

Welcome to graduate studies in Music Technology at McGill!

This document provides essential information about the area and the main deadlines for 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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Mailing Address:

Schulich School of Music
McGill University
555 Sherbrooke Street West, A715
Montreal, QC H3A 1E3

Physical Address: [NB. Do NOT use this as a mailing address! You may never see your mail.]

550 Sherbrooke Street West, 5th Floor, East Tower, Suite 500
Montreal, QC, H3A 1B9 – Courtesy Phone: 514-3982006 (Main entrance)

Facilities:

Music Technology / Keyboard Proficiency Lab (MTKPL)	(E215, 555 Sherbrooke St West)
Instructors/Teaching Assistants Room	(Room 507)
Technical Support	(Room 512) 514-398-1430
Kitchen/Meeting Room	(Room 517)
Undergraduate Electronics Laboratory	(Room 518)
Music Technology Conference Room	(Room 521) 514-398-2024

Research Laboratories:

Distributed Digital Music Archives and Libraries (DDMAL)	(Room 508)	514-398-1927
Computational Acoustic Modeling Laboratory (CAML)	(Room 509)	514-398-1929
Sound Processing and Control Laboratory (SPCL)	(Room 510)	514-398-1945
Real-Time Multimodal Laboratory (RTML)	(Room 511)	514-398-1949
Input Devices and Music Interaction Laboratory (IDMIL)	(Room 515)	514-398-1973
SPCL/IDMIL Electronics Development Laboratory	(Room 520)	
Music Perception and Cognition Laboratory (MPCL)	(Room 522)	514-398-1978

Websites:

https://mt.music.mcgill.ca/music_technology_mcgill
<https://www.mcgill.ca/music/about-us/music-technology>

Music Technology Master's Degree¹

<https://www.mcgill.ca/music/programs/ma-music-technology>

Total Duration: 2 years (4 terms) (Minimum residency requirement: 3 full-time terms with at least 12 credits each). **The maximum duration is three years.**

- **Graduate Seminars:**

Five 3-credit graduate seminars² (Minimum of three in Music Technology and two 3-credit graduate electives—in Music Tech or elsewhere—approved by the supervisor/area coordinator & 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:**

All students are required to participate in grant-writing sessions and workshops. These will be scheduled in September or October, and you will be notified by the Music Graduate Studies office.

Master's students are strongly encouraged to apply for all external awards for which they are eligible.

- **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 must devote most of their second year in the program to their thesis research.

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

- their supervisor(s)
- all remaining Music Technology professors

Note that the MT professors will need a minimum of a week to review this document. Subsequently, the student will submit the thesis proposal to the Music Graduate Studies office with the necessary proposal form. **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 the 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 deposition of the final, corrected version of the thesis. **These deadlines are April 15, August 15, and December 15.** For more details, see the Graduate Studies Guidelines at

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

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 coordinator about the possibility of taking project-based 3-credit courses (MUMT 502 or MUMT 609) instead of one graduate seminar.

Music (Technology)³ Ph.D. Degree⁴

<https://www.mcgill.ca/music/programs/phd-music-technology>

Total Duration: Typically, 4–5 years (Minimum residency requirement: 6 full-time terms). The maximum is six years if admitted as Ph.D. II; and seven years if admitted as Ph.D. I.

- **Graduate Seminars:**

*Up to ten 3-credit graduate seminars*⁵ (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:**

All students are required to participate in grant-writing sessions and workshops. These will be scheduled in September or October, and you will be notified by the Music Graduate Studies office.

Doctoral students are required to apply for at least one federal and one provincial award each year they are eligible.

- **Doctoral Colloquium:**

All Ph.D. students must attend four terms of the Doctoral Colloquium (MUGS 705) and present their research once. Regular attendance and at least one mandatory presentation on their thesis research in the Colloquium during their doctoral studies are required. The Doctoral Colloquium meets approximately twice a month on Wednesdays from 4:35–5:55 p.m. in room A-832. **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 Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.

It is required that students take their comprehensive exams before the end of their second year of studies at the Ph.D. level. This will allow students to exclusively pursue their research work during the remaining four semesters of their program.

The comprehensive exams in the Music Technology Area are strongly oriented toward each student's thesis topic. It is essential 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 the choice of their main supervisor. The dissertation committee comprises at least two professors: the supervisor and one other.

Students in the Ph.D. program should begin drafting a Thesis Research Proposal with their supervisors after completing their Comprehensive Exams. This proposal will have to be reviewed and

³ 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.

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

⁵ 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.

accepted by the following people and committees (in order):

- their supervisors
- all remaining Music Technology professors

Note that the MT professors will need a minimum of a week to review this document. Subsequently, the student will submit the thesis proposal and the associated form to the Music Graduate Studies office.

Final Research Thesis Proposals must be submitted to the Graduate Music Research Subcommittee by the beginning of the 6th semester.

Music Technology Seminars - **<https://www.mcgill.ca/music/programs/graduate-seminars>**

Fall 2024:

MUMT 605 (001) Digital Sound Synthesis & Audio Process – CRN 4617 | Professor Philippe Depalle

MUMT 617 (001) The Cognitive Dynamics of Music Listening – CRN 4586 | Professor Stephen McAdams

MUMT 618 (001) Computational Modeling of Musical Acoustic Systems – CRN 4587 | Professor Gary Scavone

MUMT 620 (001) Gestural Control of Sound Synthesis – CRN 4619 | Professor Marcelo Wanderley

Winter 2025:

MUMT 501 (001) Digital Audio Signal Processing – CRN 4114 | Professor Philippe Depalle

MUMT 621 (001) Music Information Retrieval, Acquisition and Preservation - CRN 4070 | Professor Ichiro Fujinaga

MUMT 622 (001) Time-Frequency and Parametric Representations of Sound – CRN 4117 | Professor Philippe Depalle

Grading and Student Progress

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

http://www.mcgill.ca/study/university_regulations_and_resources/graduate

Students are encouraged to review their program milestones at:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/music/programs/ma-music-technology/milestones> (MA)

<https://www.mcgill.ca/music/programs/phd-music-technology/milestones> (PhD)

McGill's myProgress system (<https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/myprogress>) is intended to help students and

supervisors track and monitor program progress, including the mandatory annual Student Progress Report:

https://www.mcgill.ca/music/files/music/progressreportsinfo_revised_march_2018.pdf

Also, new PhD students and their supervisors must complete a “letter of understanding” by 1 December of their first term (the Music Graduate Studies Office will provide further details).

Sources of Funding

Several partial or complete funding sources exist 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 available⁶.

Internal Sources of Funding:

- **Teaching Assistantships (TA):**

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

The available MT TA offerings are the following:

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

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

- **Research Assistantships (RA):**

RAs are associated with individual professor’s research. RAs 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 Music Technology undergraduate course instructors.

- **Other Grants:**

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

- **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>.

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

External Sources of Funding:

Several grants are available for Master's and Ph.D. research. The information below summarizes 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:**

Students can apply either to the *Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture* (<https://www.frq.gouv.qc.ca/societe-et-culture/>) or the *Fonds de recherche du Québec - Nature et Technologies* (<https://www.frq.gouv.qc.ca/nature-et-technologies/>).

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

Students must 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 CAD 17,500 annually for a maximum of two years.
- **Ph.D. level:** Students must 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. Please take the time well in advance to discuss the research you are going to propose with your supervisor.*** These grants provide about CAD 25,000 annually for 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* or *permanent residents of Canada* (as of the application deadline) 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 CAD 17,500 for a maximum of two years.

The deadline for SSHRC / NSERC⁷ Master's grants is October or November (check the website for exact dates). There is an internal ranking at the Schulich School of Music (almost exclusively based on GPA) for applications and then another ranking at the University level.

- **Ph.D. level:** Students must 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. Please take the time well in advance to discuss the research you are going to propose with your advisor. These grants provide variable amounts*** for a maximum of three years.

⁷ Please ask the GSO for information about NSERC conditions, internal ranking, etc.

The deadline for SSHRC / NSERC Ph.D. grants is in **October**. There is also an internal ranking at the Schulich School of Music for applications and another at the university level after that.

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!**

Some specific grants (e.g., PBEEE⁸) have internal selection deadlines **well before** 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. The proposal must be thoroughly discussed with your advisor. *This cannot be done in one day!*

Once you decide who you are going to ask for letters of reference, please allow them at least a week for their response (two weeks is probably better!). *Providing them with a good proposal draft is crucial!*

Take the time to make the best proposal possible, and you will maximize your chances of being funded. This is especially true in cases of high competition; for example, Provincial grants have a success rate of around 18%.

Travel Support for Conferences:

Two primary 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 for 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 / online conference awards:**

CIRMMT funds are available to support graduate students presenting at conferences. A maximum of \$900 is available for continental travel and \$1,200 for intercontinental travel. Your supervisor is expected to support cost differentials. *Preference is given to doctoral students.* For conditions and deadlines, please check <http://www.cirmmt.mcgill.ca/activities/support/travel>.

If you have any other questions, please contact the Music Technology Area Coordinator and/or the GSO at the Schulich School of Music.

Travel Support for Research:

Two primary 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

⁸ <https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/en/program/frqnt-merit-scholarship-program-for-foreign-students-pbeec-2024-2025>

McGill degree program. Requests will be approved on a rolling basis, but applications should be submitted by March 15th for travel until August of the same year. Award values depend on where the mobility activity takes place, its duration, and funding availability at the time of application. More details are available at

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

- **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>.

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

- Associate Dean, Graduate Studies: Prof. Lisa Barg (graduatestudies.music@mcgill.ca), Room A725
- 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>.