

Welcome to graduate studies in Music Technology at McGill!

This document provides some important information about the area and the main deadlines in both the Master's (M.A.) and Doctoral (Ph.D.) degrees in Music Technology.

Please keep this document for future reference. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

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Music Technology Area Chair

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Facilities: (if calling from outside of McGill dial 514 398-4400 followed by the extension number)

Music Technology Computer Laboratory (MTCL)	(E215, 555 Sherbrooke St West)
Instructors/Teaching Assistants Room	(Room 507, x-089478)
Technical Support	(Room 512, x-1430)
Kitchen/Meeting Room	(Room 517, x-094849)
Undergraduate Electronics Laboratory	(Room 518, x-094941)
Music Technology Conference Room	(Room 521, x-094810)

Research Laboratories:

Distributed Digital Music Archives and Libraries (DDMAL)	(Room 508, x-0300)
Computational Acoustic Modeling Laboratory (CAML)	(Room 509, x-094836)
Sound Processing and Control Laboratory (SPCL)	(Room 510, x-00271)
Real-Time Multimodal Laboratory (RTML)	(Room 511, x-094837)
Input Devices and Music Interaction Laboratory (IDMIL)	(Room 515, x-094916)
SPCL/IDMIL Electronics Development Laboratory	(Room 520, x-094807)
Music Perception and Cognition Laboratory (MPCL)	(Room 522, x-094812)

Music Technology Master's Degree¹

Total Duration: 2 years (4 terms) (Minimum residency requirement: 3 full-time terms)

- **Graduate Seminars:**

*Five 3-credit graduate seminars*² (Minimum of three in Music Technology and two 3-credit graduate electives—in Music Technology or elsewhere—approved by the supervisor/area chair and department).

We strongly recommend that M.A. students take ALL their seminars during the first year of their degree and exclusively focus on research during their second year.

- **Master's Theses:**

A required component of the M.A. degree is a research-based thesis on some aspect of Music Technology, supervised by one or more members of the Music Technology Faculty. Students are expected to devote the majority of their second year in the program to their thesis research.

Students in the M.A. program should begin drafting a Thesis Research Proposal, together with their supervisor(s), by the end of the first year. This proposal will have to be reviewed and accepted by the following people and committees (in order):

- their supervisor(s)
- Music Technology Area Committee
- Graduate Music Research Sub-Committee (GMRSC)

Note that the MT Area Committee will need a minimum of a week to review this document. Further, the thesis proposal must be submitted for review by the GMRSC at least one week prior to a scheduled meeting³. The GMRSC meets roughly once per month during the academic year (September – May).

The Music Technology faculty members expect that students will prepare and submit M.A. Thesis Proposals during the Fall Term of their second year in the program.

- **Master's Thesis Credits:**

Students in Music Technology Master's program are required to register for these credits during the first three terms of study as follows:

- Year 1, Fall term MUGS 683 (Master's Thesis Research 3 credits) and MUGS 684 (Master's Thesis Research 6 credits)
- Year 1, Winter term MUGS 685 (Master's Thesis Research 9 credits)
- Year 2, Fall term MUGS 686 (Master's Thesis Research 12 credits)

- **Master's Thesis Submission:**

Theses can be submitted at any time. However, for each of the three annual dates for conferring degrees/convocation (February, June and October), there are deadlines for initial submission and for deposition of the final, corrected version of the thesis. These deadlines are April 15, August 15, and

¹ This schedule considers the case of a student who has no or few undergraduate courses pending.

² Discuss with your supervisor and/or with the area chair about the possibility of taking project-based 3-credit courses (MUMT 502 or MUMT 609) instead of one graduate seminar.

³ Hence a total of two (2) weeks prior to a GMRSC meeting.

December 15). For more details, see the Graduate Studies Guidelines at <http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/thesis>

Music (Technology)⁴ Ph.D. Degree⁵

Total Duration: typically 4–5 years (Minimum residency requirement: 6 full-time terms)

*The maximum is 6 years, if admitted as PhD II; and 7 years, if admitted as PhD I.*⁶

- **Graduate Seminars:**

*Ten 3-credit graduate seminars*⁷ in total (to be approved by the supervisor and the department).

We strongly recommend that students take ALL their seminars during the first TWO years of their Ph.D. degree.

- **Graduate Colloquium:**

All PhD students are required to attend four terms of the Graduate Colloquium (MUGS 705). Regular attendance and at least one presentation on their thesis research in the Colloquium during the course of their doctoral studies are required. The Graduate Colloquium meets approximately twice a month on Fridays from 4:15–6:00 p.m. in C209.

- **Comprehensive Exams:**

Comprehensive exams may be scheduled in November and May. Students must submit a request in writing *5 (five) months before* the chosen date to the Director of Graduate Studies.

We strongly recommend that students take their comprehensive exams during the second year of studies at the PhD level (or perhaps earlier for PhD II candidates). This will allow students to exclusively pursue their research work during the remaining 4 semesters of their program.

In the Music Technology Area, the comprehensive exams are strongly oriented toward the thesis topic of each student. It is important to have a rough draft of your Thesis Research Proposal to orient the choice of reading list and exam questions toward your topic.

- **Thesis Research Topic and Supervisors:**

We expect Ph.D. students to enter their degree *with an initial proposal* for their studies and *with the choice of their main supervisor(s)*.

Students in the Ph.D. program should begin drafting a Thesis Research Proposal, together with their supervisor(s), in their second year. This proposal will have to be reviewed and accepted by the following people and committees (in order):

⁴ Strictly speaking, any Ph.D. submitted in the Music Research department is a Ph.D. in Music, regardless of the specific area it comes from.

⁵ This schedule considers the case of a student who has no or few undergraduate courses pending and who enters the course as PhD I.

⁶ See: <http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/progress/time-limitation>

⁷ A smaller number of seminars may be required depending on a student's background. Discuss with your supervisor and/or with the area chair about the possibility of taking an individual research based 3-credit course (MUMT 609) instead of one graduate seminar.

- their supervisor(s)
- Music Technology Area Committee
- Graduate Music Research Sub-Committee (GMRSC)
- Faculty Council

Note that the MT Area Committee will need a minimum of a week to review this document. Further, the thesis proposal must be submitted for review by the GMRSC at least one week prior to a scheduled meeting⁸. The GMRSC meets roughly once per month during the academic year (September – May). Once approved by GMRSC, the proposal is then transmitted by the administration to the Faculty Council, which meets once a month during the academic year.

Final Research Proposals must be submitted to the Graduate Music Research Sub-committee by the beginning of the 6th semester.

⁸ Hence a total of two (2) weeks prior to a GMRSC meeting.

Music Technology Seminars

Fall 2015:

MUMT 605: *Digital Sound Synthesis and Audio Process*, Prof. Philippe Depalle

MUMT 616: *Timbre as a Form-Bearing Element in Music*, Prof. Stephen McAdams

MUMT 618: *Computational Modeling of Musical Acoustic*, Prof. Gary Scavone

Winter 2016:

MUMT 619: *Input Devices for Musical Expression*, Prof. Marcelo Wanderley

MUMT 620: *Human-Computer Interaction: Gestural Control of Sound Synthesis*, Prof. Marcelo Wanderley

MUMT 622: *Time-Frequency Representations and Parametric Modelling of Sound Signals*, Prof. Philippe Depalle

Grade and Student Progress

We strongly advise students to read the regulations on Grade and Student Progress, available at [graduate-music-handbook/grades-and-student-progress](http://www.music.mcgill.ca/musictech/graduate-music-handbook/grades-and-student-progress).

This page describes the policy for passing grades, Incompletes (K & KE), Failure Policies, and the mandatory [Student progress Report](#).

Sources of Funding

There are several sources of partial or complete funding for Music Technology graduate students. Depending on the *student status* (Québec resident, Canadian Citizen, etc.) and record of previous studies (GPA), different options are available⁹.

Internal Sources of Funding:

- **Teaching Assistantships:**

TA-ships are available for both Fall and Winter terms for MT courses and for Fall, Winter and Summer terms for other music courses.

The available MT TA offerings are the following:

- **Fall:** MUMT 202 (2 positions); MUMT 306 (1 position); MUMT 203 (1 position);
- **Winter:** MUMT 250 (1 position); MUMT 302 (1 position); MUMT 307 (1 position); MUMT 501 (1 position)

Music Tech students can also apply for TA-ships in other courses in the Schulich School of Music. Students wishing to apply for TA's need to contact the Music Research Department (x-4540) for information on conditions and deadlines.

- **Research Assistantships:**

RA's are associated with individual professor's research. RA's are usually offered as short projects or in a similar manner as TA-ships (80 hours during a term). Please check with the MT professors on possible openings for RA projects.

- **Instructorships:**

Advanced graduate students (typically PhD II or later) can also become instructors in Music Technology undergraduate courses.

- **Other Grants:**

Other grants include the *McGill Majors, Tomlinson Doctoral Grant* (\$15,000 CAD per year for three years, for incoming students only as determined within the Schulich School of Music during the admission process) and the *Stern fellowships* (\$10,000 or \$14,000 CAD one to three years, all students are eligible).

- **CIRMMT Research support:**

Funds are available to support students working with CIRMMT researchers (including all MT professors). Applications are accepted once a year. For conditions and deadlines, please check <http://www.cirmmt.mcgill.ca/activities/support>

External Sources of Funding:

Several grants are available that cover Master's and Ph.D. research. The information below is a summary of the conditions valid in 2015. Please check the agencies' websites and/or ask the Graduate Studies Office (GSO– contact information below) for precise information on deadlines and conditions.

⁹ For detailed information on sources of funding, please check:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/fellowships>

<http://www.music.mcgill.ca/musictech/>

- **Provincial grants:**

Students who are *Québec residents* can apply to the *Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture* (FRQSC: <http://www.frqsc.gouv.qc.ca>) or the *Fonds de recherche du Québec - Nature et Technologies* (FRQNT: <http://www.frqnt.gouv.qc.ca>).

The deadline for application is in early October (check the website for the exact date!). Results are usually announced by April of the following year.

Students need to provide two letters of support, transcripts, a research proposal (not mandatory for Master's level), etc. ***A minimum GPA of 3.55 for FQRSC and 3.70 for FQRNT is required!***

- **Master's level:** Students can apply *before the start of the course* (i.e. as undergrads) **or** in the first year of the course (in this case the grant will only cover one year of study). These grants provide about \$15,000 CAD every year for a maximum of two years.
- **Ph.D. level:** Students need to prepare a detailed research proposal to be sent with the other documents. Please note that ***the research project NEEDS to be thoroughly discussed with your advisor*** – i.e. please take the time ***well in advance*** to discuss with your advisor about the research you are going to propose. These grants provide about \$20,000 CAD every year for a maximum of three years.

There is **no** internal selection (McGill selection) for Provincial grants. Students apply directly to the agency by filling out web forms. They can be written either in English or French.

- **National grants:**

Students who are *Canadian citizens* can apply to the *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council* (SSHRC – <http://www.sshrc.ca>) or the *Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council* (NSERC – <http://www.nserc.ca>).

The deadlines for applications depend on the grant level.

- **Master's level:** Students can apply before the start of the course (i.e. as undergrads) **or** in the first year of the M.A. (in this case the grant will only cover one year of study). These grants provide about \$17,500 CAD for a maximum of two years.

The deadline for SSHRC¹⁰ Master's grants is November. There is an internal ranking at the Schulich School of Music in November (almost exclusively based on GPA) for SSHRC applications and then another ranking at the University level.

- **Ph.D. level:** Students need to prepare a detailed research proposal to be sent with the other documents. Please note that ***the research project NEEDS to be thoroughly discussed with your advisor***, i.e., please take the time well in advance to discuss with your advisor about the research you are going to propose. These grants provide variable amounts, for a maximum of three years.

The deadline for SSHRC Ph.D. grants is end of October. There is also an internal ranking at the Schulich School of Music in November for SSHRC applications, and another ranking at the university level thereafter.

Internal ranking: Only the first three (Master's) or five (Ph.D.) candidates of the Department of Music Research are put forward for the University ranking. Necessary but not sufficient

¹⁰ Please ask the GSO for information about NSERC conditions, internal ranking, etc.

conditions for application include a *minimum GPA of 3.7 in the last two years before the application!*

Some specific grants (e.g. PBEEE¹¹) have internal selection deadlines **way before** the agency deadline. Please check those with GSO.

Check with the Graduate Studies Office for more information!

Letters of Reference:

Please remember that you need a substantial period of time (at least two weeks) to prepare your grant application. Once you decide which professors (at McGill or elsewhere) you are going to ask for letters of reference, please allow them at least a week for their response (two weeks is probably better!). In case they are not the advisor, it is important to provide them a good draft of the proposal. Also, as mentioned before, the proposal needs to be thoroughly discussed with your advisor. This cannot be done in one day! Take the time to do the best proposal possible, and you will maximize your chances of being funded. This is especially true in some cases where there is high competition: for example, the rate of success for Provincial grants is around 18%.

Travel Support for Conferences:

Two main sources of travel support are available for students presenting papers or posters at conferences or scholarly meetings:

- **GREAT Travel Grants:**

Up to \$500 for continental and up to \$800 intercontinental travel expenses related to a conference or scholarly meeting at which the student is presenting a paper or poster is available. There are four application deadlines per year (please note that you will probably need to apply for the grant *before* the official acceptance of your paper). More details are available at:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/music/current-students/graduate/forms>

- **CIRMMT travel support:**

CIRMMT funds are available to support graduate students presenting at conferences. A maximum of \$500 is available for continental travel and \$1,000 for intercontinental travel. It is expected that cost differentials will be supported by your supervisor. *Preference is given to doctoral students.* For conditions and deadlines, please check: <http://www.cirmmt.mcgill.ca/activities/support/travel>

For any other questions, please contact Prof. Gary Scavone (Music Technology Area Chair) and/or the GSO at the Schulich School of Music:

Graduate Studies Office (GSO), New Music Building, 7th floor, x-4469

- Director: Prof. Eleanor Stublely
- Senior Administrative and Student Affairs Coordinator: Ms. H el ene Drouin (helene.drouin@mcgill.ca), Room A726A

For more information on graduate subjects, please check: <http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/> and <http://www.mcgill.ca/music/current-students/graduate>

¹¹ http://www.frqnt.gouv.qc.ca/bourses/Fiches_programmes/index_V1_1B_1C_1I_1M_1W.htm