

Role Descriptors

The RMA Student Committee is composed of a Senior Student Representative, a Junior Student Representative, up to four Ordinary Members, the Student Liaison Officer, the Research Training Officer, the Communications Officer, and the Trustee. Below is a non-exhaustive list of the responsibilities of the student members of the Committee.

Senior Student Representative

- Scheduling Student Committee meetings and planning the agenda
- Delegating tasks and liaising with members of the Student Committee to ensure plans are on track
- Preparing reports on Student Committee activity for the RMA Council, and presenting these at Council meetings (May, September and January)
- Attending meetings of other RMA committees, notably the Events Committee and the Finance and Membership Committee
- Introducing the Student Committee and its activities at RMA conferences

Junior Student Representative

- Acting as student representative in RMA committees (notably Publications Committee) and the RMA Council
- Introducing the Student Committee and its activities at RMA conferences
- Planning and organisation of the annual Research Students' Conference
- Working closely with the Senior Student Representative to liaise with members of various committees and advocate for the student body at RMA events

Ordinary Member

- Evaluating, approving and editing submissions for the RMA Student Blog
- Organising ad-hoc student events (such as online drop-ins)
- Liaising with the Communications Officer for the promotion of student events and the Student Blog
- Attending meetings of other RMA committees
- Canvassing and relaying student feedback to the Student Representatives
- Providing content for the Student Bulletin

Testimonials

Senior Student Representative – Faith Thompson

As Chair of the Student Committee, I have been responsible for coordinating the committee's various activities, whilst also representing the student body to wider RMA committees and members. I have immensely enjoyed working with other students and academic staff in this capacity, and have enhanced my skills in a number of areas: communication, teamwork, leadership, organisation, administration, problem-solving and networking. I have also gained valuable insight into activities undertaken by other members of the Student Committee, such as conference planning and social media promotion. I highly recommend the position of Student Representative to future applicants: it is a wonderful opportunity to gain experience, establish useful connections and actively make a difference within the RMA.

Junior Student Representative – Mollie Carlyle

In the role of Junior Student Representative, my main responsibilities have been to work with the Senior Student Representative to co-ordinate the activities of the Student Committee, to represent the Student Committee at other RMA committee meetings, and to facilitate the planning and organisation of the Research Students' Conference. The aspects of the role that I have enjoyed the most are working with fellow PGRs on the Student Committee to engage with the wider student community (through the student blog, drop-in events, study days, and so on) and representing the student interest at larger RMA events. As a PhD researcher working in the North-East of Scotland, it can be difficult to build networks with other PhD students and this role has given me the opportunity to connect with a diverse group of peers at various levels of study, in an array of musical disciplines.

Ordinary Member – Nicholas Ong

My responsibilities as an Ordinary Member this year entailed the organising of the Student Drop-in, and the vetting and editing of submissions for the student blog. These experiences have honed my skills in communication, time management, and text editing which, I believe, are crucial to doctoral research and an academic career. Being part of the Student Committee has also provided opportunities to connect with music researchers of different stages in their career from all over the UK. The RMA highly values student feedback and engagement, and my involvement with the organisation has allowed me to better understand the RMA's willingness to support and provide for students.

Ordinary Member – Niki Zohdi

The main parts of my role this year have centred around the planning and organisation of flagship conferences and smaller study group events. This includes the inaugural Practice Research Study Day held at the University of Leeds in July 2023, and the RMA/BFE Research Students' Conference being held at Cardiff University in January 2024. Being part of the organisation teams for these events has given me the opportunity to develop my project management skills and my understanding of how large-scale conference events are planned. Also, as a practice researcher myself, the RMA continues to support me in organising practice-based events for practice researchers throughout the UK to network and develop relationships with each other, and has allowed me to meet many other practice researchers throughout the UK. I firmly believe that the RMA is the place for practice research to continue thriving.