

MUSIC: COMPOSITION (D.MUS.)

Offered by: Music (Schulich School of Music)

Degree: Doctor of Music

Program Description

The D.Mus. in Music; Composition offers private instruction with some of Canada's most accomplished composers as well as studies in different compositional methods and technologies.

Students admitted to the D.Mus. in Music; Composition program who have a master's degree other than the M.Mus. in Music; Composition from McGill University, may be required to successfully complete one or more undergraduate course(s) before completion of the doctoral program.

Details concerning the comprehensive examinations, thesis and academic regulations are available from the Graduate Studies Coordinator, Schulich School of Music or from the Music Graduate website at: <http://www.mcgill.ca/music/programs>.

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please refer to Visual Schedule Builder. A technical issue is causing the "Terms offered" field to incorrectly report "this course is not currently offered" for many courses in the Course Catalogue.

Thesis

A thesis for the doctoral degree must constitute original scholarship and must be a distinct contribution to knowledge. It must show familiarity with previous work in the field and must demonstrate ability to plan and carry out research, organize results, and defend the approach and conclusions in a scholarly manner. The research presented must meet current standards of the discipline; as well, the thesis must clearly demonstrate how the research advances knowledge in the field. Finally, the thesis must be written in compliance with norms for academic and scholarly expression and for publication in the public domain.

Required Courses (12 credits)

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUCO 710	General Examinations.	0
MUGS 701	Comprehensive Examinations.	0

12 credits (two years) of:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUCO 722D1	Doctoral Composition Tutorial.	3
MUCO 722D2	Doctoral Composition Tutorial.	3

Complementary Courses (12 credits)

12 credits of seminars at the 600 level or higher, approved by the Schulich School of Music.

Composition Performance

The candidate must present a concert of his/her compositions. With the permission of the Composition Area Committee, the compositions may be presented as parts of two or three concerts, or as a list of national and international performances since the student began his/her residency.