

Guildhall School of Music & Drama Royal Opera House Doctoral Composer-in-Residence Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions

1) When is this doctoral studentship available?

Applications are now open for the first Guildhall School-Royal Opera House Composer-in-Residence who will begin three years of full time doctoral study in September 2013, completing in 2016. We will be appointing every two years, with the second Composer-in-Residence appointed to begin study in September 2015 (completing in 2018) and so on.

2) When is the closing date for applications?

31 May 2013 for the 2013-2016 appointment; the successful applicant will be announced in July 2013.

3) Is this doctoral studentship available part-time?

No.

4) What is the application procedure?

You should apply using the Guildhall School's [MPhil/DMus application procedure](#). When completing the application form, please clearly specify at the top of the personal statement in capitals 'DOCTORAL COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE APPLICATION'.

5) What do I need to submit in addition to the application form?

Composition Portfolio

All applicants for this Composer-in-Residence scheme must submit a composition portfolio of three works (scores and recordings) that demonstrates quite specifically a high-level of creative research engagement with vocal, operatic and theatrical practice. Please note that all recordings must have been generated from live performance; midi mock-ups will not be accepted.

Draft Research Proposal

As with all applicants to the Guildhall School's MPhil/DMus Programme, you are also required to submit a draft research proposal (c. 1000 words) that outlines the core creative research question(s) that you intend to explore through the studentship. This draft research proposal is not necessarily expected to present a detailed concept for the year 3 chamber opera, but it should evidence your deeper creative/aesthetic engagement with opera – including a preliminary bibliography and initial survey of your key operatic works – and how you intend to respond to the main creative research opportunities that this doctoral studentship offers.

6) What academic qualifications should I possess in order to apply for this doctoral studentship?

A Masters level qualification, with a composition specialism. Applications will be considered from students without a Masters degree, provided the composition portfolio and draft research proposal are deemed to be at the correct academic level for the commencement of a doctoral research programme.

7) Are you looking for any particular profile of composer, either in terms of experience, stylistic or aesthetic approach?

This Guildhall School-Royal Opera House Doctoral Composer residency has been established to support a wide diversity of approaches to the operatic art-form; there is no 'house style' to this scheme. However, we are looking for composers who can demonstrate a genuine and deep level of engagement with opera and theatre more generally; consequently, the studentship may well be more suited to composers with a certain amount of professional experience behind them. It is also important

to emphasise that we are looking for composers who can both meet the demands of creative opportunities at the Royal Opera House and flourish working within the academic context of the Guildhall School's doctorate programme.

8) Am I entitled to any provisional advice from the Guildhall School when making my application?

This FAQ document will be provided to all applicants, supplementing existing information concerning the Guildhall School's MPhil/DMus programme on the School's website. Because of the high volume of applicants to this scheme, the Guildhall School cannot enter into any more detailed advice relating to a particular application.

9) What is the selection process for this doctoral studentship?

There will be a three-stage selection process for this studentship:

Stage One (June)

A team of Guildhall staff from the composition and opera departments will draw up a list of applicants (maximum 30) to go forward to the second stage.

Stage Two (June/July)

The Head of Composition at the Guildhall School and the Associate Director of Opera at the Royal Opera House will select a short list (maximum 8) to be invited to the formal interview stage.

Stage Three (July)

A panel of senior Guildhall School and Royal Opera House staff will consider the applicants' portfolios and interview each applicant. The successful applicant will be announced.

10) If I am unsuccessful, am I entitled to any feedback?

Due to the high volume of applicants for this doctoral studentship, it will not be possible to provide feedback on each application. However, feedback will be available for those composers that make it through to *Stage Three*.

11) If I am unsuccessful, am I entitled to subsequently reapply to the scheme?

Yes.

12) Can you explain how the MPhil/DMus programme relates to the Composer Residency?

This is a collaborative doctoral award. Each successful applicant enrolls as a full-time student on the Guildhall School's MPhil/DMus programme and pursues their creative research in opera through both Guildhall School and Royal Opera House contexts. The Guildhall School-Royal Opera House Doctoral Composer-in-Residence will be expected to meet the demands of this doctoral programme in full, making a significant contribution to the Guildhall School's research culture and fully participating in research training, seminars and research department events. This is in addition to meeting the specific schedule for the new chamber opera scheduled for premiere at the Linbury Studio Theatre (ROH) in year 3 of the studentship (detailed below).

13) What are the specific opportunities offered within the Guildhall School context?

The Guildhall School has a thriving [composition department](#) with a professionally active team of staff composers. The department enjoys strong external partnerships and has considerable experience in running collaborative creative projects ranging from *Voiceworks* which allows poets and composers to develop new vocal works for the Wigmore Hall, to an annual collaboration which pairs up postgraduate composers with choreographers from London Contemporary Dance School.

In Year 1 of this doctoral studentship, the Composer-in-Residence will be able to develop smaller-scale, exploratory projects within Guildhall School contexts. Once creative plans are more fully underway for the year 3 Linbury Studio Theatre chamber opera, then the Composer-in-Residence will be able to creatively develop the new opera with the support of Guildhall School Composition, Opera and Vocal departments. Furthermore, the Guildhall School Drama department may well offer fruitful creative research potential in terms of the Composer-in-Residence's wider theatrical development.

14) What are the specific opportunities offered with the Royal Opera House context?

The central focus of this doctoral studentship is the creative development and production of a new chamber opera for the Linbury Studio Theatre, scheduled for performance in year 3 of doctoral study. In year 1, the Composer-in-Residence's preliminary projects will be largely located in Guildhall School contexts, though there may also be opportunities to develop short works for the Royal Opera House e.g. for Jette Parker Young Artists, Thurrock Community Chorus or the Royal Opera House Youth Opera Company. Subject to agreement, the Royal Opera House will also allow the doctoral Composer-in-Residence to observe the development of contemporary operatic works at the Royal Opera House during the period of their research. The scope of this observation will be agreed between the doctoral student and the Royal Opera House at the beginning of each academic year, taking into account both the precise nature of the student's research and Royal Opera House scheduling. In autumn 2013, for example, this will include a new chamber opera by the Guildhall School's Head of Composition, Dr Julian Philips, which is scheduled for premiere in December 2013.

However, Royal Opera House involvement formalises the main creative output for the Guildhall School-Royal Opera House Composer-in-Residence, whose creative research process must culminate with the completion of new chamber opera (c. 70-80 minutes) to be staged by the Royal Opera House in the Linbury Studio Theatre in Year 3 of their doctoral study. The schedule for this has been agreed with the Royal Opera House as follows:

Year 1

- i) Librettist identified and agreed with Royal Opera House/Guildhall School during the course of the year;¹
- ii) Subject matter, scale and resources agreed with Royal Opera House/Guildhall School by end of academic year.

Year 2

- i) Libretto first draft completed by end of term 1;
- ii) Creative development during terms 2-3, both at Royal Opera House and Guildhall School;
- iii) Royal Opera House advertises the new chamber opera in March of this academic year.

Year 3

- i) Vocal score delivered by the end of term 1;
- ii) Full score delivered by the end of term 2;
- iii) Music and production rehearsal during term 3;
- iv) New Opera staged at Linbury Studio Theatre during final term (June-July).

15) What are the supervisory arrangements for this doctoral studentship?

The supervisory structure for this doctoral studentship will follow the established structures of the Guildhall School's existing DMus with the addition of a non-academic supervisor to facilitate creative research activity within Royal Opera House contexts.

¹ Please note: this librettist will be recruited as an external collaborative partner for the doctoral student's creative research, and identified through the developing creative dialogue with the Royal Opera House. The librettist is not expected to be either a Guildhall research student or member of staff.

i) *Principal supervisor* (Guildhall School)

Responsibilities:

- Guildhall School-Royal Opera House liaison;
- Facilitating collaborative research partnerships, both internal and external;
- Established supervisory responsibilities of the Guildhall School's DMus Programme.

For 2013-16, the principal supervisor will be Dr Julian Philips, Head of Composition at the Guildhall School.

ii) *Second Supervisor* (Guildhall School)

A second supervisor will be appointed to support the DMus student, drawn from composition department professors with research experience in opera or cross-art collaboration (e.g. Julian Anderson, Paul Newland, James Weeks or Matthew King).

iii) *Non-academic supervisor* (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden)

Responsibilities:

- Induction to Royal Opera House personnel and resources;
- Facilitating collaborative research partnerships within the wider Royal Opera House community;
- Mentoring/guidance for the new chamber opera (years 2 & 3 particularly).

For 2013-16, the non-academic supervisor will be John Fulljames, Associate Director of Opera at the Royal Opera House.

16) What is the funding provision for this doctoral studentship?

This is a fully funded three-year doctoral studentship, regardless of whether the successful applicant is a Home, EU or International student. In addition, the Doctoral Composer-in-Residence will receive a maintenance grant in line with AHRC funding rates.