



Nordoff-Robbins
Music Therapy
Australia



University of
Western Sydney
Bringing knowledge to life

Master of Creative Music Therapy



Master of Creative Music Therapy

The Master of Creative Music Therapy is offered by the University of Western Sydney in collaboration with Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Australia Ltd.

For further information or to discuss any aspect of the course, prospective students should contact:

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This two-year full-time program is designed for musicians and other professionals who wish to train in the approach of Creative Music Therapy (CMT) based on the pioneering work of Paul Nordoff and Clive Robbins.

The philosophy of CMT is underpinned by the belief that all people, regardless of their physical or emotional conditions have the ability to respond to music and that music is intrinsically healing in nature.

Typically, in CMT the client and the therapist improvise music together building a musical relationship in which a therapeutic process takes place and positive change can be supported.

As well as a grounding in Creative Music Therapy techniques, students receive broad theoretical and practical education encompassing newest clinical and research developments.

Academics and researchers of international repute provide students with an opportunity to integrate coursework with research.

Entry criteria assume a high level of musical competency and maturity.

The course seeks to build on this in developing the skills of clinical musicianship, therapeutic sensitivity and critical evaluation.

The course is accredited with the Australian Music Therapy Association (AMTA).

On successful completion of the program graduates are eligible to apply for professional registration with the AMTA, which qualifies them to practice in Australia.

Prospective students are warmly invited to visit the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Centre at UWS where much of the teaching and practical course work is based.

Here they can observe music therapy sessions in progress and talk to lecturers and students about steps towards enrolment.

Career opportunities

Creative Music Therapists are highly proficient musicians with a practical knowledge of music styles and techniques. In this role, your understanding of the human condition, including disability and medical conditions, will equip you to build empathy with people as you open up channels of communication through music.

Registered music therapists in Australia will practise in hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centres, schools, nursing homes and community programs.

Many work in multidisciplinary teams with responsibility for designing, implementing and evaluating specific treatment programs for clients.

Course description

The course guides students into developing a deep awareness and understanding of music and how to use it therapeutically through improvising, composing, arranging and analysing to meet the needs of individuals and groups. They also study the history and professional development of music therapy, including the various methodologies and theoretical constructs that form the basis of clinical work being carried out in more than 40 countries worldwide. The focus is on a deep, formal understanding of clinical and human issues that confront clinicians working in the community, as well as ethical and professional responsibilities.

Upon the completion of the program the students are expected to:

- » Have the skills in the clinical applications of music, including improvisation, composition, arrangement and analysis in order to meet the needs of individuals and groups;
- » be able to understand, identify, use, and evaluate the principles of Creative Music Therapy as well as different concepts and principles of music therapy as a whole, and the underpinning theories;
- » acquire skills in the assessment, design, implementation and evaluation

Graduate Profile



Belinda Burns

Master of Creative Music Therapy

Belinda Burns has always valued the open-minded pursuit of knowledge at UWS. 'This experience continues in my postgraduate studies,' she says. 'A balance of theoretical depth and insight builds a platform for the highly practical and creative endeavours of this course, and the work music therapy requires. The applied knowledge is used to pave a pathway to music as therapy that both amazes and inspires me.'

'UWS provides an accessible, flexible and 'available' presence and support to your study where vision and ambitious passion is encouraged and rewarded. Through UWS's partnership with Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Australia I have been given the opportunity to get involved in a whole network and community of people committed to the same pursuit.'

'The world is my oyster, so to speak! I have been given the chance to experience dynamic and varied clinical placements, both internally and externally. I have full confidence that the skills, development and professional qualification gained will serve as a solid foundation for any future endeavour.'

'If you are wondering about Music Therapy, look it up online! Better still, come and see for yourself the impact that creative, active music making is having: it's inspiring!'

of music therapy programs in a diverse range of clinical/special education settings;

- » understand relevant clinical conditions and the application of music as a treatment/special education modality;
- » be aware of professional responsibilities and ethical constraints as it relates to health and special education facilities.

About Nordoff-Robbins

Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Australia Ltd was founded in 1984 to promote and develop the understanding, training and practice of Creative Music Therapy, as understood within the context of Nordoff-Robbins approach. It is a non-profit company limited by guarantee and a registered charity devoted to the provision of music therapy services to members of the community, to the training of music therapists, research in the area, and to the advocacy of the value and efficacy of music therapy generally and Creative Music Therapy specifically.

Entry requirements

Applicants must have successfully completed an undergraduate degree in any discipline
AND
must attend an audition.

You will be selected on an interview/audition in which personal aptitude and professional experience are taken into consideration. At your audition you will be asked to:

- a) play two contrasting pieces on your first instrument, or if you are a vocalist, sing two contrasting pieces;
- b) play a piece on your second instrument;
- c) sight read a melody (instrumental and vocal);
- d) harmonise a melody on the piano or other western polyphonic instrument;
- e) improvise three simple variations on the piano or other western polyphonic instrument, on a given theme;
- f) perform a free improvisation based on a given subject/theme, on the piano or an instrument of your choice. The improvisation should preferably be atonal.

NB: The piano must be included in a) or b).

Applicants who are unable to attend the audition in person will undertake a remote audio-visual audition (see b), c), d), e), and f) above). Prior to the remote audition, these applicants should submit a DVD demonstrating musical proficiency (see a) above) - play two contrasting pieces on your first instrument, or if you are a vocalist, sing two contrasting pieces, and an essay of 1,500 words, describing your knowledge of Creative Music Therapy and why you wish to study it. The essay should include at least four references and use APA format.

International applicants who are unable to attend the audition should submit a DVD demonstrating musical proficiency and a short essay as described above.

English proficiency requirements

Applicants who have undertaken studies overseas may have to provide proof of proficiency in English. Details of minimum English proficiency requirements and acceptable proof can be found on the Universities Admissions Centre website (UAC) at www.uac.edu.au

Overseas qualifications must be deemed by the Australian Education International - National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR) to be equivalent to Australian qualifications in order to be considered by UAC and UWS.

International candidates need a recognised relevant overseas Bachelor's degree and to understand English to a high level (minimum IELTS score of 6.5).

How to Apply

Applications for this course must be made online through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) at www.uac.edu.au/postgraduate

Further information on postgraduate courses and the application procedure is available at myfuture.uws.edu.au

Music therapy is an attractive profession for a musician as it offers a rich avenue of interpersonal communication, typically not available in the context of traditional performance. However, there is a certain proportion of musicians who would be interested in studying music therapy but whose main strengths are in areas of contemporary performance or experimental music, and whose musicianship skills are not to a standard required by music therapy training. These skills are especially in the areas of sight reading, aural skills, the harmonisation of melody lines, structured improvisation, basic composition, arrangement and music analysis.

To assist these musicians, Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Australia is offering a series of introductory workshops. They offer a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical experience with the focus on harmony, piano, aural training, guitar skills, and the foundations of clinical reasoning. The program would benefit particularly:

- » Musicians who have auditioned for a music therapy course but who were not successful due to insufficient skills in some areas.
- » Musicians who wished to audition for a music training but decided not to do so after becoming familiar with the audition requirements.
- » Registered Music Therapists who wish to upgrade some of their skills in clinical musicianship.

For more information contact Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Australia on +61 247 360 240 or email musictherapy@uws.edu.au

For international students

International students need to apply direct to the University. Application forms and information on admission are available at www.uws.edu.au/international/admissions

For information about studying at UWS, including courses, tuition fees, English requirements, intakes, assessment methods, accommodation options, and living in Australia, please visit www.uws.edu.au/international

Research degree in Music Therapy at UWS

Leading academic supervision, extensive research support and access to clinical facilities is available for music therapy research, leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. For further information contact Dr Alan Lem (a.lem@uws.edu.au) sa-research@uws.edu.au