

Certificate of Teaching

(CT ABRSM)



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Instrumental music teaching can be a rewarding career, offering you a wealth of opportunities to be creative and to bring out the best in others. However, it can also feel isolating and many believe that there is little support available to help them to grow and develop their skills.

ABRSM recognises that all musicians need good teachers to nurture and develop their talents. We also know that good teachers endeavour to enhance their professional skills in order to become better teachers. Our Certificate of Teaching (CT ABRSM) course has been designed to do just that. We have helped over 2,000 teachers worldwide to enhance their teaching skills, expand their student base and join a network of teachers who share our passion for music education.

What is the CT ABRSM course about?

This course is about developing your teaching skills and helping you to reflect on what works for you and your students. Starting at the very beginning you'll compare how you were taught with how you teach now, review your strengths and weaknesses and consider how you can build on those strengths to become a better teacher. By the end of the course you'll be able to review your own teaching and make judgments about how effective it is, as well as introduce new teaching techniques to your lessons.



What does the course involve?

The CT ABRSM is designed to fit around a busy teaching schedule and is available as a part-time or fast-track course.

Our part-time course comprises 12 study days: four introductory days and four study weekends over a period of nine months. In the time between study sessions you'll work with one of our mentors. They will observe your teaching and offer feedback, highlighting what you are doing well, noting areas for improvement and suggesting new ideas you could incorporate. You will also be asked to complete three written assignments and two action-research projects during the course.

The fast-track course has a similar structure but comprises ten study days over a period of five months and involves three residential study sessions. As with the part-time course, you'll work with one of our mentors between sessions. The content of the fast-track course is identical to the part-time course.

“This course has sent me on a journey of personal discovery which has given me so much more confidence in my own ability... I have met great people at the study centre which has been so incredibly positive that I cannot imagine what I would have done with my working life if I had not found this course.”

Caroline Laver - CT ABRSM fast-track student 2008

Who is the course for?

This course is suitable for all music teachers who are interested in expanding their knowledge and understanding of teaching and music education. The course is open to anyone who is 21 years or over, has a minimum of one year's teaching experience and teaches at least five students regularly.

What qualifications do I need?

The CT ABRSM is an open-access course. This means that you don't need to have formal qualifications to enrol.

We have found that you are more likely to benefit from this course if you have some teaching experience to draw on. You also need to be teaching a small number of students to be able to complete the lesson observations and action-research projects that are part of the course.

How much study time will be required?

This course has been designed to fit around your teaching schedule. 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, and from teacher to teacher, but you could reasonably expect to spend an average of 5-7 hours per week studying for your CT ABRSM qualification.

How is the course assessed?

The CT ABRSM is continually assessed and each assignment will be sent to your mentor and graded as 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.

At the end of the course, 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.

What is the success rate of the course?

On average 97% of students complete the CT ABRSM qualification successfully each year.



What are the benefits for me?

- **Gain a respected qualification**
The course is widely recognised by Music Services 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. You'll have a chance to try out ideas with your students between study sessions and discuss the effectiveness of each one with your course colleagues during study days and online.
- **Gain insights from a subject specific mentor**
Your mentor will observe your teaching throughout the course, highlighting both your strengths and weaknesses. They 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 course provides you with a network of instrumental 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.

Contact Us

Talk to us about your professional development needs:

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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 continuing professional development as part of your strategy for self-improvement. Enrolling on the CT ABRSM course has been the first step for over 2,000 teachers, the first step on a journey that has resulted in them developing a new enthusiasm for their work.

ABRSM's 130-strong Professional Development Mentor Panel are 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 course helps to keep music at the heart of every lesson and give you greater enjoyment from your work.

“When I see that someone has successfully completed the CT ABRSM on an application form I know immediately that the candidate will have the necessary musical and pedagogical skills to be able to successfully contribute to the varied work of the 21st century Music Service. The breadth and rigour of the course ensures that successful students will have acquired the knowledge and skills to be able to provide an holistic musical experience for their students.”

Trevor Jones – Head of Sandwell Music Service

“The main change to my teaching following the CT ABRSM Course is that my level of confidence has changed dramatically...I feel I now have a wealth of ideas, resources and knowledge to put into practise, and the confidence to try different approaches if one way doesn't work.”

Julie Buckley - CT ABRSM fast-track student 2008

Teaching Resources

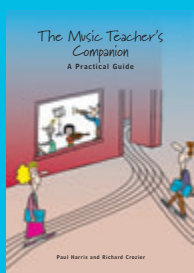


All Together!

All Together! is an excellent resource for instrumental and vocal teachers teaching in groups. It deals with a variety of issues central to group teaching including teaching mixed-ability classes, group dynamics, lesson planning, monitoring progress and maintaining motivation.

Includes:

- Discussions on varying approaches to group work
- Practical, creative strategies to help students fulfil potential
- Foreword by Evelyn Glennie



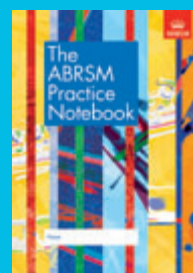
The Music Teacher's Companion

Paul Harris, Richard Crozier

Whether you're working at home, in schools, with individuals or in groups The Music Teacher's Companion provides a wealth of useful information relating to all aspects of music teaching.

Includes:

- Advice on a variety of teaching problems
- Forms for lesson plans, student profiles, termly overviews and attendance registers



The ABRSM Practice Notebook

The ABRSM Practice Notebook is filled with useful hints and advice on how to practice effectively. It allows you to record your students' progress and set goals.

Includes:

- A whole year's lesson notes
- End of year report
- Essential theory
- Lesson timetable
- Top tips on practising and preparing for exams

Available from all good music shops or visit www.abrsm.org

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