

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST DIPLOMA & HALLÉ/ RNCM ADVANCED ORCHESTRAL STRINGS PROGRAMME

UCAS Code: IADP/WX3
Awarding Institution: Royal Northern College of Music
Programme Leaders: Prof. David Horne, Head of Graduate School
(International Artist Diploma)
Catherine Yates, Deputy Head of School of Strings (Hallé/RNCM Advanced
Orchestral Strings Programme)

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1. INTRODUCTORY COURSE INFORMATION

Award On successful completion of the course, students will receive:	Duration (months)	Mode of study
Postgraduate International Artist Diploma in Solo Performance	9 months	Full-time only
Postgraduate International Artist Diploma in Conducting		
Post Graduate Diploma: Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme		

Awarding and Teaching Institution: **RNCM**
Period of Registration: **Minimum:** 12 Months / Conducting 21 Months
Maximum: 21 Months / Conducting 42 Months
Academic Year: September to June

OTHER POTENTIAL AWARDS

None

Date of Writing:	August 2023
Programme Approval:	From: September 2024 To: August 2029

PROGRAMME AIMS

The programme aims to:

1	Provide exceptional performers the advanced musical training to create future musical ambassadors capable of demonstrating outstanding artistic identity, integrity and vision at the highest professional level in their field.
2	Equip exceptional performers with a depth of musical experience and comprehensive understanding of the techniques applicable to their chosen discipline to enable them to progress to an international career.
3	Equip you with a systematic detailed understanding and critical awareness of the relationship between current knowledge and practice within their chosen discipline.
4	Offer you appropriately high profile internal and external public performance opportunities to continue to advance their professional development.
5	Provide individual career development guidance to ensure that students are fully prepared for the challenges of establishing and sustaining a freelance international career.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME

Knowledge and Understanding (Intellectual Skills) - on successful completion of the programme you will be able to:	
1	Demonstrate exceptional knowledge and understanding of the requirements of discipline, to a level of musical insight, critical maturity, creative application and technical assurance of the ability to establish and sustain a successful career as an international performer in your chosen field of specialism.
2	Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of an appropriately professional cross-section of the repertory of the Principal Study discipline.
3	Demonstrate a professional level of ability in negotiating performance issues systematically and imaginatively, `communicating this to a highly advanced performing standard.
4	Demonstrate exceptional self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and the highest professional standards within musical organisations and institutions.

Practical Skills - on successful completion of the programme you will be able to:	
1	Synthesise theory and practice for identification, analysis and solution of musical and technical problems.
2	Demonstrate highly informed and discriminating attitudes to a diverse range of music and its performance related to the Principal Study discipline.
3	Plan and undertake exceptional individual/ensemble performance at an international level.

Generic and Graduate Skills - on successful completion of the programme you will be able to:	
1	Work collaboratively, demonstrating a high level of personal and interpersonal maturity.
2	Work autonomously and with an extremely high degree of self-motivation, employing exceptional self-critical skills.
3	Communicate with a professional level of confidence and insight.
4	Demonstrate imagination and creativity in overcoming challenges.

2. CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION AND ENTRY

Admission to the International Artist Diploma or Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings programme is by competitive audition (detailed information and guidance on the audition process is available on the RNCM website). Entrants must demonstrate at audition exceptional ability and evidence of, or the potential for, an international career. All candidates are required to audition in person at the RNCM, and should normally hold an undergraduate degree, or demonstrate equivalence through professional experience.

For applicants whose first language is not English, the normal International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or equivalent standard for entry to the PG Diploma is 5.5. In exceptional circumstances, the normal IELTS level may be reduced from 5.5 to a minimum of 5.0, subject to the approval of the Programme Leader.

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) does not apply to this programme.

Eligibility:

International Artist Diploma in Performance

This course is available to a maximum of **four students from any of the performance schools** each year who demonstrate at audition exceptional ability, and the clear potential for an international career as performers. You will normally have already completed postgraduate studies in performance at a conservatoire or similar specialist environment and be in a position to benefit from working intensively upon solo performance to facilitate your final transition from student to professional practitioner.

International Artist Diploma in Conducting

This course is available to a maximum of **one student** each year who demonstrates at audition exceptional ability, and the clear potential for an international career as a conductor. You will normally have already completed postgraduate studies in performance at a conservatoire or similar specialist environment and be in a position to benefit from working intensively upon conducting to facilitate your final transition from student to professional practitioner.

Post Graduate Diploma: Hallé and RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme

This course is normally available to a maximum of **ten string students** (who must be eligible to work in the UK) per annum who demonstrate at audition exceptional ability, and the potential for national/international careers as orchestral musicians / future section leaders. You will normally have already completed postgraduate studies in performance at a conservatoire or similar specialist environment and be able to benefit from a focused period of working intensively to facilitate your final transition from student to professional practitioner.

3. COURSE OVERVIEW

The International Artist Diploma and Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme focus on developing students skills and effectively preparing them for an international career as a performer (including as soloists, ensemble and orchestral musicians) or conductor. Individual career development support and guidance will be given by members of the RNCM's Performance and Programming Team and mentors from the Hallé (Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme), many of whom hold or have held in the past prominent positions in external arts organisations.

All elements of the programme are delivered at FHEQ Level 7 and are compulsory, forming a comprehensive framework for the advanced education and training of international performers.

Level / Year of study	FHEQ Level	HE Qualification
Year 1	7	International Artist Diploma Post Graduate Diploma: Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme

Work-Placement	The Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme strand involves placements with the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester for the duration of the degree, as orchestral playing is the primary focus. The Conducting Fellow (IAD) will typically undertake a range of placements with the RNCM's professional partners. The IAD Performance strands do not offer placements given the individual nature of the learning and teaching.
Timetables	As there are no taught modules in the programmes, all learning and teaching is arranged between tutors and students on an individual basis.

4. TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

The focus of the learning and teaching methods is 1:1 tuition and mentored practice. Other methods include masterclasses, solo / chamber ensembles and directed ensemble performance opportunities, and specialist classes and workshops.

The teaching and learning philosophy and strategy that underpins this suite of courses is that of a bespoke, student-centred approach that focuses on the development of the individual. You will put into practice the skills they have acquired through public performance, gaining the experience and exposure that will be necessary for you to pursue your aspirations as outstanding professional musicians. The extensive and continual formative feedback you will receive on a 1:1 and class basis throughout your course, and the summative feedback you will receive after your performances will enable them to reflect on your progress as individuals within the RNCM, whilst external feedback from competitions and masterclasses will help you to benchmark your progress against national and international peers.

The programme strands employ a variety of learning and teaching methods including:

One-to-one teaching Masterclasses

Small group teaching Group coaching Mentoring

Professional experiences with professional partners, by audition

INDEPENDENT LEARNING

When not attending timetabled sessions, you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study. This will involve practicing and/or repertoire study, working on individual and group projects, undertaking research in the library and externally and preparing for your assessed and other performances. Your independent learning is supported by a range of excellent facilities, including the library, practice rooms and state-of-the art performance venues.

OVERALL WORKLOAD

Due to the nature of each programme, they comprise no discrete modules, nor are they credit weighted. The large number of independent learning hours reflects the high level of achievement and autonomy expected for students on the programme. Numbers below are only indicative given the varying disciplinary demands (e.g., pianists' learning hours are weighted towards on-to-one training and masterclasses, whereas vocalists may spend more time in opera rehearsals and coaching); flexibility of study is promoted, and students are encouraged to take full advantage of the RNCM's many masterclass and public performance opportunities.

Learning hours Solo Performance/Conducting

1200 learning hours in total comprising:

- 75–150 hours contact
- 1050–1125 hours independent learning

Learning hours Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme

1200 learning hours in total comprising:

- 310 hours contact, including c.60 hours of orchestral training
- 890 hours independent learning

5. ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

The assessment strategy for the International Artist Diploma and Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programmes focuses exclusively on output in relation to the demonstration of consolidated skills through public performances, professional orchestral and other engagements and exit audition (for the Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme). This promotes independent learning and presents challenges like those that will be faced in the profession.

Due to the exceptionally high level of practical achievement that is required on this course, assessment will be on a Pass-Fail basis only, with public performances and/or exit audition being assessed.

Assessment components

Two public performances, typically consisting of:

Instrumentalist: an evening recital as part of the RNCM's public programme of events, and a concerto appearance with an RNCM partner ensemble.

Singer: an evening recital as part of the RNCM's public programme of events, and a major operatic role in an RNCM production.

Conducting: an evening concert with the RNCM Symphony Orchestra as part of the RNCM's public programme of events, conducting a performance of an RNCM operatic production.

Assessment components 'Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme':

Practical work with the Hallé including performance, presentation & communication skills and exit audition.

To qualify for the awards of PG International Artist Diploma or PG Diploma in Hallé/ RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme, students must pass all assessments.

In addition to the summative assessments above students are given feedback through individual tuition, mentorship and participation in public masterclasses.

Feedback

Students receive written feedback on all assessments, and this is delivered to the students within 3 weeks of the assessment dates.

The RNCM Academic Regulations may be found on the RNCM Website.

Potential Awards - (pass/fail, no other classification)

Award Title	
International Artist Diploma in:	Solo Performance Conducting
Post Graduate Diploma:	Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme

1. To qualify for the award you must successfully complete all assessed components of the course at the first attempt.
2. In the event of failure in any component of the course, you will be permitted one resit opportunity. This will normally be of equivalent length to the first attempt but may not be replicate the original conditions. For example, a concerto performance re-sit may involve piano (instead of orchestral) accompaniment.
3. Students who are unable to complete the course within the designated duration are not permitted to interrupt.
4. There are no other exit awards.

6. IAD PROGRAMME OUTLINES

International Artist Diploma in Solo Performance/Conducting

Programme Title:	International Artist Diploma in Solo Performance/Conducting		
Award:	Postgraduate Diploma	Code:	GSIADSOLO
Lecturer(s) responsible:	Head of Graduate School (in liaison with relevant Heads of School)		
Learning Hours:	1200 hours		
Level:	<i>FHEQ Level 7, FQ-EHEA Second Cycle</i>		

Aims:

The RNCM International Solo Performance course aims to provide for a limited number of students identified as having exceptional ability at audition an effective transition between advanced studies and entry to the music profession as soloists. As well as giving students the opportunity further to develop and hone their performance skills through intensive one-to-one tuition, access to a professional pianist, high-profile internal and external public performance opportunities, the option of a 4–6 week period of study on exchange at a partner international conservatoire, and specialist classes in presentation and communication skills, the course will provide individual career development guidance to ensure that participants are fully prepared for the challenges of establishing and sustaining a freelance international solo career.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course, you will be able to:

- a. Perform or conduct to the exceptional level required to establish and sustain a successful international career as a soloist.
- b. Perform or conduct with confidence and conviction in high-profile public settings.
- c. Demonstrate presentation and communication skills commensurate with your ability as a performer or conductor
- d. Rehearse and perform effectively and efficiently with collaborative musicians.
- e. Play an active part in developing your career, drawing upon the services of external agencies/stakeholders and applying business and transferable skills as appropriate [non-assessed].

Indicative Content:

This course will focus on the development of the individual with regard to effective preparation for an international career as a soloist. Working with renowned RNCM and international tutors, you will further develop and hone your artistic, technical, presentation and communication skills, whilst expanding and diversifying your repertory, and preparing for high-profile internal and external concerts and competitions. Opportunities to perform in masterclasses given by eminent visiting artists will complement intensive 1:1 study. Individual career development support and guidance will be given by members of the RNCM's Performance and Programming Team, many of whom have held prominent positions in external arts organisations. The large number of independent learning hours reflects the high level of achievement and autonomy expected for students on the programme. This is flexible and you are encouraged to take advantage of the RNCM's many masterclass and public performance opportunities.

Learning Hours: Total: 1200

Taught: 75–150

These hours will be negotiated between the student and the relevant Head of School with the agreement of the Course Leader and will naturally vary according to discipline and understanding the advanced skills of the students. There will be a mix of individual lessons (typically once a week during teaching weeks), rehearsals, workshops and coaching, depending on the aspirations and particular discipline of the student.

Independent Learning: 1,125

Mode of Delivery:

This Course will be delivered by:

- One-to-one teaching
- Rehearsals
- One-to-one and group tutorials
- Small classes
- Masterclasses

Learning & Teaching Methodologies:

The teaching and learning philosophy and strategy that underpins this course is that of a bespoke, student-centred approach that focuses on the development of the individual. You will put into practice the skills you have acquired through public performance in a recital and concerto context, thus gaining the experience and exposure that will be necessary for you to pursue your aspirations as solo performers. The extensive and continual formative feedback you will receive on a 1:1 and class basis throughout their course, and the summative feedback you will receive after your recital and concerto performances will enable you to reflect on your progress as individuals within the RNCM, whilst external feedback from competitions and masterclasses will help you to benchmark your progress against national and international peers.

Assessment:

The assessment strategy for this course focuses exclusively on output in relation to the demonstration of consolidated skills through two public performances. This strategy reinforces independent learning and presents challenges similar to those that will be faced in the external profession.

Due to the exceptionally high level of practical achievement that is expected (and required) on this course, assessment will be on a Pass-Fail basis only, with both components being assessed. Although the two assessments will normally be scheduled at different points in the academic year, a degree of flexibility will apply in accordance with the constraints of the RNCM's overall artistic programme. You will be notified of the dates of your performances as early as possible in the academic year in which you are registered. The form of the performances will vary, depending on your skills and the nature of your disciplines. The performances will typically be featured in internal and external public performances, such as Opera, Session/Symphony Orchestra, RNCM recitals/showcases and performances (e.g., concertos) with external partner organisations.

Marking Guidelines:

This course will follow the Postgraduate Diploma: International Artist marking guidelines.

Reassessment:

In the event of failure at the first attempt, one re-sit opportunity will be offered, as detailed above. Exceptional mitigating circumstances may be brought to the attention of the Board of Examiners through application to the Extenuating Circumstances Committee.

Postgraduate Diploma: Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme

Programme Title:	Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme		
Award:	Postgraduate Diploma	Code:	GSADSTRING
Lecturer(s) responsible:	Catherine Yates, Deputy Head of Strings		
Learning Hours:	1200 hours		
Level:	<i>FHEQ Level 7, FQ-EHEA Second Cycle</i>		

Eligibility:

This course is available to a maximum of ten string students (who must be eligible to work in the UK) per annum who demonstrate at audition exceptional ability, and the potential for national/international careers as orchestral musicians / future section leaders. Students will normally have already completed postgraduate studies in performance at a conservatoire or similar specialist environment and be in a position to benefit from a focused period of working intensively to facilitate their final transition from student to professional practitioner.

Aims:

The Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme aims to provide for a limited number of students identified as having exceptional ability at audition an effective transition between advanced studies and entry to the music profession as orchestral musicians / future section leaders. As well as offering orchestral training and high-profile external public performance opportunities with the Hallé, the course enables students further to develop and hone their individual performing and orchestral skills through one-to-one tuition with eminent orchestral string players employed as tutors at the RNCM (e.g., section leaders), and to develop skills in other areas such as people management, chamber music and education workshop delivery. Complementing this work is mentoring to support the development of the skills (musical and personal) required of future potential principal players.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Perform to the exceptional level required to establish and sustain a successful national/International career as an orchestral musician / future section leader [Assessment 1]
- Perform with confidence and conviction in high-profile public settings as an orchestral musician [Assessment 1]
- Demonstrate education workshop skills at a level commensurate with the needs of a professional orchestral musician / potential future section leader [Assessment 2]
- Demonstrate the leadership, people-management, and communication and presentation skills required of a potential section leader [Assessments 1 & 2]
- Play an active part in developing your careers, drawing upon the services of external agencies/stakeholders and applying business and transferable skills as appropriate [non-assessed]

Indicative Content:

This course focuses on the development of the individual with regard to effective preparation for a career as an orchestral musician, and potentially a future section leader. Working with renowned international conductors, experienced section leaders, and as a member of a team of professional orchestral musicians, you will further develop and hone your musical, technical and rehearsal skills, whilst expanding your orchestral repertory and performing in a number of high-profile public concerts with the Hallé. Mentoring throughout the course from experienced Hallé players and managers will enable you to recognise and start to develop the musical and personal leadership, people-management, and communication and

presentation skills required for successful high-level orchestral careers.

Learning Hours: Total: 1200

Taught: 310 (230 orchestral training - c.180 hours Hallé session plus RNCM training of c.50 hours); 9 hours of 1:1 Principal Study lessons; c.41 hours sectional experience); 20 hours of education workshop training and experience; 10 hours of classes in School of Strings Health and Wellbeing events)

Independent Learning: 890

Mode of Delivery:

This Course will be delivered by:

- Orchestral rehearsals and performances
- One-to-one Principal Study lessons
- Small classes
- Group coaching

Learning & Teaching Methodologies:

The teaching and learning philosophy and strategy that underpins this course is that of a bespoke, student-centred approach that focuses on the development of the individual. You will put into practice the skills you acquire through public performance and education workshops with the Hallé, thus gaining the experience and exposure that will be necessary for you to pursue your aspirations as orchestral musicians. The extensive and continual formative feedback you will receive from conductors, section leaders, your mentors and RNCM/Hallé tutors, and the summative feedback you will receive after concert performances enables you to reflect on your development as an individual, and to benchmark your progress against professional peers.

Assessment:

The assessment strategy for this course focuses exclusively on output in relation to the demonstration of consolidated skills through practical and education work with the Hallé, both of which will also evidence leadership, presentation & communication skills. Assessment is continuous and you will receive one report at the end of the programme. These reports are completed by your mentor, with input from other Hallé musicians. This strategy reinforces independent learning and presents challenges commensurate with those that will be faced in the external profession.

Due to the exceptionally high level of practical achievement that is expected (and required) on this course, assessment will be on a Pass-Fail basis only. Assessment points will take place throughout the academic year, although a degree of flexibility will apply in accordance with the constraints of the Hallé's overall artistic and educational programmes. You will be notified of the dates of your assessments as early as possible in the academic year in which you are registered.

Marking Guidelines:

This course will follow the Postgraduate Diploma (International Artist) and Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme marking guidelines.

Marking Guidelines IAD/ Hallé

International Artist Diploma / Hallé/RNCM Advanced Orchestral Strings Programme

Outcome	Marking Guidelines
PASS	<p><u>Achievement at a level commensurate with entry to the profession as an international soloist, operatic singer, string section leader, conductor</u></p> <p>Demonstrates exceptional technical accomplishment and musical fluency, interpretative individuality, insight and strong sensitivity to style. Displays assuredness and confidence when working at a professional level, both individually and in an ensemble context. Clear and advanced evidence of persuasive communication and presentation skills are displayed throughout the assessment. There may be an ability to take risks artistically that are both brilliantly conceived and successfully executed.</p>
FAIL	<p><u>Achievement at a level not commensurate with entry to the profession as an international soloist, operatic singer, string section leader, conductor</u></p> <p>Fails to demonstrate exceptional technical accomplishment and musical fluency, interpretative individuality and insight and strong sensitivity to style. Displays limited assuredness and confidence when working at a professional level, both individually and in an ensemble context. There will be an absence of advanced evidence of persuasive communication and presentation skills throughout the assessment.</p>

Note: The guidelines may be used and interpreted:

1. in relation to the relevant Level of study, and the repertoire performed.
2. in cases of disagreement between professional examiners; they are not intended to replace their expert judgments.
3. to provide a framework for oral and/or written feedback to students to enhance and promote your subsequent learning and development.

Assessment and Feedback

The assessment strategy for these programmes is that it focuses exclusively on output in relation to the demonstration of consolidated skills through public performances or complete rehearsal schedules. This strategy reinforces independent learning and presents challenges like those that will be faced in the external profession.

Due to the exceptionally high level of practical achievement that is expected (and required) on this course, assessment is on a Pass-Fail basis in accordance with the published marking guidelines. Each assessment is normally scheduled at different points in the academic year; however, a degree of flexibility is built in to consider the constraints of the RNCM's overall artistic programme. You will be notified of the dates of your performances as early as possible in the academic year in which you are registered.

Performances are assessed by a highly experienced panel comprising a Specialist External Assessor and two senior members of RNCM staff, typically the Programme Leader and the relevant Head of School. When your teacher is the Head of School, the third panel member will usually be the Deputy Head of School.

There are no formative assessments in this programme due to the following reasons:

1. The expectations at the point of audition are so high that the RNCM would normally expect applicants to be of a professional level.
2. The programme of study is designed to replicate the professional and there are therefore two public performances (the assessments) or extensive rehearsals schedules with space for the you to grow, explore and mature in between.
3. You receive regular feedback from their tutors.
4. It is expected that many students will spend some time travelling to receive lessons across the UK and, in some instances, abroad. Also, many students on these courses take part in international competitions and performances. Formative assessment is therefore often not possible.

Classification

- To qualify for the award you must successfully complete all assessed components of the course at the first attempt.
- In the event of failure in any component of the course, you will be offered one re-sit, as detailed above
- If you are unable to complete the course within the designated duration you will not normally be permitted to intercalate but may re-audition for competitive entry in a subsequent academic year.

7. STUDENT SUPPORT, DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING

You will receive an induction programme in the Welcome Week activities, a week before the start of the academic year. These activities include:

- Advice on learning support
- An induction into the Library and IT facilities
- Guidance on course structures, credit framework and module options
- Guidance on Wellbeing and Personal Safety, Hearing Conservation, Counselling Services, introduction to Alexander Technique
- International Student meetings
- Guidance on performance opportunities

When you arrive at the RNCM you will have an opportunity to meet with David Horne, Simon Clarke or Cath Yates.

Pastoral/Health Care: The College has a Counselling Service the RNCM Wellbeing team, devoted to the welfare and wellbeing of students. Jane Gray is the Head of Student Disability and Wellbeing.

Induction of International students:

International students are included in all general Welcome Week events, and Student Services provide any extra support you might need, for example on visa questions.

If you require it as an International Student, you are offered further support throughout the academic year in *Engagement with Learning*, a series of non-credit bearing classes, taught by Dr Amanda Babington.

RNCM English Pre-Sessional Course:

To provide further support for international students on PGT programmes whose first language is not English, the RNCM offers a pre-sessional 'summer school' (see website for current fees). The course is aimed at students who have been offered a place but whose language skills fall marginally below the minimum entry requirement for the programme, typically by 0.5 IELTS points. The course starts in late July

and runs for six weeks. Places are offered on a first-come-first-served basis and may be limited. The course develops research and presentation skills that will be useful in many of your module choices.

STUDENT VOICE

Students are represented at every level of the College's deliberative structure, except for those committees (for example the Board of Examiners, Extenuating Circumstances Committee) in which confidential student data is discussed and/or evaluated.

Postgraduate Taught Degrees Committee (PTDC)

A representative for each programme, and for each year/ level of the programme(s) is included in the membership of the Postgraduate Programme Board. Representatives report to the PTDC on matters affecting their cohort, with particular emphasis on providing feedback to staff on the programme.

Students have further opportunities to provide feedback through an annual internal Postgraduate student survey, in which they evaluate their learning experiences. Students are invited to provide feedback in meetings with Heads of Schools (School meetings) and the Head of Graduate School preparatory to revalidation.

Student Experience Forum (SEF)

The Student Experience Forum meets once a term, with student representatives being allocated according to Schools rather than programmes. The committee operates as a discussion forum between students and staff representing key College services and functions on any matters not relating to academic programmes

Students' Union

The RNCM Students' Union (RNCM SU) exists to promote your interests through representation on most College committees and by providing an extensive welfare and advice service. The RNCM SU integrates the social and academic areas of student life through the organisation of various events throughout the academic year and works in collaboration with senior academic members of staff to ensure that the student voice informs strategic decision making at the College. The Union is affiliated to the National Union of Students, subject to annual confirmation by the membership.

Personal Support

Students experiencing personal difficulties that are affecting their ability to fulfil the requirements of their degree programme should contact the Student Wellbeing Advisors, Wellbeing@rncm.ac.uk, who will direct them to the appropriate service.

Full details of Student Services can be found in Section 6 of the Student Regulation Handbook.

Disability

It is your responsibility to consider whether to disclose a disability or not; the College will only consider whether reasonable adjustments are required from the point of disclosure by you and adjustments cannot be made retrospectively, e.g. following assessments or at the end of the academic year.

8. COURSE COSTS AND SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Details of fees, and potential funding sources, including bursaries and scholarships, may be found on our website: [FEES](#)

9. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND DIVERSITY

In keeping with the RNCM's commitment to, and policy on, equal opportunities, our PGT programmes:

- are offered to all students with no discrimination in terms of race, age, gender, sexual orientation or family circumstances (where possible every effort is made to accommodate students with special needs as a result of disability or socio-economic disadvantage);
- will, where appropriate, cover issues of equality of opportunity within the curriculum;
- use a range of learning and teaching methods in recognition of the diversity of students' preferred learning methods and communicative skill strengths;
- use a range of assessment methods with due care to the needs of different groups. If you are unable to take part in particular activities or modes of assessment due to individual circumstances, special arrangements will be made where possible to accommodate your needs fairly;
- aims to ensure that every effort is made to provide learning spaces accessible to students with disabilities and to support them throughout their programme.

All Course Leaders and other relevant staff ensure that all teaching, including assessments, is available to all students, regardless of disability or socio-economic disadvantage. Where necessary, alternative forms of assessment will be offered, while ensuring that there is parity of assessment and that all students continue to meet the learning aims and outcomes.

Further details of the RNCM Equality and Diversity Policy and Ethics Framework may be found, under 'Institutional' policies, on the 'RNCM Policies' website.

10. REFERENCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION:

Available on the College website: :

[RNCM Policies](#)

Academic Regulations

College Policies