



Leeds Conservatoire

Portfolio Requirements

2022 Entry

BA (Hons) Music (Production)

BA (Hons) Music (Production with Classical)

BA (Hons) Music (Production with Folk)

BA (Hons) Music (Production with Jazz)

BA (Hons) Music (Production with Popular)

Introduction

If you apply for the BA (Hons) Music (Production) single pathway course or a combined course with Production major, you will not normally be required to attend an interview at the conservatoire.

Instead you will be asked to submit a portfolio of work for our course team to assess. The following guide will detail what you need to prepare, and once you have applied we will send you full instructions on how to submit materials and what your deadline to submit is.

Please make sure that your portfolio meets all the requirements outlined for the BA (Hons) Music (Production) course, and that if you are applying for a combined course that you upload materials that meet all of the requirements for the course you are auditioning for (listed over the next few pages).

At the start of any video elements, clearly state your name and which course you are applying for.

If we are not able to make a decision based on your BA (Hons) Music (Production) portfolio, we may invite you for a video / online interview.

BA (Hons) Music (Production)

Please prepare the following recorded and written material for assessment:

- 1. A portfolio of no longer than 10 minutes that includes a variety of material, including at least one of your own original compositions.**
 - Please include a musically notated version of one of your composition/productions. e.g. The topline melody, bassline and chord progression and/or lyrics. 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.

- 2. Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak to camera):**
 - 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?

Combined Courses

If you have applied for a combined course you will be asked to submit your major study (in this case Production) portfolio first. Once this has been assessed you will be invited to submit your minor study audition materials, you can find instructions for these below and on the following pages.

Video Submission Tips

- It is fine to record video portfolios on your mobile phone or any other digital camera device. Just make sure the sound is as clear as possible and that you are in shot when performing and answering questions.
- At the start of the video please clearly state your name and which course you are auditioning for.
- Videos can be any mainstream format such as .mov or .mp4 but remember we need both the audio and video.
- Please make sure that you record all the requirements outlined for the course you are auditioning for (listed over the next pages.)

BA (Hons) Music (Production with Classical)

You will prepare your BA (Hons) Music (Production) portfolio as detailed on Page 3, plus prepare recorded material for your minor as follows:

Performers

Video yourself performing 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.
- For all performers, at least one of your chosen pieces should have piano accompaniment. This does not apply to piano, guitar and percussion applicants.

Percussionists should include one tuned percussion piece and one for snare drum or timpani.

Composers

Submit a portfolio of at least two of your own contrasting compositions (or part thereof) - maximum length 10 minutes in total. We may then arrange to contact you for a short interview over the phone about your compositions.

BA (Hons) Music (Production with Folk)

You will prepare your BA (Hons) Music (Production) portfolio as detailed on Page 3, plus prepare recorded material for your minor as follows:

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 be video recordings and 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 (Production with Jazz)

In addition to the materials required for BA (Hons) Music (Production), please provide the following:

Performers:

1. **ONE** of the following two options:

- a. Perform **TWO** Jazz standards chosen from the repertoire list on the next page (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 on the next page 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 (Production with Popular)

You will prepare your BA (Hons) Music (Production) portfolio as detailed on Page 3, plus prepare recorded material for your minor as follows:

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?
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Entry Requirements

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 / Composition Standard (Combined subjects only)

If applying for BA (Hons) Music (Production) as a combined course with a performance / composition minor, applicants are expected to demonstrate 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 (Combined subjects only)

If applying for BA (Hons) Music (Production) as a combined course with a performance / composition minor, 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.

