

Fitness to Practice

Statement Application

1. **Programme Name(s):** MA Music Therapy

2. Professional Fitness to Practise Requirements

The aim of the MA Music Therapy (Professional Qualification) is to develop excellent graduates who will contribute to the development of Music Therapy in Ireland and worldwide through their ability to act as competent, reflective and innovative practitioners by drawing upon their expertise and knowledge of evidence based practice and research. The course aims to prepare students to develop into qualified music therapy practitioners who enable the individual and the wider community to optimise their health and wellbeing. Students are expected to develop competencies to enter the challenging professional field of Music Therapy and to act within and be assessed on their ability to meet the Standards of Proficiency identified by:

- The Irish Association of Creative Arts Therapists (www.iacat.ie);
- The UK Health and Care Professionals Council <http://www.hcpc-uk.org/apply/uk/>,
- The European Music Therapy Confederation <http://www.emtc-eu.com> and
- CORU Regulating Health and Social Care Professionals www.coru.ie

All trainees will:

- Acquire appropriate theoretical and academic knowledge of music therapy across a range of core and specialist areas.
- Acquire the appropriate core clinical and practical skills to enable them, once qualified, to work as professional practitioners in health, education, community and social settings across Ireland.
- Acquire an understanding of appropriate ethical and professional conduct.
- Acquire appropriate evaluation and research skills to enable them to practise in an evidence led health culture.
- Acquire personal and professional awareness skills to develop and maintain standards of excellence in practice.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

The following domains are used to assess the students' achievements of professional competency:

Domain 1: Professional autonomy and accountability

Domain 2: Interpersonal and professional relationships

Domain 3: Effective communication

Domain 4: Personal and professional development

Domain 5: Provision of quality services

Domain 6: Knowledge, understanding and skills

Domain	Competency	Description/justification of how the competency applies to the programme(s) listed above
<i>Professional Autonomy and</i>	Confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must respect the confidentiality of service users and all other professionals with whom they come in contact

<i>Accountability</i>	Managing risks and reporting concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must address health and safety risks and report same to the relevant governing bodies
	Professional health and performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must address health issues related to their fitness to practice. *see health requirements below • Obey laws and regulations governing their practice • Act within the limits of their knowledge, skills, competence and experience • Keep their professional knowledge and skills up to date • Avail of clinical supervision for professional practice • Demonstrate ethical awareness and always keep a high standard of ethics
	Protection of the service user	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must act in the best interest of service users • Get informed consent from service users • Communicate with service users, their families and carers in a professional manner • Report any risks and concerns that they have about service users • Respect the rights and dignity of service users • Enable users and their families to maintain an optimal quality of life • Demonstrate awareness of social, cultural, historic, economic, ethnic and belief contexts from which the client comes • Demonstrate ability to conduct appropriate risk assessment and use this to guide practices
<i>Interpersonal and Professional Relationships</i>	Professional Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must have ability to develop effective working relationships with service users, carers and colleagues • Demonstrate ability to identify and deal constructively with work place conflict
<i>Effective Communication</i>	Communication skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must communicate with their supervisors, lecturers and other professionals in an appropriate manner • Refrain from posting information about service users, supervisors, lecturers, peers and other professionals on social media forums • Make sure that advertising is truthful, accurate and lawful • Demonstrate ability to communicate effectively clinical and non-clinical information in a style appropriate to a variety of different audiences (e.g. to professional colleagues, course examiners and to service users and their carers) • Demonstrate ability to adapt style of communication to people with a wide range of levels of cognitive ability, sensory acuity and modes of communication • Demonstrate ability to identify and collaborate effectively in partnership with a range of relevant community and other agencies/groups
<i>Personal and Professional Development</i>	Therapeutic Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate ability to think critically, reflectively and evaluatively • Demonstrate ability to use supervision to reflect on practice and to make appropriate use of any feedback received

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate ability to utilise personal reflection as an important tool in their development as professional practitioners • Demonstrate ability to understand the supervision process for both supervisee and supervisor roles
	Working within the scope of practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must carry out their duties in a professional and ethical manner • Act within the limits of their knowledge, skills, competence and experience • Keep professional knowledge, skills and competence up to date • Demonstrate awareness of ethical issues and ability to apply them in complex clinical contexts • Demonstrate ability to work effectively at an appropriate level of autonomy, with awareness of limits of own competence • Demonstrate ability to work collaboratively and constructively with fellow professionals, respecting professional diversity • Demonstrate awareness of the legislative context and the views of users
	Honesty and trustworthiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must demonstrate ethical awareness • Undertake research in an ethical manner • Act honestly in all areas of training and professional practice
	Behaviour on and off campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must maintain high standards of personal conduct on and off campus • Obey laws and regulations
<i>Provision of Quality Services</i>	Professional Adaptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must demonstrate ability to adapt practice to a range of professional contexts on the basis of an understanding of pertinent organisational and cultural issues
	Keeping appropriate records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must keep accurate records of all interventions with service users • Keep accurate records of their supervision practice and their psychotherapy practice
<i>Knowledge, Understanding and Skill</i>	Clinical skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must demonstrate ability to assess clients needs and formulate a treatment plan to address same • Demonstrate ability to use standardised assessment instruments • Demonstrate ability to devise and apply clinical interventions to address needs • Demonstrate ability to integrate information from assessments within a coherent framework that draws upon psychological and/or developmental theory and evidence and that incorporates interpersonal, societal, cultural and biological factors • Demonstrate the ability to implement therapy techniques appropriate to the presenting problem and to the psychological and social circumstances of the client(s) • Demonstrate a high level of musical skill and ability to

*Health Requirements

Professional setting and practice will generally require the student to maintain a level of good physical and mental health. This is to ensure that the students and service users are not adversely affected by any health condition that may arise or be encountered.

Issues that might impair a student's fitness to practise are wide-ranging and can arise at any time throughout the student's programme of study. Specific issues may be temporary in nature and can be dealt with informally by advising the student on how best to address conduct, competence or health issues so that fitness to practise issues are managed in a professional manner.

As part of a general health protection, the University on its own or in cooperation with placement partners may require students to undergo health screening, vaccination, or other forms of health assessment if required.

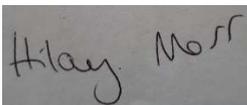
PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY

The codes below outline the standards of ethical behaviour and conduct that are expected of the students of the MA Music Therapy (Professional Qualification).

- i. Irish Association of Creative Arts Therapists. Retrieved December 2017 from www.iacat.ie
- ii. UK Health and Care Professionals Council, Retrieved December 2017 from <http://www.hcpc-uk.org/apply/uk/>
- iii. European Music Therapy Confederation. Retrieved December 2017 from <http://www.emtc-eu.com>
- iv. CORU – Regulating Health and Social Care Professionals. Retrieved January 2018 from <http://www.coru.ie>

MA Music Therapy Students are governed by the University of Limerick Student Fitness to Practice Policy (03 February 2017)

Signed:



Course Director(s)

Associate Dean Academic Affairs

Date: 12th May 2021