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# Research Degrees in the Performing Arts Postgraduate Study 2012 Entry



Royal Conservatoire  
of Scotland



Conducting student Duk-Kyung Chang with Donald Runnicles

# The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

(known as the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD) until 1 September 2011)

## St Andrews Connection

Following an agreement signed in 2000, the University of St Andrews validates the higher research degrees (MPhil and PhD) of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. As part of this, both institutions look to create opportunities for students and staff and to encourage participation by students, in particular.

Links between the academic staff in the University and the Royal Conservatoire are fostered both at a level of practical support and training and in relation to ongoing decisions about research and research methodology. The intention is that intellectual relationships built will continue beyond the period of the validation agreement.

## The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is one of Europe's leading centres of professional, vocational learning and provides outstanding specialist tuition to the highest professional level for the world's new artists in dance, drama, music, production, screen and education. Building on a 165 year-old tradition of excellence it is redefining the traditional model of a conservatoire. Students benefit from a contemporary, international focus and a breadth of artistic disciplines which is unique in the UK and distinctive worldwide. This provides unique opportunities for collaboration and transdisciplinary learning and is supported by a range of enviable professional partnerships and visiting artists. A key focus is the innovative curricular emphasis on developing and assessing the whole person – aesthetic, intellectual, physical and emotional.

In 1998, the Royal Conservatoire won springboard funding from the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council to establish a National Centre for Research in the Performing Arts and, by the time of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, 40 per cent of its research output in music was assessed as being at either a world-leading or internationally-excellent level. The Conservatoire now offers research programmes leading to the awards of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) of the University of St Andrews.



The Royal Conservatoire is housed in two specially designed buildings located in the centre of Glasgow. Performance and rehearsal facilities are amongst the best in Europe and are being enhanced through additional investment. The Alexander Gibson Opera School, which opened in 1998, houses rehearsal and coaching rooms and a stunning performance space. The Conservatoire library contains one of the most comprehensive music and drama collections in the UK and features reading and study areas, listening booths for the extensive collection of CDs, cassettes and records, and viewing facilities for the video and DVD collection. Research students will be based at the Royal Conservatoire, but will also be matriculated students of the University and will have access to the resources of both institutions.





Plug Festival of New Music



The Alexander Gibson Opera School

## Entrance Requirements

The essential qualification for admission to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland as a research student is the possession of a good Honours degree or the attainment of a level of professional achievement equivalent to that of a good Honours degree. Within the processes laid out above, a student who possesses a research Master's degree, or has attained a level of achievement equivalent to that of a research Master's degree, may be permitted to enter the Conservatoire as a second-year research student. The Royal Conservatoire is committed to the principles of the Accreditation of Prior Learning, including experiential learning, and will bring those principles to bear on the admissions process for research degrees.

All applicants who meet the entrance criteria and whose proposed research can be supported by the Royal Conservatoire will be invited for interview and/or audition.

## Research Ethos

As performance to the highest standards is central to all of the Royal Conservatoire's work, research activities will always be located within that context. The key elements of **performance and/or creation** give the Royal Conservatoire's research profile a clear and individual identity, both generally in terms of its research ethos and output and more specifically in terms of the selection and registration of research students.

Applications will only be successful if it is clear that the proposed research would best be undertaken within the Conservatoire's distinctive context, in which performance and/or creation is held central. The Royal Conservatoire would particularly welcome applications from students who wish to conduct research in the following areas:

- Performance; style and interpretation in performance; analysis and contextual investigation.
- Musical composition for live, electro-acoustic and mixed media.
- Ethnomusicology, particularly in Scottish music.
- The processes and methodologies of developing new performance work (music/drama), including collaborative and devised performance.
- Methodologies of specialist performance training, including the use of IT.



## Types of Submission

The Royal Conservatoire will accept any one of three possible forms of submission for a research degree. The final proposal as to which form of submission is most appropriate to you will be agreed between you and your supervisors and submitted to the Research Degrees Committee for approval in good time before the anticipated date of submission. In the following examples (which relate to PhD), the word 'portfolio' is used to signify the presence of **performance-centred** and/or **practice-based** work in a submission, and therefore in your research processes throughout your programme of study.

### 1. Portfolio accompanied by Written Commentary

A substantial body of original work that represents or embodies new knowledge, derived from original research. It will be accompanied by a succinct written commentary contextualising the production and/or presentation of that original work. The original work submitted must be documented fully in appropriate forms that will be accessible to future researchers.

### 2. Joint Portfolio with Dissertation

A combination of original work and an extended written text (of around 40,000 - 50,000 words) which together (but not necessarily separately) represent or embody new knowledge and derive from original research. The original work submitted must be documented fully in a form that will be accessible to future researchers.

### 3. Thesis

A substantial written thesis (of around 80,000 - 100,000 words) representing or embodying within the text new knowledge deriving from original research.

A research degree is awarded on the basis of a holistic assessment by a panel of examiners that takes into account the submission (including any live elements) and an oral examination known as the *viva voce*. The Royal Conservatoire and the University expect PhDs to be substantial, scholarly, lucid and significant.

## Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

For an application pack please contact:

Registry, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland,  
100 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G2 3DB, Scotland, UK

T: +44 (0)141 2708 272

W: [www.rcs.ac.uk](http://www.rcs.ac.uk)

If you require further information about research degrees at the Academy or would like to discuss your research proposal informally before making an application, please contact:

E: [doctoraladmissions@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:doctoraladmissions@rcs.ac.uk)

**The closing date for applications is 28 January 2012.**

## Postgraduate Recruitment & Admissions

University of St Andrews, St Katharine's West,  
16 The Scores, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AX, Scotland, UK

T: +44 (0)1334 463325

F: +44 (0)1334 463330

E: [pgrecruitment@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:pgrecruitment@st-andrews.ac.uk)



University of  
St Andrews

600  
YEARS

Education   
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Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

The University's Terms and Conditions for matriculated students can be found in the PG Sponsio Academica at: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/pgstudents/rules](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/pgstudents/rules) as can the Policies for both Taught and Research Postgraduates.

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