

Summer Research Program

The Science of Music and the Brain

Welcome! Over three days you'll explore how the brain makes sense of music, try out real research tools, and work with a small group to design your own research proposal for a study. We look forward to having you join us.

Sincerely,
Dr. Assal Habibi and Dr. Ellen Herschel, Program Directors

Dates	Wednesday–Friday, July 8–10, 2026 (3 days)
Location	Brain and Creativity Institute, University of Southern California
Drop-off & Pickup	USC Campus Lot 2
Hosted by	USC Dornsife Center for Music, Brain and Society
Daily hours	9:00 am – 3:45 pm (breakfast and lunch provided each day)

Day 1 — Wednesday, July 8

Time	Session
8:45 – 9:15 am	Drop-off and Check-in
9:00 – 9:45 am	Breakfast
9:45 – 10:45 am	Welcome & Opening Talk What is music neuroscience?
10:45 – 11:00 am	Creative Connections
11:00 – 12:00 pm	Research Spotlights Flash talks on current research in the field
12:00 – 12:45 pm	Lunch & Mentor Tables
12:45 – 2:15 pm	Hands-on Data Collection Demo Rotations - Wireless EEG - MRI - Behavioral Testing - Physiological Measures
2:15 – 3:00 pm	Research Groups Formation & Brainstorm Session 1 Meet your research group and mentor, brainstorm research proposal topics together
3:00 – 3:40 pm	Hands on Experience: Music Therapy Session
3:40 – 3:45 pm	Reflections & Closing
3:45 – 4:15 pm	Pickup

Day 2 — Thursday, July 9

Time	Session
8:45 – 9:15 am	Drop-Off & Check-In
9:00 – 9:30 am	Breakfast
9:30 – 10:30 am	Research Spotlight Flash talks on current research in the field
10:30 – 12:00 pm	Breakout Sessions - How to Read a Research Article - Higher Education: College and Grad School
12:00 – 12:45 pm	Lunch & Peer Networking
12:45 – 1:30 pm	Career Pathways Panel Hear from researchers, professors, music therapists, and clinicians about careers in music science
1:30 – 2:45 pm	Research Proposal Brainstorm Refine your group's research question and develop your proposal
2:45 – 3:30 pm	Campus Tour
3:30 – 3:45 pm	Reflections & Closing
3:45 – 4:15 pm	Pickup

Day 3 — Friday, July 10

Time	Session
8:45 – 9:15 am	Drop-Off & Check-In
9:00 – 9:30 am	Breakfast
9:30 – 9:45 am	Welcome
9:45 – 10:45 am	Research Proposal Final Touches and Practice
10:45 – 11:45 am	Presentations & Showcase Flash talks: share your group's research proposal
11:45 – 12:15 pm	Closing & Reflections
12:15 – 1:15 pm	Lunch & Reception
1:15 – 1:45 pm	Pickup

Questions before the program? Reach out to cmbs@usc.edu anytime. We can't wait to see you there!