



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

MSc Acoustics and Music Technology



Dr. Thomas McKenzie

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Investing in our facilities

Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) is excited to be undertaking a capital redevelopment of ECA's Lauriston Campus over the next 3 years, from April 2024 – April 2027.

The project aims to maximise the use of existing space, improve accessibility, and create a vibrant campus that fosters collaboration and innovation.

The project involves refurbishing and repurposing various spaces across the Lauriston campus, including technical facilities, student and teaching spaces, and the relocation of the Reid School of Music from Alison House to the Lauriston Campus. New social spaces, seminar rooms, and studios are being created to accommodate our growing community. You can find more about the project at the below link:

[Building work starts at ECA's Lauriston Campus | Edinburgh College of Art](#)



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MSc Acoustics and Music Technology

- Everything to do with acoustics and audio signal processing...
- Running since 2006, with approx. 150 graduates
- Small, intensive programme, with approx. 15-20 students/year
- Admissions is competitive: 94 applications for 2025/26, 46 acceptances
- Virtually all graduates go on to further employment/study in acoustics/audio engineering



MSc Acoustics and Music Technology

Staff:

- Thomas McKenzie (spatial audio, psychoacoustics)
thomas.mckenzie@ed.ac.uk
 - Programme director, point of contact for all programme-wide questions / concerns
- Alec Wright (audio machine learning) alec.wright@ed.ac.uk
- Michael Newton (hearing, microphone design) michael.newton@ed.ac.uk
- Tom Mudd (audio programming) tom.mudd@ed.ac.uk



Graduate Trajectories: Employment

MSc Acoustics and Music Technology graduates have gone on to employment at many companies worldwide:

- AKRF (New York)
- Applied Research in Acoustics (Washington D.C.)
- Arturia (Grenoble, France)
- **Arup (UK, Singapore)**
- **Apple (Cupertino, USA)**
- Atlal Al Qurum Trading and Contracting (Oman)
- AudioKinetic Cass Allen (Milton Keynes, UK)
- Cereproc (Edinburgh, UK)
- Clement Acoustics (Bristol, UK)
- Corti (Copenhagen, Denmark)
- **Facebook (California)**
- Goodhertz Inc. (Pasadena, California)
- GN (Copenhagen, Denmark)
- Hann-Tucker Assoc. (London, UK)
- Hoare Lee (London, UK)
- Jabra (London, UK)
- Krotos (Edinburgh, UK)
- LG Electronics (Seoul, South Korea)
- Liveworks (Latnikar, Nepal)
- KPMG (London)
- Meridian Audio (Cambridge, UK)
- Metropolitan Acoustics (Philadelphia, USA)
- **Microsoft (Redmond, Washington)**
- **Moog (Philadelphia, USA)**
- MQA Ltd. (Edinburgh, UK)
- **Native Instruments (Berlin, Germany)**
- NUGEN Audio (Leeds, UK)
- Photonic Solutions (Aberdeen, UK)
- Piezo Composite Ltd (Aberdeen, UK)
- Prase Engineering (Venice, Italy)
- Qinetiq (Farnborough, UK)
- RMP Acoustics (Edinburgh, UK)
- Royer Labs (Los Angeles)
- Signum Audio (Edinburgh, UK)
- Spectral Labs (San Diego, USA)
- Swell Energy (San Francisco, USA)
- Talayman Acoustics (Istanbul, Turkey)
- Two Big Ears (Edinburgh)
- Vanguardia (London)
- Viacoustics
- Wooptix (Spain)
- Xi Acoustics (Edinburgh)
- Wood Acoustics (Edinburgh)
- WSP (UK)
- **Yamaha (Hamamatsu, Japan)**



Graduate Trajectories: Academia

MSc Acoustics and Music Technology graduates have gone on to PhD studies at:

- University of Edinburgh
- University of Cambridge
- University of Essex
- University of Plymouth
- University of Glasgow
- University of York
- Sorbonne University
- University of California San Diego
- Technical University of Athens
- Eindhoven University
- Aalto University (Helsinki, Finland)
- Queen Mary University of London
- University of Strathclyde
- Leibniz University Hannover
- University of the Basque Country
- University of Bath



Admissions

- We **require** an undergraduate degree in a numerate discipline such as
 - Physics
 - Mathematics
 - Computer Science
 - Engineering
- We sometimes admit students with other degrees, but only if they have substantial training in mathematics and/or physics, through coursework such as
 - Calculus through multivariable
 - Linear Algebra
 - Complex Analysis
 - Classical Mechanics
 - Wave Mechanics



Admissions

- Students without this background are encouraged to take a year before applying, and complete this coursework through, e.g., online courses or night school.
- We **do not** require a creative portfolio
- We **do not** require programming experience, but whatever you have will be useful!



Programme Structure

- Three semesters: 60 credits each
- Most courses are 20 credits, some (in science/engineering) are 10
- Semester 1: taught coursework, Sept. → Dec
- Semester 2: taught coursework, Jan. → April
- Semester 3: Dissertation only (independent study), April → Aug
- NB: up to 30 credits at level 10 allowed in total over the degree
- You can search courses at drps.ed.ac.uk



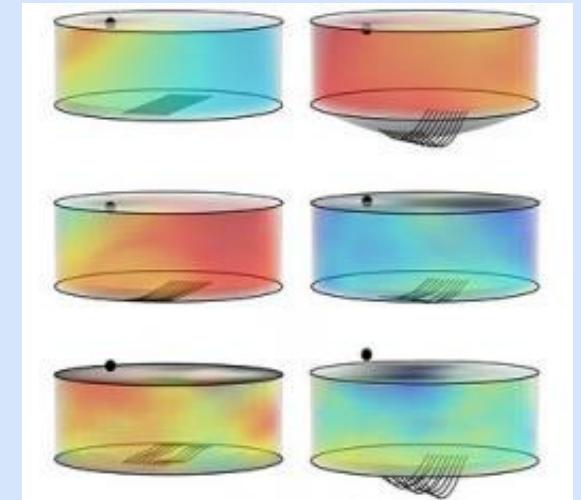
Semester 1

Required courses:

- **Acoustics** (20 credits)
- **Musical Applications of Fourier Theory and Digital Signal Processing** (20 credits)

You need to select a further 20 credits in semester 1, selected from postgraduate/advanced undergraduate options across the university. These are free to you to choose. Some popular choices:

- **Audio Crafting (Music)**
- **Creative Coding for Sound (Music)**
- **Applied Machine Learning (Informatics)**
- **Introductory Applied Machine Learning (Informatics)**
- **Honours Differential Equations**
- **Speech Processing**



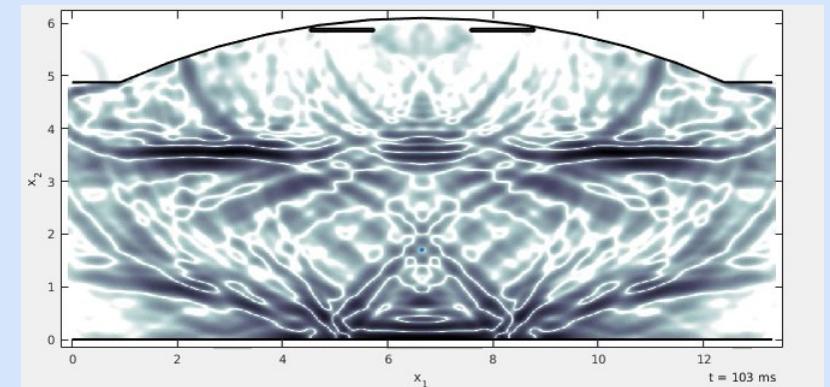
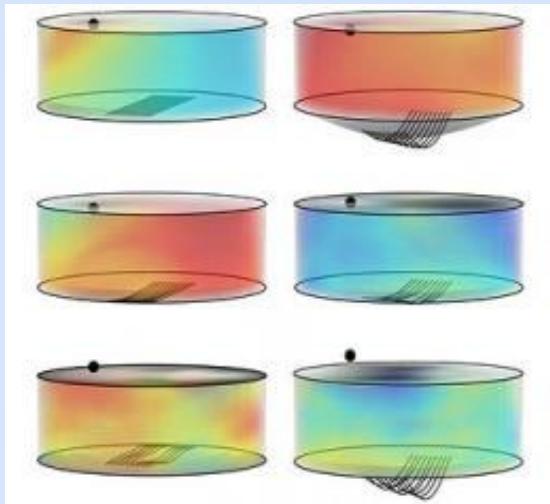
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Semester 1

Required courses:

- **Acoustics** (20 credits)



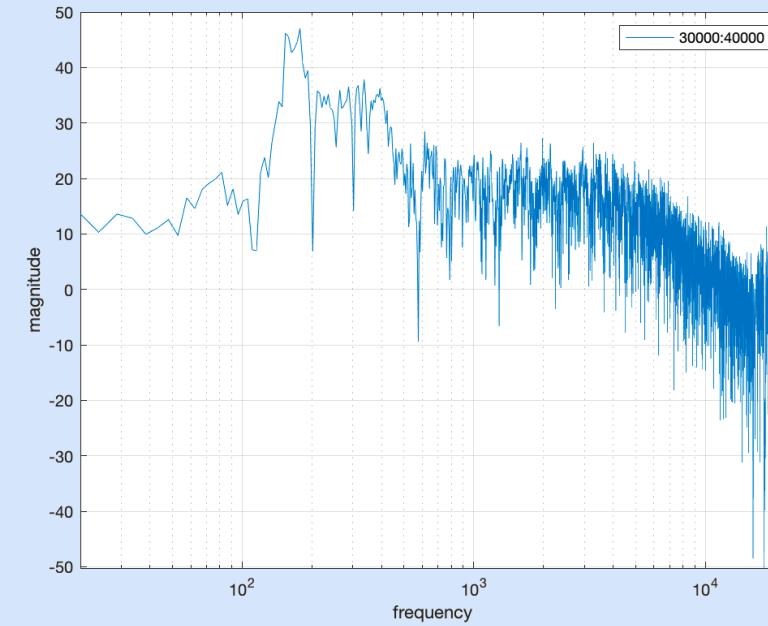
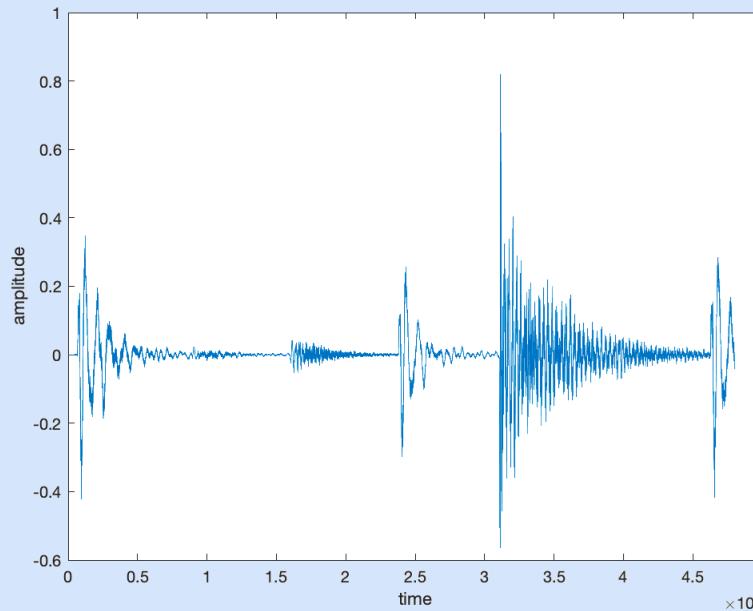
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Semester 1

Required courses:

- Musical Applications of Fourier Theory and Digital Signal Processing (20 credits)



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Semester 1

20 more credits – you choose

Postgraduate/advanced undergraduate options across the university

Popular choices:

- Audio Crafting (Music)
- Creative Coding for Sound (Music)
- Applied Machine Learning (Informatics)
- Introductory Applied Machine Learning (Informatics)
- Honours Differential Equations
- Speech Processing



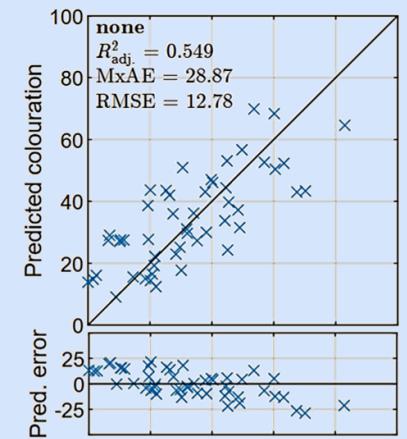
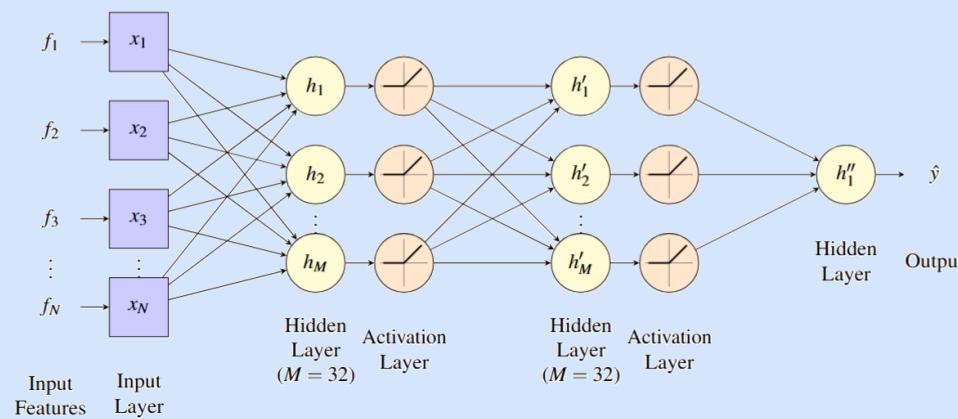
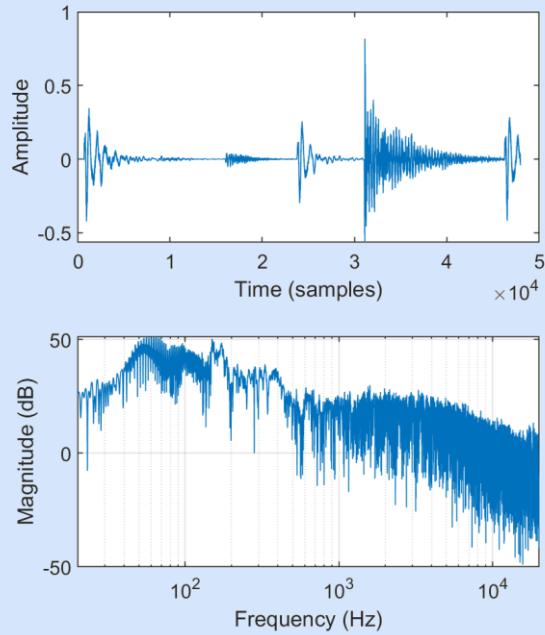
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Semester 2

Required courses:

- Audio Machine Learning



Semester 2

40 more credits – you choose

Postgraduate/advanced undergraduate options
across the university

Popular choices:

- **Audio Programming (Music, highly relevant!)**
- Interactive Sound Environments (Music)
- Numerical Partial Differential Equations (Math.)
- Speech Synthesis



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Semester 3: Dissertation

- Independent study, leading to a written dissertation (usually 40-60 pages)
- Choice of subject: up to you, but must have a significant basis in acoustics, or audio signal processing, and must fit the research expertise of one of the staff members...to be negotiated!
- 1-1 supervision (4 hours total over semester)
- Presentation



Extra-curricular

MusICA Seminars (musica.ed.ac.uk)

- Research seminar series
- Talks cover a wide range of current research topics in science of music

Facilities in Reid School of Music

- 17 practice rooms with Steinway pianos
- Reid Concert Hall with 21-stop 2-manual German organ
- Music studios with a large range of microphones – Neumann, Schoeps, AKG

Open mic nights, concerts, societies...

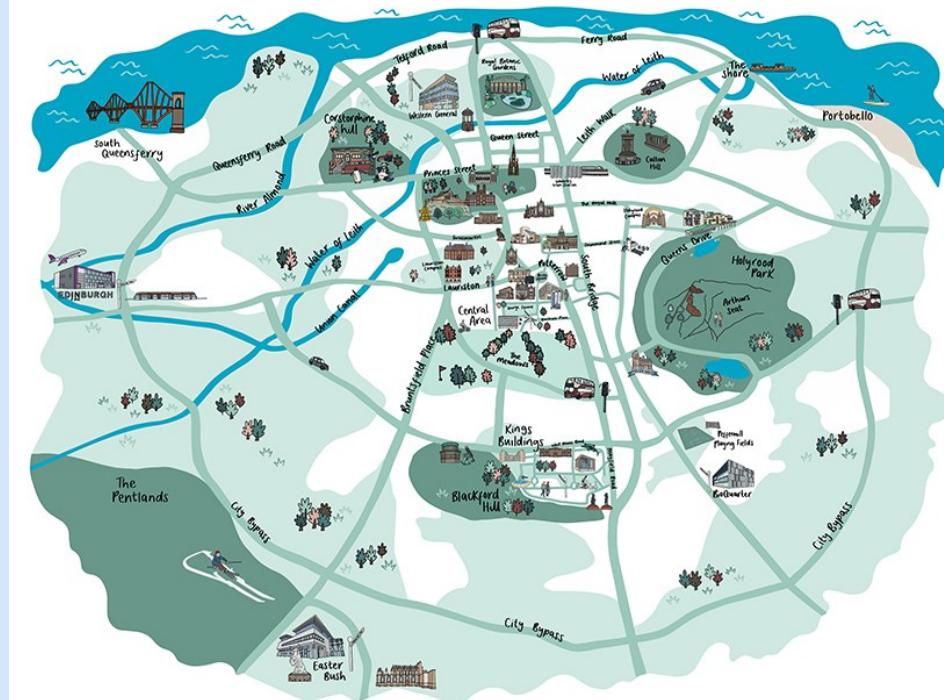


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Next steps...

<https://virtualvisits.ed.ac.uk/pg>



<https://edin.ac/student-chat-pg>



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Contact details for follow-up questions

- We apologise if we did not get through all of your questions in the time allotted for this session. If you have further questions that have not been answered, please email: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk
- Alternatively, just email me! thomas.mckenzie@ed.ac.uk
- Info on the MSc course options: <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/26-27/dpt/ptmscacmut1f.htm>
- MSc Acoustics and Music Technology alumni experiences:
https://www.acoustics.ed.ac.uk/teaching/msc_amt/alumni_experiences/





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Thank you!

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