

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
DOCTORAL DEGREES IN MUSIC

PhD in Music Performance Practice

The PhD degree in Music Performance Practice is taken by presentation of a full-length public recital demonstrating high professional standards and the submission of the findings of a related research project. Although the degree consists of nominally distinct components, the recital and the written submission must really be conceived as a single undertaking that seeks significantly to advance – in theory and in practice – our knowledge and understanding of a specific field of music: for instance, a style, a genre, a repertoire, an interpretative strategy, or a composer.

Applications will be considered from candidates who hold a relevant university degree or approved equivalent qualification proposing a recital in performance practice linked to a research project. Candidates are required to submit evidence of performing excellence as well as academic competence. Once accepted, performers work independently, under the guidance of a performance supervisor and an academic co-supervisor.

2 x 80-minute recitals

40 000-word thesis

PhD in Composition by Portfolio

The PhD degree in Composition is taken by presentation of a folio of compositions, accompanied by a commentary on the pieces submitted. The exact quantity of works to be submitted is not strictly prescribed, but as a guide it is anticipated that the PhD folio should contain about eight works, of which at least one should be substantial. *Inter alia*, the commentary should seek to position the compositions within their relevant musical, historical and social contexts, and specify the ways in which they constitute an original and important contribution; it should probably run to about 15 000 or 20 000 words. A folio may consist entirely of acoustic works, entirely of electro-acoustic works, or contain a combination of both.

Applications will be considered from candidates who hold a Masters degree in composition, though the chief criterion for acceptance is evidence of a high level of ability and originality in composition. Candidates are required to submit examples of previous compositional work as well as appropriate academic competence. Once accepted, composers work independently, under the guidance of a supervisor.

PhD in Research

The Research PhD is taken by submission of a scholarly thesis on some aspect of music. The thesis should make a distinct contribution to the knowledge or understanding of music, and afford evidence of originality shown either by the discovery of new facts or by the exercise of independent critical power. Normally its length should be approximately 80 000 words (260 pages).

Applications will be considered from candidates who hold a Masters degree or equivalent, though the chief criterion for acceptance is evidence of a high level of ability in music research, as well as a capacity for original thought. Applicants are required to submit examples of their previous research work. Once accepted, research students work independently, under the guidance of a supervisor.

DMus in Composition

The degree is awarded in the field of musical composition only. A senior doctorate, it is intended for established composers capable of producing work of the very highest calibre; only those composers who meet these criteria will be considered as possible candidates. Applicants are required to submit examples (scores and professional recordings) of previous compositional work, substantiated by published reviews and other published commentaries. The degree is taken by submission of original composition (either a single major composition or a portfolio of smaller ones), which displays mastery of technique and outstanding creative ability. As is the case with other senior doctorates, supervision is not provided (see also “rules for senior (unsupervised) doctoral degrees” in the Faculty Handbook).