

**Free course trailer**  
*Introducing music research*

**Sean Williams:**

I'm Sean Williams - lecturer in Music at the Open University - and I want to introduce you to our free OpenLearn course Introducing Music Research.

This course is designed to give you a taste of various different ways in which you might approach research into some aspect of music that interests you. The material is all taken from our new Music MA course, and draws on research carried out by various music staff at the Open University.

The five sections in this course start with a look at what musicology is, then progress through Women in music studies, historically informed practice, Grime music reception in the UK, and Soundscapes.

You'll look at such issues as why there are so few pieces by women composers performed by classical orchestras; or how historical bias still affects contemporary practices and perceptions.

You'll encounter the authenticity debate and look at the case study of Mozart's piano pedalboard.

The section on Grime music examines the different ways the mainstream media has portrayed the genre.

And you'll encounter the field of sound studies by looking and listening to the soundscape.

Each section has a number of activities, for example in the Soundscape section you will be asked to choose a location and spend a few minutes either walking or sitting, whatever suits you but actively listening to all the sounds you can hear around you. You will then be guided on how to frame the various sounds that you might have noticed and how this kind of experience can be analysed and used as the subject of research.

If you enjoy this OpenLearn course, and I really hope you do, please have a look at the various options we have for studying music at The Open University including our BA (Honours) and MA in Music.