



Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2022 Entry

BA (Hons) Music (Classical)

BA (Hons) Music (Classical) with Foundation Year

BA (Hons) Music (Classical with Folk)

BA (Hons) Music (Classical with Jazz)

BA (Hons) Music (Classical with Popular)

BA (Hons) Music (Classical with Production)

Introduction

This year we are offering applicants the choice to audition either in person at our campus, or online by submitting audition recordings.

Once you have registered on our audition platform, Acceptd you will be given the option to book an in-person audition or submit your recordings online.

(Please note if there are no in person audition dates left at the time of your application then you will only be able to audition online).

This guide will set out what you will need to prepare and / or submit when auditioning for one of our Classical courses at Leeds Conservatoire.

Application Process

Once you have submitted your application to the conservatoire via UCAS Conservatoires, you will receive an email that will detail how to send your audition materials to us, or how to book an in person audition.

Following your audition, we will then update UCAS with our decision and you will be notified via UCAS Track.

In Person Audition Days

Our in person auditions will take place in October and December. These are the only in-person audition dates that we will be providing.

You will book your audition date through our online audition platform Acceptd. You will then receive an email with full details of the day. On the day, as well as your audition, you will have the opportunity to meet the programme leader, have a tour of the conservatoire and meet some of our current students.

On arrival you will be assigned your 30 minute warm up slot and your 30 minute audition time slot.

Video Submission Tips

1. **Quality:** We recognise that self-taped auditions will not be 'movie quality' and we will not judge your performance based on this. Please ensure that when filming the camera or filming device is placed on a stable surface (on a stand or propped up on a table would be ideal) so that the image is not moving around when shooting.
2. **Lighting:** Choose a room that's well-lit and try not to position the light source behind you, as we'll need to see your face and performance technique.
3. **Background:** We recognise that you may have limited space when filming at home but we recommend you choose a background that's not distracting, as we want to focus on your performance.
4. **Framing:** Please ensure that you are clearly visible in the frame. Instrumentalists should ideally try to position the camera so that your technique is displayed (such as hands and arms for percussionists).

5. *Sound:* Ensure that sound is as clear as possible when performing and talking to camera.
6. *Clothing:* We don't have any specific regulations on what clothing to wear for an audition but we recommend that you wear something that you feel comfortable performing in – we want to see the real you shine through!
7. *Identify yourself:* At the start of the recording please clearly state your name and which course(s) you are auditioning for. If you are submitting multiple video files please include this on each.
8. *Make a checklist:* Please make sure that you record and submit all the requirements that are outlined in this document for the course(s) which you are applying for.

Top Tip:

Always do a test recording first and then play it back to check your lighting and sound, this will hopefully save you time re-recording.

Audition, Interview and Portfolio Requirements

Your audition materials will be slightly different depending on which course you are applying for and whether you are applying as a performer or as a composer.

Please ensure that you look at all the requirements for the correct course(s) that you are applying for.

- **Single pathway** courses e.g. **BA (Hons) Music (Classical)**.
- If you have applied for both the four-year and three-year route for the same course e.g. **BA (Hons) Music (Classical)** and **BA (Hons) Music (Classical) with Foundation Year** then you will just make **ONE** audition submission and we will assess your suitability for both routes.
- For **Combined pathway** courses e.g. **BA (Hons) Music (Classical with Jazz)** you will submit a portfolio of videos online for your minor study subject (in this case Jazz) even if you are auditioning in person for your major study subject (in this case Classical). If you apply for an in-person audition day, we will contact you following your booking to detail how and when to submit your minor study materials.

Please see the following pages for full details of what you will need to prepare.

IN PERSON AUDITION

BA (Hons) Music (Classical)

BA (Hons) Music (Classical) with Foundation Year

Performers:

1. Perform two contrasting pieces that demonstrate your musical strengths:
 - The pieces should be of grade 8 standard and contrasting in style – aim to show us what you can do technically and expressively.
 - At least one of your chosen pieces should have piano accompaniment. This does not apply to piano, guitar and percussion applicants. Accompanists are provided for you on the day, though if you want to bring your own you can request this by emailing admissions@lcm.ac.uk.
 - Percussionists should include one tuned percussion piece and one for snare drum or timpani.
 2. Sight-read a short piece of music, which will be given to you on the day:
 - You will have the opportunity to look at this in your 30-minute warm up time.
 3. We will ask you to play or sing some scales or technical exercises as appropriate to your instrument and level.
 4. You will have a short interview, where we will ask you about your general musical knowledge and interests.
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Composers:

1. You should bring at least two of your own original compositions for discussion with the panel:
 - Please bring scores and computer realisations of your scores (e.g. Midi or Sibelius files) if you don't have live recordings.
 - There is no set time limit, but the panel will consider approximately 10 minutes of music.
2. We will ask you about your influences, your approach to composition and your ambitions.

3. You will be asked to perform one prepared piece of approximately Grade 6 standard
 - You will have the opportunity to look at this in your 30-minute warm up time.
 4. You may also be asked to play or sing some scales and technical exercises as appropriate for your instrument and level during the audition.
 5. We will also ask you some questions about your compositions (e.g. what are the chords you have used, etc.). Do you have any favourite performers that you like to listen to? Why do you like their playing?
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ONLINE AUDITION SUBMISSIONS

BA (Hons) Music (Classical)

BA (Hons) Music (Classical) with Foundation Year

Instrumentalists:

Please provide video recordings of:

1. Performances

Performances of **TWO** pieces that are contrasting in style and that demonstrate your musical strengths. Aim to show us what you can do technically and expressively. The pieces should be of Grade 8 standard*. Please introduce each piece by stating the title and composer. We would prefer for at least one of your pieces to be recorded with piano accompaniment, if this is possible (excepting piano, guitar, harp and percussion). Where this is not possible, and where works that would normally have accompaniment are performed solo, passages of accompaniment lasting more than two bars should be cut, taking a short break rather than counting all your bars' rests.

* For applicants applying for **(Classical) with Foundation Year**, the pieces should be Grade 6 standard.

2. Music Theory:

To help us assess your music theory knowledge, submit a video recording of you responding to the following question:

Identify and describe **THREE** interesting features of one of your audition pieces (these can be harmonic, rhythmic, melodic, or any other aspect that interests you).

3. Interview:

- Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel).
- Why are you interested in studying at Leeds Conservatoire? What do you believe you would bring to the conservatoire?
- What sort of repertoire do you like playing? Are there any historical periods or styles that you feel suited to and why?
- What do you feel are your strengths as a player? Which aspects would you like to improve most?
- Have you had any experience of chamber music, such as duo, trio, quartet or other smaller ensemble?
- Do you have any favourite performers that you like to listen to? Why do you like their playing?

Vocalists:

Please provide video recordings of:

1. Performances

Video performances of TWO pieces that are contrasting in style and that demonstrate your musical strengths. Aim to show us what you can do technically and expressively. The pieces should be of Grade 8 standard*. Please introduce each piece by giving only the title and composer. We would prefer for at least one of your pieces to be recorded with piano accompaniment, if this is possible. Where this is not possible and works that would normally have accompaniment are performed solo, passages of accompaniment lasting more than two bars should be cut, taking a short break rather than counting all your bars' rests.

* For applicants who are applying for the BA (Hons) Music (Classical) with Foundation Year, the pieces should be of at least Grade 6 standard.

2. Spoken Voice:

To help us to assess your spoken voice, please include a video performance of you reading a short text in English. You may choose your own text of poetry or prose; aim for it to be around one to two minutes in length. Here are some examples of suitable texts:

- <https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poem/valentine/>
- <https://genius.com/Emily-dickinson-as-imperceptibly-as-grief-annotated>

3. Music Theory:

To help us assess your music theory knowledge, submit a video recording of you responding to the following question:

Identify and describe THREE interesting features of one of your audition pieces (these can be harmonic, rhythmic, melodic, or any other aspect that interests you).

4. Interview:

- Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel).
- Why are you interested in studying at Leeds Conservatoire? What do you believe you would bring to the conservatoire?

- What sort of repertoire do you like singing? Are there any historical periods or styles that you feel suited to and why?
 - What do you feel are your strengths as a singer? Which aspects would you like to improve most?
 - Tell us about any experience that you have of singing in choirs or any other ensembles that you have performed in/with.
 - Do you have any favourite performers that you like to listen to? Why do you like their singing?
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Composers:

1. Portfolio:

Composition applicants are required to submit a portfolio of two or three scores (in PDF format) and, where possible, recordings (e.g. MP3/video/a document containing audio links). Each piece should be a single document (please do not send each page of your score separately).

2. Music Theory:

To help us assess your music theory knowledge, submit a video recording of you responding to the following question:

Identify and describe THREE interesting features of one of your audition pieces (these can be harmonic, rhythmic, melodic, or any other aspect that interests you).

3. Interview:

- Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel).
- Why are you interested in studying at Leeds Conservatoire? What do you believe you would bring to the conservatoire?
- What composers do you most admire and why? How do they influence your writing? Do you have any other strong influences on your writing?
- What do you feel are your strengths as a composer? Which aspects would you like to improve most?
- Tell us about the software that you use to score your music. What do you like and dislike about it?
- Tell us about any other significant experiences as a musician. Do you perform also?

Combined Courses

If you have applied for a combined course you will either: select your Classical audition date and then be invited to submit your minor materials as an online submission ahead of your audition, or if you choose an online submission for Classical you will submit your minor materials at the same time.

BA (Hons) Music (Classical with Folk)

In addition to the materials required for BA (Hons) Music (Classical), please provide the following as an online video submission:

Performers

A performance of two contrasting pieces of your choice, that may be any combination of the following:

- Traditional songs or pieces performed in traditional style.
- Traditional songs or pieces performed in an original style/arrangement.
- Original songs or pieces that you have written.

The two pieces should last no longer than 10 minutes in total.

Composers/Songwriters/Arrangers

A portfolio of at least **TWO** of your own contrasting pieces (or part thereof) – with a maximum length of 10 minutes in total. We may then arrange to contact you for a short interview about your compositions, this would be either by telephone or online video call.

BA (Hons) Music (Classical with Jazz)

In addition to the materials required for BA (Hons) Music (Classical), please provide the following as an online video submission:

Performers:

1. **ONE** of the following two options:
 - a. Perform **TWO** Jazz standards chosen from the repertoire list below (with either a play-along or a live ensemble of your choosing), demonstrating your skills in Jazz improvisation and your ability to play with an ensemble.

OR

- b. Perform **ONE** Jazz standard (with either a play-along or a live ensemble of your choosing) from the repertoire list below and **ONE** solo piece. The solo piece should allow you to demonstrate your current strengths on your instrument. Original compositions or improvisations are acceptable. The solo piece must not be performed with a play-along.

Repertoire List

A Child Is Born Thad Jones

All The Things You Are Kern/Hammerstein

Autumn Leaves Kosma/Mercer

Beautiful Love Young/King/Alstyne/Gillespie

Blue Bossa Kenny Dorham

Just Friends Lewis/Klemmer

Ladybird Tadd Dameron

Night and Day Cole Porter

Satin Doll Ellington/Strayhorn/Mercer

Softly As In a Morning Sunrise Hammerstein/Romberg

2. Reading Test:

This should be performed on your principal instrument and submitted as a separate video file. This performance is unaccompanied. There is a specific piece for each instrument which you can download here: www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/jazz-reading-test

Composers

A portfolio of at least two of your own contrasting compositions (or part thereof) – with a maximum length of 10 minutes in total. These should be submitted as both audio files (which can be extracted from notation software) and a PDF of the notation. We may then arrange to contact you for a short interview about your compositions, this would be either by telephone or online video call.

BA (Hons) Music (Classical with Popular)

In addition to the materials required for BA (Hons) Music (Classical), please provide the following as an online video submission:

1. Submit **TWO** pieces you have selected to demonstrate your musical strengths and identity on your principal instrument. Ensure that the pieces chosen demonstrate both your technical abilities on your instrument and your identity and character as a popular musician. You may submit an audio recording for one of the pieces, though at least **ONE** audition piece must be performed to camera.
 - You may play original pieces and/or covers, but covers should ideally be your own creative versions and not identical copies (i.e. you should put your own creative stamp on them).
 - You may accompany yourself on another instrument (primarily in the case of vocal auditions), play unaccompanied or use a backing track or band for any/all of your audition pieces.

2. Interview:

Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel). We want to get to know you and learn about your experience and knowledge, so make sure you give plenty of detail.

- Why do you want to study at Leeds Conservatoire?
- Who influences you as a popular musician and why?
- What music are you currently listening to and why?
- Please tell us about your performance experience (where, when, with whom, what type of performances/bands, studio/live performance, etc.)
- What challenges do popular musicians face today?

BA (Hons) Music (Classical with Production)

In addition to the materials required for BA (Hons) Music (Classical), please provide the following as an online portfolio submission:

Portfolio:

A portfolio of no longer than 10 minutes that includes a variety of material, including work created using DAW software (Digital Audio Workstation) (eg Logic X/Ableton Live).

Include at least one of your own original compositions.

- Please include a notated version of one of your composition/productions. This can be a PDF or scanned copy.
- Please note that you may use coursework that you have prepared for BTEC/AS Level or any other material.

Interview:

Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel). We want to get to know you and learn about your experience and knowledge, so make sure you give plenty of detail.

- Why do you want to study at Leeds Conservatoire?
- Who are your influences as a producer/writer/performer and why?
- What music are you currently listening to and why?
- Please give us an example of something you have found particularly challenging in your studies, and how you have met the challenge.
- What do you want to do once you've finished your studies?

Entry Requirements

3-year routes

a. Academic

96 UCAS tariff points from Level 3 studies or equivalent, which normally include A Level Music or a BTEC Extended Diploma in a Music-related subject.

A minimum of three GCSEs including English Language at Grade C / Grade 4 or above or equivalent international qualification, eg IELTS 6.0 (5.5 in each component).

b. Performance Standard

Applicants are expected to demonstrate at audition a playing/singing standard equivalent to Grade 8 (Performers) or Grade 6 (Composers) ABRSM, London College of Music, Trinity College, or Rock School.

c. Music Theory Standard

Applicants' understanding of applied music theory will be assessed at audition where they will be asked questions about the theoretical elements of the pieces they have played to ensure that they are suitable for the course.

4-year Routes

a. Academic

64 UCAS tariff points from level 3 studies or equivalent, which normally include A Level Music or a BTEC Extended Diploma in a Music-related subject.

A minimum of three GCSEs including English Language at Grade C / Grade 4 or above or equivalent international qualification, eg IELTS 6.0 (5.5 in each component).

b. Performance Standard

Applicants are expected to demonstrate at audition a playing/singing standard equivalent to Grade 6 ABRSM, London College of Music, Trinity College, or Rock School.

c. Music Theory Standard

Applicants' understanding of applied music theory will be assessed at audition where they will be asked questions about the theoretical elements of the pieces they have played to ensure that they are suitable for the course and to identify those applicants who need to take a theory module in their first year.