



CURWEN COLLEGE *of* MUSIC

Diploma syllabus 2021

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The following syllabus is issued with effect from 1 May 2021.

Curwen College of Music offers two diplomas, Associate (ACCM) and Fellow (FCCM). In addition there is a preliminary Diploma (DipCCM), which, though a separate award, is intended as a preparation for the Associateship. Each is available in one of three broad pathways – recital, research, composition – with an additional fourth option of edition for the FCCM.

The examination for all three awards is in two parts: Part I consists of putting together a proposal for the examination, and Part II consists of the actual examination. No lists of pieces are issued for practical examinations. It is hoped that the candidate's active involvement in the examination process will help to achieve a well-informed musical outcome and that the examinations themselves will offer a musical experience worth engaging with, one which will broaden the candidate's creative thinking.

General entrance requirements

- i. These are assessed on a case-by-case basis, but for ACCM, besides the Diploma, the normal requirement is an A-level (or equivalent) in music, or Grade VIII (or equivalent) practical for recitalists, or theory for composition candidates, but basically candidates should be able to demonstrate a firm grasp of theory, history, or technique, depending on which pathway they choose.
- ii. For FCCM, an ACCM is normally required, or an equivalent diploma (LRSM, ARCO, AGSM/LGSM, LRAM/ARCM, LTCL, etc). Holders of music degrees or certain advanced diplomas are granted direct access. Please see Appendix 2 for a full list.
- iii. The **minimum age** for entry is *sixteen* for the Diploma, *eighteen* for ACCM, and *twenty-one* for FCCM.

General regulations

1. Marks will not be given. For the performance and edition pathways, the result will be **Pass** or **Fail**. For the dissertation and composition, pathways, the result will be **Pass, Pass subject to corrections (major or minor)**, or **Fail**.
2. A **Pass with Minor Corrections** does not need a re-examination, but the diploma will not be awarded until the corrected work has been received. A **Pass with Major Corrections** will require re-examining, and this will involve a re-examination fee.
3. In the case of FCCM, candidates who fail to reach the required standard may be offered the option of receiving the ACCM if their performance or work reached

that standard; candidates for ACCM who fail to reach the required standard will not receive any other award.

4. Outstanding candidates may be awarded the diploma with Distinction.
5. Successful candidates will be issued with a diploma, and may use the appropriate post-nominal letters, FCCM, ACCM, or DipCCM.
6. They may also wear the relevant academic robes, which consist of a black gown of London BA pattern. For Fellows and Associates, a hood is also prescribed: of Cambridge shape, in light blue. For FCCM it is fully lined and bound for 0.25" with dark pink; for ACCM it is bound on all edges with 2" dark pink; holders of the DipCCM wear the college gown and may wear a black square cap with black tassel ('mortar-board'). The robes are obtainable from Ede & Ravenscroft on production of the relevant form issued by the College.

Pathway I: recital

Fellow (FCCM)

Part One

1. To draw up a suitable, balanced, programme. Technical difficulty is not the sole criterion on which to choose pieces, but they should be chosen to reflect a variety of styles and periods: for example, an all-Bach programme, or one consisting of works from a single compositional school, will not be acceptable.
2. The recital should last for 45 minutes, *excluding* breaks and spoken introductions between pieces, so about 60 minutes in total. To include programme notes (submitted in advance) and spoken introductions to each piece during the recital. The standard to be that of a postgraduate recital (Level 7 of the National Qualifications Framework).
3. This will be graded **Approved**, **Approved with modifications**, or **Not approved**: Only once Part I has been approved can work for Part II be undertaken. An entry graded 'Approved with modifications' may be resubmitted up to *three* times; after that a fresh entry is required. Those graded 'Not approved' will require a fresh entry with a new programme or topic.
4. Once Part I has been Approved, a set of programme notes should be submitted at least three weeks before the Part II examination. These will be taken into account in the final result.

Part Two

1. The examination venue will be agreed between the candidate and the College, but will *normally* be in London. However, if it takes place elsewhere, particularly in a church, then it is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that the examination can proceed without interruption, and to provide, if necessary, a door steward. The examiners will require a table and chairs.
2. A short (1 minute maximum) spoken introduction to each piece is required, stating why it has been included, and how it relates to the rest of the programme, and also drawing attention to any salient points of interest. **NB:** biographical details of the composers are not required.
3. On-line or one-take recorded recitals may be acceptable in some circumstances: please enquire of the College.
4. A duplicate copy of the music must be provided for the examiners: one copy is sufficient. **NB:** photocopies are not acceptable. In the case of organists, a comprehensive stop list must be provided also, and full details of any registration aids.
5. Candidates must provide their own page-turners, if required; the examiners will not act in this capacity. In the case of organists, the page-turner may assist with the registration, but this must be brought to the examiners' attention before the examination starts.
6. There will usually be two examiners.
7. The result will be communicated to the candidate immediately after the performance, and the examiners will give feedback in discussion with the candidate when announcing the result; this is felt to be more useful than a written report on a performance that will have taken place some time previously. However, in the case of recorded submissions, the result will be communicated as soon as possible, and a written report will be issued.

Associate (ACCM)

The requirements are the same as for FCCM, but the recital should last 30 minutes *excluding* breaks between pieces, so about 40 minutes in total, and the standard to be that of a final-year undergraduate recital (Level 6 of the National Qualifications Framework).

Diploma (DipCCM)

The requirements are the same as for FCCM, but the recital should last 20 minutes *excluding* breaks between pieces, so about 30 minutes in total, and the standard to be that of a first-year undergraduate recital (Level 4 of the National Qualifications Framework).

Pathway II: dissertation

Fellow (FCCM)

Part One

1. An outline of between 400 and 500 words of the proposed research, including a detailed title, and principal sources to be consulted. A full bibliography is not required at this stage.
2. This will be graded **Approved**, **Approved with modifications**, or **Not approved**: Only once Part I has been approved can work for Part II be undertaken. An entry graded 'Approved with modifications' may be resubmitted up to *three* times; after that a fresh entry is required. Those graded 'Not approved' will require a fresh entry with a new topic.

Part Two

1. To submit a dissertation of between 18,000 and 20,000 words. The standard is to be that of a postgraduate dissertation (Level 7 of the National Qualifications Framework).
2. Dissertations must be typed or word-processed, using a serif type-face (Garamond, Times New Roman, etc) and *not* a sans-serif one (Arial, Helvetica, etc). This is to assist legibility. Handwritten scripts are *not* acceptable. Dissertations must be written in English, using foot- or end-notes for references; a full bibliography must be included.
3. The work must be submitted within the deadline agreed with the College when application is made. Electronic versions are preferred (ideally a pdf attached to an e-mail), but if this presents a difficulty, other means can be discussed: please contact the College if so.
4. All dissertations must include the preliminary pages as set out in Appendix 1 of this syllabus.
5. The dissertation will be graded **Outright pass**, **Pass with minor modifications**, **Pass with major modifications**, or **Fail**. A time-limit within which any modifications are to be completed will be specified.

Associate (ACCM)

The requirements are the same as for FCCM, but the dissertation is to be between 8,000 and 10,000 words, and the standard to be that of final-year undergraduate work (Level 6 of the National Qualifications Framework).

Diploma (DipCCM)

The requirements are the same as for FCCM, but the dissertation is to be between 4,000 and 6,000 words, and the standard to be that of first-year undergraduate work (Level 4 of the National Qualifications Framework).

Pathway III: composition

Fellow (FCCM)

Part One

1. A single work (in one or several movements) or a portfolio may be submitted. The content is to be agreed in advance. An outline of between 400 and 500 words of the work(s) proposed is required, stating whether a single work in several movements or a portfolio is to be submitted. In both cases, the ability to write in a variety of styles/mediums should be demonstrated.
2. The submitted work(s) should last some 30 minutes in performance, or the equivalent in shorter pieces, which need not necessarily be related, but in either case, a variety must be demonstrated. The standard is to be that of a postgraduate 'exercise' (Level 7 of the National Qualifications Framework).
3. This will be graded **Approved**, **Approved with modifications**, or **Not approved**; Only once Part I has been approved can work for Part II be undertaken. An entry graded 'Approved with modifications' may be resubmitted up to *three* times; after that a fresh entry is required. Those graded 'Not approved' will require a fresh entry with a new topic.

Part Two

1. The work must be submitted within the deadline agreed with the College when application is made. Electronic versions are preferred (ideally a pdf attached to an e-mail), but if this presents a difficulty, other means can be discussed: please contact the College if so.
2. Compositions should be processed via a score-writing program using bar numbering. Handwritten scores may be acceptable in some cases (please check with the College beforehand), but illegible or poorly-written MS scores will be marked down.

3. All submissions must include the preliminary pages as set out in Appendix 1 of this syllabus.
4. Electronic realizations transferred from MIDI audio files (MuseScore, Sibelius, Dorico etc) or live performance recordings of any or all of the compositions may be submitted with the score, but this is not compulsory, though they may be advisable in the case of *avant garde* styles. They will be treated as illustrative merely, and the performance standard will not be taken into account. Recordings should be submitted by link to a website, mp3 or on a CD/DVD.
5. The composition(s) will be graded **Outright pass, Pass with minor modifications, Pass with major modifications, or Fail**. A time-limit within which any modifications are to be completed will be specified.

Associate (ACCM)

The requirements are the same as for FCCM, but the composition(s) are to last about 20 minutes in performance, and the standard is to be that of final-year undergraduate work (Level 6 of the National Qualifications Framework).

Diploma (DipCCM)

The requirements are the same as for FCCM, but a portfolio of shorter compositions in a variety of styles is to be submitted, lasting about 15 minutes in performance, and the standard is to be that of first-year undergraduate work (Level 4 of the National Qualifications Framework).

Pathway IV: edition

NB: this pathway is available at Fellowship level only

Fellow (FCCM)

The work will be agreed in advance on a case-by-case basis. It may be a composition, or a book or other work of a musical nature. Prospective candidates should contact the College to discuss the possibilities before registration.

Part One will consist of a summary of the work(s) it is proposed to edit, giving reasons for the edition, methodology, and sources, and also a list of any previous editions. This will be graded **Approved, Approved with modifications, or Not approved**; no more than two resubmissions will be permitted.

Part Two will be the submission of the edition; the method of submission will be agreed with the candidate on a case-by-case basis. It will be graded **Pass or Fail**.

Pathway V: conducting

Fellow (FCCM)

The work will be agreed in advance on a case-by-case basis. Candidates may choose choral or orchestral/ensemble conducting; candidates are responsible for providing their own ensembles. Choirs may be accompanied by a piano or organ, or sing *a cappella*. Prospective candidates should contact the College to discuss the possibilities before registration.

Part One will consist of submitting the titles of two proposed works for performance: one already known to the performers, and one to be taught from scratch; so far as possible they should be in contrasting styles. Candidates are expected to say why they have chosen these particular pieces and how they might relate to each other, highlighting particular points a conductor should note. Together they should last no more than 20 minutes in performance. This will be graded **Approved**, **Approved with modifications**, or **Not approved**; no more than two resubmissions will be permitted.

Part Two will be a session lasting **one hour** in total.

1. The examination venue will be agreed between the candidate and the College, but will *normally* be in London. However, if it takes place elsewhere, particularly in a church, then it is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that the examination can proceed without interruption, and to provide, if necessary, a door steward. The examiners will require a table and chairs.
2. The first 40 minutes will consist of a rehearsal of the two works. The remaining 20 minutes will be a performance of both works to concert standard.
3. The candidate will be graded on demonstrating an ability to use the rehearsal time appropriately, communication, and conducting technique.
4. The standard is to be that of postgraduate work (Level 7 of the National Qualifications Framework).
5. On-line or one-take recorded sessions may be acceptable in some circumstances: please enquire of the College.
6. A duplicate copy of the music must be provided for the examiners: one copy is sufficient. **NB:** photocopies are not acceptable.
7. There will usually be two examiners.

8. The result will be communicated to the candidate immediately after the performance, and the examiners will give feedback in discussion with the candidate when announcing the result; this is felt to be more useful than a written report on a performance that will have taken place some time previously. However, in the case of recorded submissions, the result will be communicated as soon as possible, and a written report will be issued.

Associate (ACCM) and Diploma (DipCCM)

The requirements are the same as for FCCM, the standard is to be that of final-year undergraduate work (Level 6 of the National Qualifications Framework) for ACCM, and first-year undergraduate work (Level 4 of the National Qualifications Framework) for DipCCM.

Appendix 1: Specific requirements for dissertation and composition submissions.

1. The title page should take the following form:

Title of Dissertation/Composition
[An examination of Sarah Glover's Compositions with special reference to the Norwich Sol-fa]

Full name of Candidate, with any degrees and diplomas held
*[James Hamilton Bloggsworthy
 BA(Ipswich) LRAM]*

A dissertation/composition/portfolio of compositions/edition submitted to
 Curwen College of Music
 in fulfilment of the requirements for the diploma of
 Fellow/Associate/Diploma of the College

date – month and year only
[September 1836]

2. The following disclaimers should appear on the next page:

DECLARATION 1

This work has not previously been accepted in substance for any degree or diploma and is not being concurrently submitted in candidature for any degree or diploma.

Signed:
 Date:

DECLARATION 2 (dissertations)

This dissertation is the result of my own investigations, except where otherwise stated. Other sources are acknowledged by footnotes giving explicit references. A bibliography is appended.

Signed:
 Date:

DECLARATION 2 (compositions)

This/these composition(s) is/are my own work, except where otherwise stated.

Signed:
 Date:

3. For dissertations, an abstract of c200 words should appear on the following page.

Appendix 2: Awards acceptable for entry requirement.

The following awards grant entry to the ACCM or FCCM as noted, usually in the same subject. All awards must be examined; awards made *honoris causa*, awards which are honorary by their nature (FRAM, FRCM, etc) and membership awards are not acceptable. In all cases, the *examined* Fellowship of the bodies listed below grants direct entry to the FCCM, as do their former Graduate diplomas (GRSM, GTCL, etc).

The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music

ARSM – ACCM
 DipABRSM – ACCM
 LRSM – FCCM

The Royal Academy of Music

LRAM and all other diplomas – FCCM
 Degrees in Music of the University of London taken through the RAM – FCCM

The Royal College of Music

ARCM and all other diplomas – FCCM
 Any examined RCM degree – FCCM

The Royal Northern College of Music

GRNCM – FCCM
 any examined RNCM degree – FCCM
awards of the Royal Manchester College of Music
 ARMCM – FCCM
awards of the Northern School of Music

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and its predecessors

Any examined RCS degree – FCCM
 The former DipRSAMD – FCCM

The Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama and its predecessors

LWCMD – FCCM
 PGDipWCMD – FCCM
 ADWCMD – FCCM
 Degrees in Music of the University of South Wales taken through the RWCMD – FCCM

The Royal College of Organists

ARCO – FCCM *in organ only*

Trinity College of Music

ATCL – ACCM
 LTCL – FCCM
 Any examined Trinity Laban music degree – FCCM

The Guildhall School of Music & Drama

AGSM, LGSM – FCCM

Any examined GSMD degree – FCCM

The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

ADipBC, LDipBC – FCCM

awards of the Birmingham School of Music:

ABSM – FCCM

Degrees in Music of Birmingham City University/University of Central England taken through the Conservatoire – FCCM

The London College of Music

DipLCM, ALCM – ACCM

LLCM – FCCM

Degrees in Music of the University of West London taken through the LCM – FCCM

The Victoria College of Music

DipVCM – ACCM

AVCM – FCCM

LVCM – FCCM

Independent Contemporary Music Awards

DipMusICMA – ACCM

FDipMusICMA, PPICMA, DASM – FCCM

The Guild of Church Musicians

Archbishops' Preliminary Certificate – DipCCM

ACertCM – ACCM (ACertPW is not accepted)

LGCM – ACCM

The Royal School of Church Music

The former examined awards of CertRSCM, DipRSCM, and LRSCM – ACCM

Other examined diplomas may be acceptable: please enquire of the College.

In addition, degrees in Music from any university recognized by the UK Government grant direct access to FCCM. Besides the BMus, this includes the BA with honours in Music, or where the major part of the degree is in music, and also the BEd with music specialization. Other first degrees in which music has formed a major (at least 45%) part may be acceptable.

Applying for examination

Summary & Checklist

- 1) initial enquiry; you receive an entry form and other details
- 2) return your completed entry form to the College
- 3) you receive a letter saying your candidacy has been approved, and a request for fee payment
- 4) pay your examination fee (payment details on your letter from the College)
- 5) submit Part I; and once approved ...
- 6) submit Part II

Checklist	Date
Entry form received	
Entry form completed and returned to Curwen College	
Approval letter and fee request received from the College	
Examination fee payment made	
Part I submitted	
Part I approved	
Part II submitted	

Examination Fees, UK

DipCCM £190

ACCM £365

FCCM £450

Examination fees and other payments to Curwen College of Music may be made by bank transfer (preferred), cheque, or via *PayPal*.