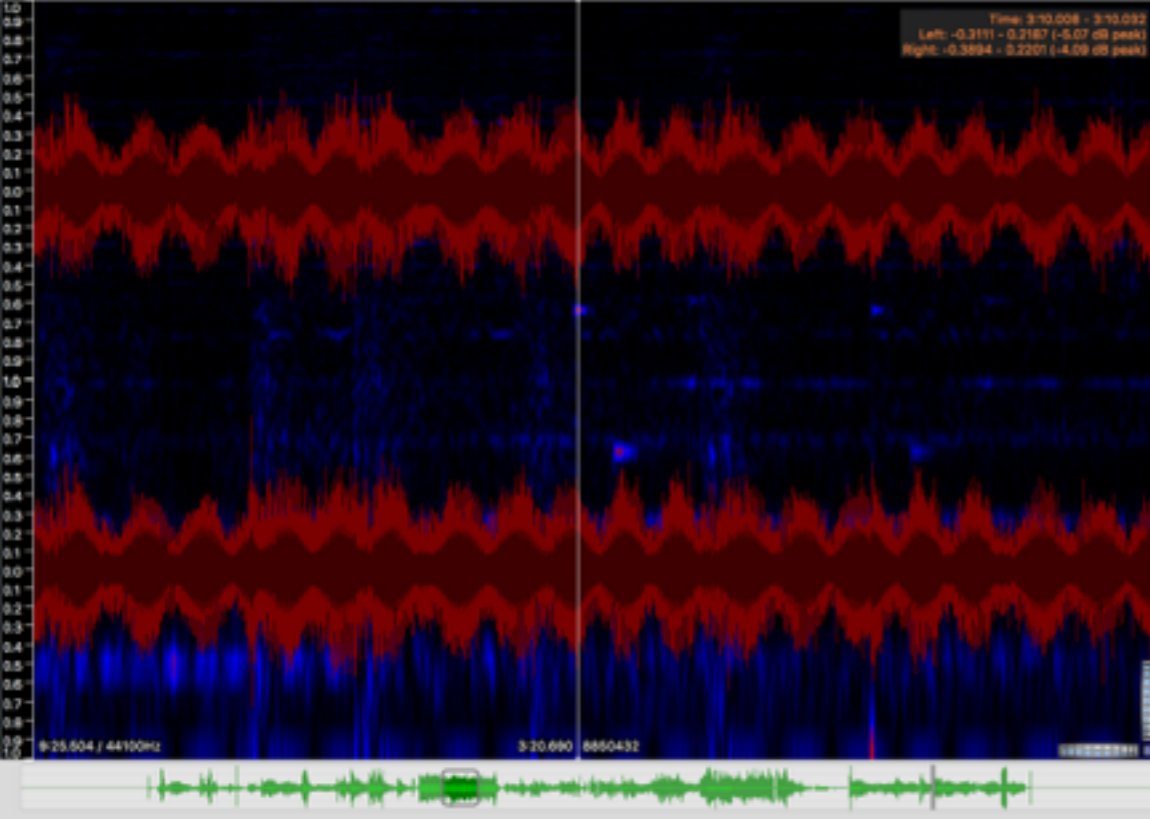Maynooth University Music

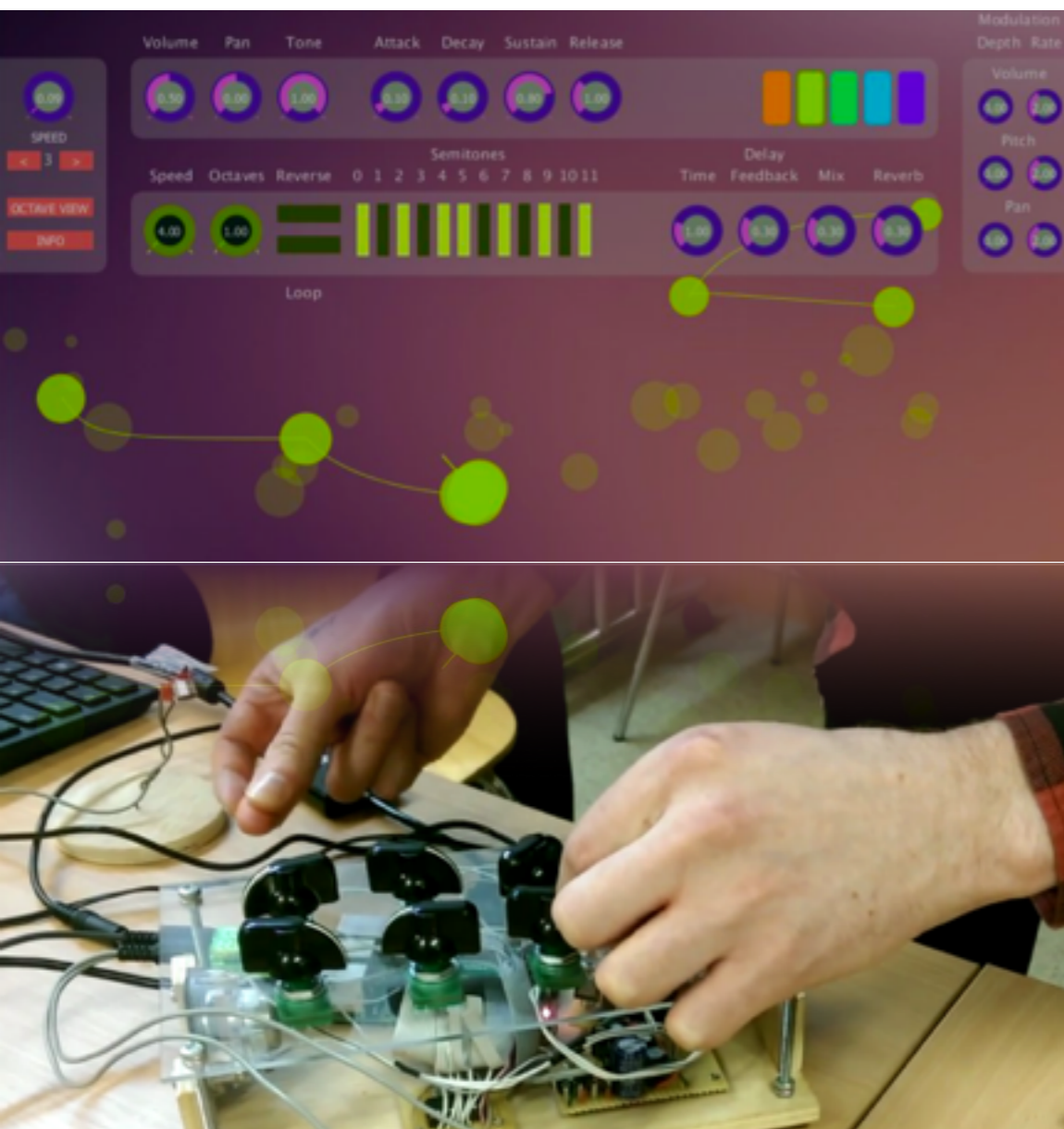# MA in Creative Music Technologies

Exploring audio and technology

The **MA in Creative Music Technologies** at **Maynooth University** resides at the point of convergence between musical creativity and technology. The course is a **skills conversation** programme. It invites applications from both graduates with a music technology degree who want to consolidate learning, and graduates from any discipline who have a longstanding commitment to music. The MA offers full use of computer resources at the **Music Technology Labs** at Maynooth University; access to studio space, with the possibility of working towards recording and production projects; opportunities to have compositions performed; individual tutorial time with a designated advisor.

Available either as a full-time or part-time programme, the MA in Composition is convened by Dr Gordon Delap. Tuition in sound synthesis, signal processing, and computer music programming is delivered by Dr Iain McCurdy and Prof. Victor Lazzarini. As well as modules in electroacoustic composition, the programme offers optional modules in conjunction with the MA in Composition, delivered by Dr Ryan Molloy and Dr Martin O'Leary. All academic staff are composers and/ or researchers with national and international exposure.

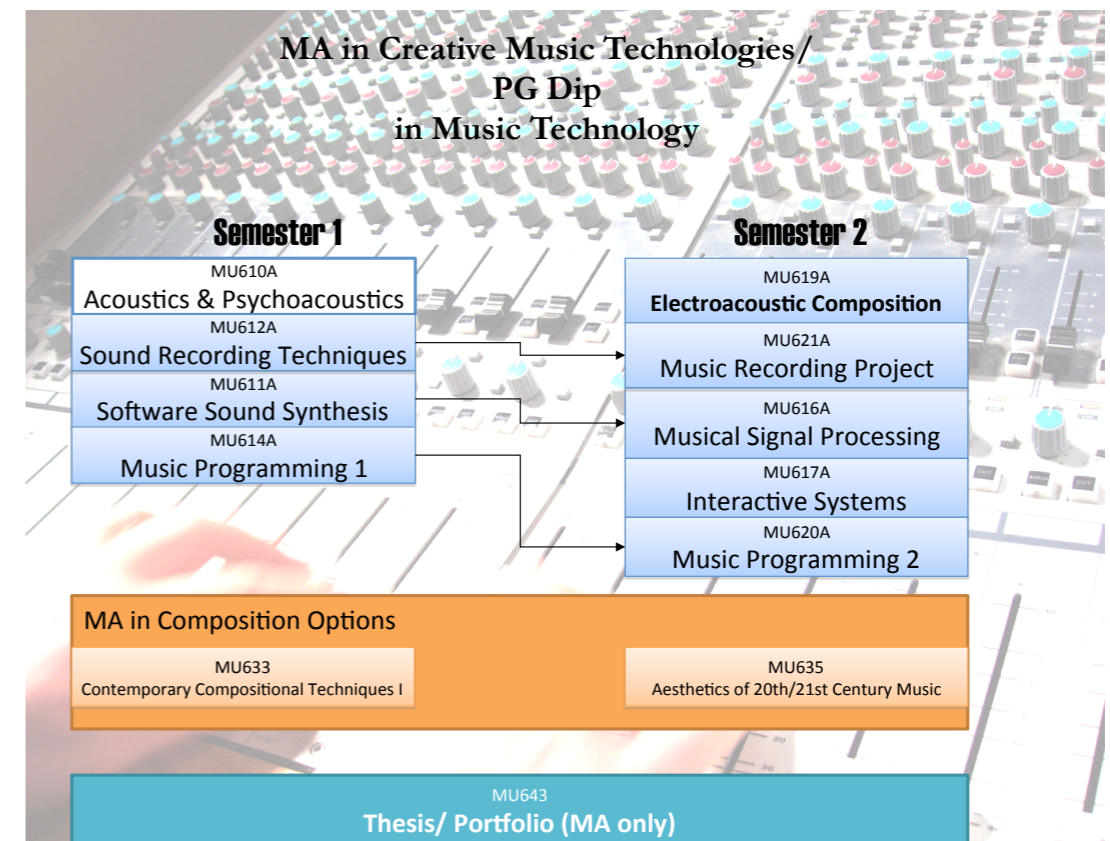See www.maynoothuniversity.ie/music/our-people for more information.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Participants on the MA in Creative Music Technologies explore a range of audio techniques and environments, where projects become increasingly self-directed as the programme progresses. The course culminates in a thesis/ portfolio, where, with the support of a supervisor, students investigate an area of particular interest, or generate a portfolio of electroacoustic compositions.

CAREERS

Recent graduates have gone on to enjoy successful careers as music software programmers, sound designers, sound engineers, music producers, and have moved into

MA in Creative Music Technologies/ PG Dip in Music Technology

Semester 1	Semester 2
MU610A Acoustics & Psychoacoustics	MU619A **Electroacoustic Composition**
MU612A Sound Recording Techniques	MU621A Music Recording Project
MU611A Software Sound Synthesis	MU616A Musical Signal Processing
MU614A Music Programming 1	MU617A Interactive Systems
	MU620A Music Programming 2

MA in Composition Options	
MU633 Contemporary Compositional Techniques I	MU635 Aesthetics of 20th/21st Century Music

MU643 **Thesis/ Portfolio (MA only)**

related fields such as arts management and broadcasting, amongst many others.

The skills developed in the MA in Composition are **transferable** to many diverse areas of employment beyond the creative industries, including primary, secondary and third-level education, and administrative or managerial roles, particularly those related to digital arts. Key skills developed throughout the MA in Creative Music Technologies allow graduates to demonstrate creativity and problem-solving, alongside a strong technical capabilities. These skills are highly valued by employers across a range of contexts.
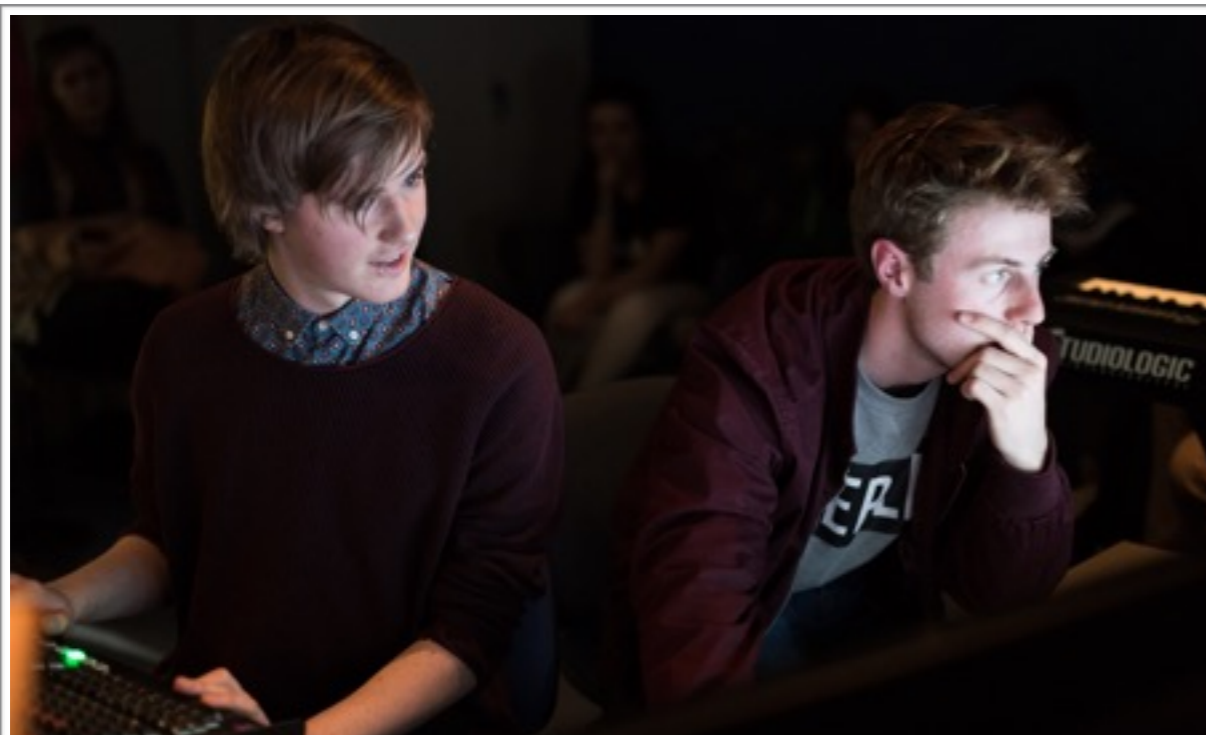
MODULES

MU610A Acoustics and Psychoacoustics (Semester I 10 ECTs)
This module is compulsory for all MA in Creative Music Technologies students. It focuses on the nature of sound and sound perception, and presents basic concepts involved in the phenomena of sound.

MU612A Sound Recording Techniques (Semester I; 10 ECTs)
This module introduces the studio to students and provides basic information needed to safely handle studio equipment.

MU611A Software Sound Synthesis (Semester I; 10 ECTs)
This module focuses upon the study of the basic techniques of synthesis, including a detailed study of computer music languages (sound compilers).

MU614A Music Systems Programming 1 (Semester I; 10 ECTs)
This module focuses on computer programming in general. It introduces the different operating systems and programming environments used in the lab.

MU633 Contemporary Compositional Techniques (Semester I; 10 ECTs)
This module is shared with the MA in Composition. A detailed survey of 20th century compositional ideas and techniques. Students submit a written assignment for assessment.

MU619A Electroacoustic Composition (Semester II; 10 ECTs)
This module engages with the aesthetics and techniques involved in the creation of electroacoustic music composition.

MU621A Music Recording Project (Semester II; 10 ECTs)
This module, supplementary to the first semester module on sound recording, involves the development and realisation of an individual recording project.

MU616A Musical Signal Processing (Semester II; 10 ECTs)
This module explores the techniques of signal processing for musical applications: delay lines, filtering, spectral processing and transformation.

MU617A Interactive Systems (Semester II; 10 ECTs)
"Interactive Systems" is concerned with the generation of systems for musical expression that require a significant amount of interaction between human and computer.

MU620A Music Systems Programming 2 (Semester II; 10 ECTs)
This module studies several different aspects of music systems programming. These include low-level MIDI, audio programming, signal processing and component development.

MU635 Aesthetics of 20th/ 21st Century Music (Semester II; 10 ECTs)
Shared with MAs in Composition and Musicology. The 20th and 21st centuries have been witness to an incredible growth and acceptance of differing, contradictory and overlapping aesthetic viewpoints in all art, especially music. This module engages with and explores numerous aesthetic outlooks from a wide range of artistic and regional backgrounds and genres.

MU643 Thesis/ Portfolio (30 ECTs)
The completion of a thesis or portfolio. Three options are given: (a) Thesis/dissertation on a chosen topic of study within Music Technology; (b) Creative Music Technologies software research/ development project; (c) Portfolio of electroacoustic music compositions.

OTHER OPTIONAL MODULES*
from other taught MAs in the University

MD630 Creative Interactive Computing (Semester I; 10 ECTs)

HOW TO APPLY

- All applications are processed online via PAC: **www.pac.ie/ maynoothuniversity**.
- The PAC course code for Composition is MHT56 (full-time) or MHT57 (part-time).

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- An honours degree normally with a minimum of Grade 2.1 in any discipline.
- Evidence of equivalent professional experience will be considered.
- Applicants must complete a personal statement, and must be willing to take part in an interview. International applicants should contact gordon.delap@mu.ie for full details of the overseas interview processes.
- The **Postgraduate Diploma in Music Technology** runs in parallel to the MA in Creative Music Technologies. It does not include the final thesis/ portfolio. Applications from candidates with Grade 2.2 or higher in any discipline are welcome.

* N.B. All optional modules are subject to availability

CONTACT

For more information or application queries, please contact the programme director:

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Logic House
Maynooth University
Maynooth
Co. Kildare

t: +353 1 708 3794
e: gordon.delap@mu.ie

All applications are made through the centralised PAC system. More information can be found at:

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/
postgraduate-studies/how-apply