

CT ABRSM Plus

Course prospectus

Singapore



CT ABRSM Plus

Instrumental and vocal music teaching can be a rewarding career, offering a wealth of opportunities to be creative and to bring out the best in others. It can, however, feel isolated, and many believe that there is little support available to help music teachers develop and refresh their skills.

ABRSM is the world's leading authority on musical assessment, actively supporting and encouraging music learning for all. We recognise that all musicians need good teachers to nurture and develop their talents. We also know that good teachers continually want to enhance their professional skills. Our CT ABRSM Plus course has been designed to do just that. We have helped some 2,500 teachers worldwide to develop their skills and join a network of professionals who share our passion for music education.

What is the CT ABRSM Plus course?

The new CT ABRSM Plus combines two of our highly respected letter-bearing qualifications: the Certificate of Teaching (CT ABRSM) and the Principles of Teaching diploma (DipABRSM level). This course is designed to develop your teaching skills and help you to discover the right approach for you and your students. Upon completion of the course you'll be able to review your own teaching and make judgements about how effective it is, as well as introduce new teaching techniques to your lessons.

'This has been a wonderful, enriching journey for me. I came here with apprehension and trepidation but am leaving confident, enlightened and knowledgeable! I'm really looking forward to putting what I've learnt into practice.'

Kim Yiam Catherine Lim
CT ABRSM Plus Singapore 2010



What does the course involve?

Designed to fit around a busy teaching schedule, the CT ABRSM Plus course consists of 11 study days spread over a period of seven months, and is divided into three study sessions. You will be asked to submit a portfolio of work at the end of the course. The coursework includes three written assignments, two action-research projects, lesson observations, a personal profile and diary of teaching.

Between study sessions you'll work with one of our mentors. Through video observations of your teaching, your mentor will offer feedback highlighting what you are doing well, noting areas for improvement and suggesting new ideas that you could incorporate. You and your mentor will agree an individual programme of work and set personal objectives.

Part of the course will be dedicated to preparation for the Principles of Teaching diploma. Students who successfully complete the Certificate of Teaching may then continue to take their diploma exam.

The diploma consists of two sections; first, a Viva Voce: a discussion with the examiners including demonstrations of teaching approaches and performance of pre-prepared repertoire. Section two requires a written submission and a performance of a short piece of previously unseen music similar in standard to ABRSM Grade 6 repertoire. Students will be able to substitute part of their Certificate of Teaching qualification for the written submission.

For more information about the course content, including course topics and coursework, please visit our website: www.abrsm.org/ctplus

Who is the course for?

The course is suitable for experienced instrumental and vocal teachers who are interested in expanding their knowledge and understanding of teaching and music education. We have found that you are more likely to benefit from this course if you have some teaching experience to draw on. The course is open to anyone aged 21 years or over who has a minimum of one year's teaching experience. You need to be teaching a minimum of five students on a regular basis to be able to complete the lesson observations and action research projects.

What if I already have my Certificate of Teaching (CT ABRSM)?

Our unique diploma study sessions offer essential preparation for those CT ABRSM holders who would like to develop and expand their professional portfolio by obtaining the Principles of Teaching diploma. A separate application form is available to download from www.abrsm.org/ctplus.

Which qualifications do I need?

To enrol for the course you must have passed ABRSM Grade 8 Practical in the instrument taught or a permitted substitution, and also ABRSM Grade 6 Theory (1992 syllabus) or a permitted substitution if you wish to take the diploma exam.

How much study time will be required?

It is possible to tailor your assignments to reflect the teaching issues you currently face, making the course relevant to each student. You'll need to set aside enough time to complete your assignments and read around the subject. This is likely to vary from week to week, but you could reasonably expect to spend an average of 5-7 hours per week studying for your CT ABRSM Plus course.

Contact us

Talk to us about your professional development needs:

T +44 (0)20 7467 8226
E profdev@abrsm.ac.uk

How is the course assessed?

The Certificate of Teaching element of this course is continually assessed and each assignment will be sent to your mentor and graded as one of Excellent, Pass 1, Pass 2 or Working Towards. You'll be given the opportunity to discuss how your work has been marked and the grade awarded with your mentor at the time. You'll also be asked to evaluate your own work throughout. The course director, your course leader and subject mentor will moderate your entire portfolio of work. Successful students will then be awarded their CT ABRSM qualification.

The Principles of Teaching diploma (DipABRSM) will be marked by an examiner. The mark awarded will depend upon the extent to which you have demonstrated the skills, knowledge and understanding required at DipABRSM level.



What are the benefits?

- **Gain two highly respected letter-bearing qualifications**
Our qualifications are widely recognised by music studios and schools and will appeal to parents and students who recognise ABRSM as the authority on music education.
- **Refresh your approach to teaching**
You'll explore all aspects of your current teaching and evaluate its effectiveness. Between study sessions, you'll have the chance to try out new ideas with your students and discuss these with your course colleagues.
- **Diploma study days**
Participate in focused study sessions in preparation for the Principles of Teaching diploma (DipABRSM).
- **Gain insights from a subject specific mentor**
Your mentor will observe your teaching throughout the course, highlighting both your strengths and weaknesses, and will suggest new approaches that will help to improve your lessons.
- **Learn new skills**
Each year we provide a variety of presentations from expert teachers on a number of different teaching approaches and techniques.
- **Find imaginative ways to help your students improve**
Mentor sessions provide an opportunity to discuss specific teaching issues with your mentor and colleagues, who will help you to find new solutions to common problems. These discussions can cover any aspect of music teaching.
- **Network with like-minded teachers**
The CT ABRSM Plus course provides you with a network of music teachers who are keen to explore new ideas and improve their skills. As well as meeting with colleagues at your regional centre you'll also have access to our unique online course resources and forums between study sessions.



A note from Richard Crozier, Course Director

Whether you are new to teaching, or have many years' experience, you'll no doubt want to include professional development as part of your strategy for self-improvement. Enrolling on an ABRSM music teaching course has been the first step for over 2,000 teachers on a journey that has resulted in them developing a new enthusiasm for their work.

ABRSM's 130-strong Professional Development Mentor Panel is trained to help you fulfil your ambitions as a teacher. You may want to add something new to your lessons or simply re-visit the myriad of issues surrounding the processes of teaching and learning.

The CT ABRSM Plus course helps to keep music at the heart of every lesson and give you greater enjoyment from your work.

'It has given me a broader perspective on teaching and a lot of information on how to teach effectively.'
Junita – CT ABRSM Plus Singapore 2010

'The CT ABRSM Plus course is inspiring! I have learnt a lot about integrated teaching and how to make my lessons interesting, with plenty of variety.'
Jennifer Lee Ching Man – CT ABRSM Plus Singapore 2010

Teaching resources

We encourage students on our courses to read widely on the subject of music education, both in preparation for and during study. These selected ABRSM resources are part of our recommended CT ABRSM Plus reading list.



The Music Teacher's Companion

Paul Harris, Richard Crozier

The essential handbook for all music teachers, packed with advice and ideas relating to all aspects of music teaching.

Includes:

- expert advice and teaching strategies
- solutions to teaching problems
- tips for lesson planning



All Together!

An indispensable resource that celebrates the value of group teaching in today's music curriculum.

Explores:

- issues central to group teaching
- group dynamics and motivation
- practical and creative teaching methods



Music in Words

Trevor Herbert

An invaluable reference tool giving much needed advice on how to research and write about music.

Provides:

- support for writing tasks
- a framework of independent research
- 'How-to' guide and quick-reference inventory

Available from music retailers worldwide or visit www.abrsm.org/shop

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