string concerts, professor platforms, performance classes, and other workshops and projects in accordance with the applying student's experience and ability, and by agreement with relevant Department Heads.

	Term 1 programme	Semester 1 programme
ECTS	14.5	24.5
Principal Study lessons:	10 hours	16 hours
Exams:	None	Mid-year exam
Platforms: Bowed Strings	Optional platform classes	Optional platform classes
Platforms: Harp	Participation in harp performance classes	Participation in harp performance classes
Platforms: Guitar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at Guitar Musicianship and Repertoire & Performance classes • Optional platform classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at Guitar Musicianship and Repertoire & Performance classes • Optional platform classes

Ensemble: Bowed Strings/ Harp	Participation in orchestras / ensembles	Participation in orchestras / ensembles
--	--	--

Vocal		
	Term 1 programme	Semester 1 programme
ECTS	14.5	24.5
Principal Study lessons:	10 hours + 5 hours repertoire coaching	16 hours + 8 hours repertoire coaching
Exams:	None	Mid-year exam
Platforms:	Attendance required and at least one performance	Attendance required and at least two performances
Other classes:	Attendance required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oratorio Class • Stagecraft & Movement 	Attendance required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oratorio Class • Stagecraft & Movement

Wind, Brass & Percussion		
	Term 1 programme	Semester 1 programme
ECTS	14.5	24.5
Principal Study lessons:	15 hours	24 hours
Exams:	None	Mid-year exam
Platforms:	One performance	One performance
Ensemble:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in chamber group • Performance in orchestra and/or other ensembles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in chamber group • Performance in orchestra and/or other ensembles
Other classes:	Attendance required: at least one orchestral repertoire session	Attendance required: at least two orchestral repertoire sessions

Elective Modules

Students staying for semester 1 (September – February) may take up to one elective class in addition to the Reflective Practice Module. Please note that:

- There is no guarantee that any particular module will run in a particular year, therefore students should specify two possible options with an order of preference.
- This information is subject to change, and confirmation of modules available will be approved on an individual basis on arrival at the School.
- Students staying up to February will receive a statement of attendance and progress report based on their participation in their elective class.
- For all electives, the assessment is the tutor's progress report (pass/fail) based on participation and completion of class based tasks where required.

Advanced Principal Study	
Requirements	PS must be of the highest level; approval from Head of Department must be obtained.
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teaching and supervision for the preparation of the assessment happen within the normally allocated time for Principal Study

Body Matters	
Requirements	Students must have a good level of English. Students may be asked to provide evidence of written English before a place in this class is confirmed.
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The elective explores a range of body and mind issues relevant to learning, practising, creating, making and performing music.• Content is delivered by Guildhall School staff and visiting experts. Students will be asked to apply concepts and ideas explored in class to their own practice as musicians.

Composition for Media	
Requirements	Students must have experience in electronic music and have a good working knowledge of a production-based music package or DAW, such as Logic Pro X, Cubase, or Ableton Live. They must also be fluent in music theory and notation and in the uses of suitable score notation software. Students may be asked to provide evidence of the above skills before a place in this class is confirmed.
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will develop up-to-date technical skills appropriate for a contemporary media composer.• Students will develop an overall knowledge of landmark films and television programmes, from a musical perspective.

Introduction to Music Therapy	
Requirements	Students must have a good level of English. Students may be asked to provide evidence of written English before a place in this class is confirmed.

Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The elective introduces Music Therapy, examining its theories and applications. • Class discussion and presentations by both the tutor and students. Video and audio examples of clinical work from a variety of fields.
-------------	---

Jazz Improvisation

Requirements	For jazz students only
Information	This is a weekly practical class/workshop which is designed to develop practical improvisational skills, develop problem-solving skills related to improvisational practice, encourage artistic curiosity and an open-minded approach to improvised music.

Music, Philosophy & the Arts

Requirements	Students must have a good level of English. Students may be asked to provide evidence of written English before a place in this class is confirmed.
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The elective aims to give students an understanding of music in the context of the arts and culture in general, and to ground students in techniques of philosophical analysis and critical reading, thinking and writing. • Student activities revolve around lectures and class discussion, background reading and research.

Song Accompaniment

Requirements	For piano students only
Information	<p>Pianists will be helped to find singer partners from the postgraduate vocal training programme. They will then prepare, rehearse and be coached on relevant repertoire.</p> <p>They will be encouraged to work with their singers beyond the precise limitations of this module, taking part in the vocal performance platforms, in song classes, singers' assessments and in master classes taken by internal or visiting professors.</p>

Song Interpretation

Requirements	For vocal students only
Information	<p>This is a weekly class/performance seminar which is designed to improve students' stylistic and linguistic capabilities in vocal repertoire related to major European languages. Regular piano accompanists are provided for this class.</p> <p>Each term, class members are responsible for a lunchtime recital.</p> <p>Students are expected to develop advanced performance and interpretation in one or two languages.</p>

Artistry in Stylistic Composition: Counterpoint

Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students study and write two and three part species counterpoint and motet-type compositions.
-------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available to all students; composition students may only take this class if they have not previously studied species counterpoint.
--	--

Artistry in Stylistic Composition: Fugue	
Requirements	Students must have studied harmony and counterpoint to an acceptable level.
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two and three part fugues • The pedagogical approach is based on treatises of Cherubini, Dubois and Gedalge, complemented by 18th Century sources (Fux, Martini) and current literature (Walker).