

## 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 Coordinator

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McGill University  
555 Sherbrooke Street West  
Montreal, QC H3A 1E3

### ***Physical Address:***

550 Sherbrooke Street West, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, East Tower, Suite 500  
H3A 1E3, Montreal, QC  
*Fax Number:* 1 (514) 398-2962

### ***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 Degree<sup>1</sup>

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

- **Graduate Seminars:**

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

- **Grant Mentorship Sessions and Workshop:**

Participation at grant-writing sessions and workshops is required of all students. These will be scheduled in September or October and you will be notified by the Music Graduate Studies office.

- **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

Note that the MT Area Committee will need a minimum of a week to review this document. Subsequently, the thesis will be submitted to the Graduate Music Research Sub-Committee for information purposes only.

**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

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

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

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

## Music (Technology)<sup>3</sup> Ph.D. Degree<sup>4</sup>

**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.**

- **Graduate Seminars:**

*Up to ten 3-credit graduate seminars*<sup>5</sup> 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.**

- **Grant Mentorship Sessions and Workshop:**

Participation at grant-writing sessions and workshops is required of all students. These will be scheduled in September or October and you will be notified by the Music Graduate Studies office.

- **Graduate Colloquium:**

All Ph.D. students are required to attend four terms of the Graduate Colloquium (MUGS 705) and to present their research once. Regular attendance and at least one mandatory 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. **Students must make the presentation before they can graduate.**

- **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.

**It is required that students take their comprehensive exams before the end of their second year of studies at the PhD level.** 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*. The dissertation committee consists of a minimum of two professors—the supervisor and one other.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> This schedule considers the case of a student who has no or few undergraduate courses pending and who enters the program as PhD I.

<sup>5</sup> A smaller number of seminars may be required depending on a student's background. Discuss with your supervisor about the possibility of taking an individual research based 3-credit course (MUMT 609) instead of one graduate seminar.

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

- their supervisors
- Music Technology Area Committee

Note that the MT Area Committee will need a minimum of a week to review this document. Subsequently, the thesis will be submitted to the Graduate Music Research Sub-Committee for information purposes only.

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

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## Music Technology Seminars

### *Fall 2019:*

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

### *Winter 2020:*

MUMT 501: *Digital Audio Signal Processing*, Prof. Philippe Depalle

MUMT 621: *Music Information Acquisition, Preservation and Retrieval*, Prof. Ichiro Fujinaga

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

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## Grade and Student Progress

We strongly advise students to read the McGill University rules and regulations, especially with respect to grading and student progress, available at:

[http://www.mcgill.ca/study/university\\_regulations\\_and\\_resources/graduate](http://www.mcgill.ca/study/university_regulations_and_resources/graduate)

Information about the mandatory annual Student Progress Report is available at:

[https://www.mcgill.ca/music/files/music/progressreportsinfo\\_revised\\_march\\_2018.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/music/files/music/progressreportsinfo_revised_march_2018.pdf)

## Sources of Funding

There are several sources of partial or complete funding for Music Technology (MT) graduate students. Depending on the *student status* (Québec resident, Canadian Citizen, etc.) and record of previous studies (GPA), different options are available<sup>6</sup>.

### Internal Sources of Funding:

- **Teaching Assistantships (TA):**

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); Webcasting (1 position)
- **Winter:** MUMT 250 (1 position); MUMT 302 (1 position); MUMT 307 (1 position); MUMT 501 (1 position); Webcasting (1 position)

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

- **Research Assistantships (RA):**

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:**

A limited number of entrance scholarships are offered to incoming students from the Schulich School of Music as determined during the admission process or shortly thereafter.

- **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 currently valid. Please check the agencies' websites and/or ask the Graduate Studies Office (GSO– contact information below) for precise information on deadlines and conditions.

- **Provincial grants:**

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<sup>6</sup> For detailed information on sources of funding, please check:  
<http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/fellowships>

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 supervisor 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 SSHRC<sup>7</sup> 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 conditions for application include a ***minimum GPA of 3.7 in the last two years before the application!***

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<sup>7</sup> Please ask the GSO for information about NSERC conditions, internal ranking, etc.

Some specific grants (e.g., PBEEE<sup>8</sup>) have internal selection deadlines **well in advance** of the agency deadline.

**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:

- **Graduate Travel Awards:**

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 three 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:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/music/student-resources/competitions-awards/travel>

- **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 the Music Technology Area Chair and/or the GSO at the Schulich School of Music:

**Travel Support for Research:**

Two main sources of travel support are available for students needing to conduct research abroad:

- **Graduate Mobility Awards:**

This award encourages graduate students to study and conduct research abroad as part of their McGill degree program. Requests will be approved on a rolling basis but applications should be submitted no later than March 15th for travel until August of the same year. Award values depend on where the mobility activity takes place, its duration and the availability of funding at the time of application. More details are available at:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/music/student-resources/competitions-awards/travel/mobility-award>

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.frqnt.gouv.qc.ca/en/bourses-et-subventions>

- **CIRMMT Inter-Centre Research Exchange Program:**

All graduate student members of CIRMMT are eligible to apply for inter-centre exchange funding to conduct research within the Centre's mandate at a partner institution, or at an institution with which CIRMMT research collaborations are being developed. For conditions and deadlines, please check:

<http://www.cirmmt.org/research/support/exchange1/exchange>

**Graduate Studies Office (GSO), Elizabeth Wirth Music Building, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, x-4469**

- Associate Dean, Graduate Studies: Prof. Lena Weman
- Senior Administrative and Student Affairs Coordinator: Ms. H el ene Drouin ([helene.drouin@mcgill.ca](mailto: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>