

University of Manchester

School of Arts, Histories and Cultures

Department of Music

Guidelines on Duration and Word Count for PhD in Composition and Electroacoustic Composition

- 1) For instrumental/vocal composition the total duration of primary works in the Portfolio is normally around 70 and 90 minutes.
- 2) For electroacoustic composition the total duration of primary works in the Portfolio is normally around 80 and 105 minutes.
- 3) Portfolios may contain both instrumental/vocal compositions and electroacoustic compositions. The supervisor should refer the student to the above statements for guidance.
- 4) There should be a minimum of six original compositions in the Portfolio, and preferably no more than seven or eight. It is best to avoid the submission of more than one or two works which consist of a collection of miniatures; composition at PhD level is more concerned with creating and sustaining longer narratives than with miniatures.
- 5) At least one work should be of significant length (at least 20 minutes) and, in the case of instrumental submissions, should utilise significant forces (for example, orchestra), in order to demonstrate mastery and deployment of material and resources on a large scale.
- 6) The verbal Commentary serves the function of a supportive document - an advocate to the body of compositions submitted. Its recommended length is 10,000 words, with a suggested variance of 20%. This word count does not include preface or end-section materials, such as Table of Contents and Bibliography, and it also excludes footnotes.

Dr Kevin Malone
28 Sept 2011