**Faculty of Music**

**Notes of Guidance – Higher Doctorates**

**General Information**

Higher Doctorate(s) available: **Doctor of Music (DMus)**

Responsible body with oversight of the higher doctorate(s): Board of the Faculty of Music

Contact for informal enquiries: Academic Administrator

([academic.admin@music.ox.ac.uk](mailto:academic.admin@music.ox.ac.uk))

The Board of the Faculty of Music has issued these expanded guidance notes in addition to the official regulation, so as to provide further guidance as to the standard required of candidates in submitting an application to this Board, and to judges in assessing such applications.

**Criteria**

Judges will be looking for evidence of originality and an outstanding level of technical and aesthetic distinction and:

1. is of the highest quality;
2. demonstrates an ability to handle varied musical forces and large-scale structures;
3. is substantial in scale, showing current and continued contribution to the artistic, intellectual and cultural environment over a substantial period of time;
4. demonstrates evidence of the communication of ideas and the dissemination of work in the global community;
5. for acoustic instrumental music, there should be evidence of a range of ambitious structural challenges across varied genres;
6. for mixed media, studio, ethnic or community approaches, the work should be of comparable quality in its field.

(<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2017-18/grforhighdoct>)

Applicants for the DMus will be assessed by a portfolio of their work which should be of the highest quality, originality and an outstanding level of technical and aesthetic distinction, significantly in advance of what is required for a D.Phil. in composition. It should demonstrate an ability to handle varied musical forces and large-scale structures.

The portfolio should be substantial in scale, showing current and continued contribution to the artistic, intellectual and cultural environment over a substantial period of time. In so doing the composer will demonstrate evidence of the communication of ideas and the dissemination of work in the global community e.g. publication, commercial recording, broadcasts etc. Where the composer is predominantly concerned with acoustic instrumental music, there should be evidence of a range of ambitious structural challenges across varied genres. Where the composer has concentrated on the development of other areas, such as mixed media, studio, ethnic or community approaches, the work should be of comparable quality in its field.

**Initial application requirements**

Applications should comprise:

* An application Form
* A covering statement
* An academic CV
* A list of key compositions

Portfolios should normally contain between five and seven compositions.

The covering statement (no more than 10 sides of A4, minimum 11pt, single spaced) should state how you meet the criteria for the award, together with a brief CV, and a list of key/representative compositions that illustrates your distinction.

In your covering statement you should position your own work in relation to the criteria for this degree. In your CV please include objective evidence of the significance and recognition of your work, such as major commissions and public performances.

Please note that one year must have elapsed between the publication of a paper or book and its submission as evidence in support of an application. If books or papers are submitted which were published in the calendar year preceding that in which an application is made, the exact date of publication must be specified. Any work previously submitted for a degree at this or any other institution shall be ineligible for consideration in support of the application.

**Screening process**

In the Faculty of Music the screening process will be conducted by the Chair of the Faculty Board who will also select another senior member of academic staff with sufficient knowledge of the subject to review the application. The panel members will undertake a brief review of the portfolio to determine if there is a *prima facie* case for the candidate to be invited to proceed to full scrutiny.

If it is established that there is as *prima facie* case for the candidate to be considered for the degree, the Chair of the Faculty Board, will be asked to recommend judges to act on behalf of the Faculty.

**Full application requirements**

If/when judges are appointed, the candidate will be informed and shall then provide two copies of the composition scores and any recordings of the compositions that were listed in their initial application, and a full list of all their compositions to the Submissions and Research Degrees Team. The previously submitted application form, covering statement, CV, and the key/representative composition list (with their explanation statements), provided at the pre-screening stage will also be used at this point.

Contact for queries: Submissions and Research Degrees Team ([higherdoctorates@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:higherdoctorates@admin.ox.ac.uk)). Please do not send any queries to panel members.