



Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2023 Entry

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz)

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz) with Foundation Year

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz with Classical)

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz with Folk, Roots and Blues)

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz with Popular)

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz with Production)

Introduction

Applicants have the option to audition online via portfolio submission or in person at an audition on our campus.

In person auditions will take place w/c 24th October 2022 and w/c 12th December 2022.

Once these audition weeks have passed 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 Jazz courses at Leeds Conservatoire.

Application Process

Once you have submitted your application to the conservatoire via UCAS Conservatoires, if you meet or are likely to meet our minimum entry requirements, you will receive an email that will detail how to send your audition materials to us, or how to book an in person audition.

Once we have made our decision on your application we will update UCAS with our decision and you will be notified via UCAS Hub.

In Person Audition Days

If you choose to audition in person we will assign you a date and time to attend the conservatoire during our October or December audition weeks.

You will have a 30 minute warm up slot followed by a 30 minute audition.

On the day, as well as your audition, you will have the opportunity to have a tour of the conservatoire and meet some of our current students.

Audition, Interview and Portfolio Requirements

Your audition materials will be slightly different depending on which course you are applying for.

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 (Jazz).**

If you have applied for both the three-year route and four-year route including foundation year then you will just make ONE audition submission and we will assess your suitability for both routes.

- **Combined pathway courses e.g. BA (Hons) Music (Jazz with Popular).**

You will need to submit your minor audition materials (in this case Popular) online via Acceptd.

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

IN PERSON AUDITION: PERFORMERS

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz)

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz) with Foundation Year

You will have 30 minutes to warm-up followed by your 30 minute audition. During the audition, you will play with a Leeds Conservatoire ensemble.

There will be no warm up time with the ensemble however there is a short amount of time allocated in each audition to communicate common instructions to the ensemble. The band is experienced and will be quick to understand any instructions. However, the panel are looking to see you perform in an organic setting, allowing the music to unfold naturally.

Performers:

1. You may choose ONE of the following two options:

a. Perform two Jazz standards chosen from the repertoire list on the final page of this guide (with the ensemble), demonstrating your skills in Jazz improvisation and your ability to play with an ensemble. Please do not overcomplicate the arrangements – head in/solo/head out is appropriate. Singers will be able to find lyrics to these standards and should prepare in a key they find comfortable.

OR

b. Perform one Jazz standard from the [repertoire list](#) at the end of this guide (with the ensemble) 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 playalong.

2. You will be asked to improvise over a given chord progression at sight in an ensemble setting.

3. You will be asked to sight-read a short piece of music, which will be given to you during the audition.

4. We might ask you to play or sing some scales or technical exercises as appropriate to your instrument and level.

5. You will have a short interview, where we will explore your general musical knowledge and interests.

IN PERSON AUDITION: COMPOSERS

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz)

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz) with Foundation Year

Composers:

1. You will have a structured interview based on your portfolio of compositions

- You need to bring scores and recordings (if you have them).
- The portfolio should consist of at least two contrasting compositions (or part thereof) - maximum length 10 minutes in total.
- You will be asked to discuss your compositions/songs in terms of the creative and compositional process as well as your influences and direction.

2. You will be asked to perform one Jazz standard chosen from the [repertoire list](#) at the end of this guide demonstrating your skills in Jazz improvisation and your ability to play with an ensemble.

3. You will be asked to improvise over a given chord progression at sight in an ensemble setting.

4. We might ask you to play or sing some scales or technical exercises as appropriate to your instrument.

5. You will have a short interview, where we will explore your general musical knowledge and interests.

ONLINE AUDITION VIA ACCEPTD: PERFORMERS

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz)

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz) with Foundation Year

Performers:

Please provide video recordings of:

1. You may choose ONE of the following two options (instrumentalists and voice):

a. Submit a video recording of yourself performing 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. Please do not overcomplicate the arrangements – head in/solo/head out is appropriate. Singers will be able to find lyrics to these standards and should prepare in a key they find comfortable.

OR

b. Submit a video recording of yourself performing ONE Jazz standard (with either a play-along or a live ensemble of your choosing) from the repertoire list at the end of this guide 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.

The performance of the standard should be taken from a 'Real Book' style lead sheet and include an improvised solo as well as your interpretation of the melody. We encourage you to research notable recordings (from your principal instrument) of your chosen repertoire.

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

3. Interview: Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel).

- Why do you want to study at Leeds Conservatoire?
- Who are your influences as a performer/producer/composer and why?
- What music are you currently listening to and why?
- Why should we offer you a place?
- What can you bring to the conservatoire?
- 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?

ONLINE AUDITION VIA ACCEPTD: COMPOSERS

Please provide video recordings of:

1. Performances

If you are applying as a **composer**, you will need to submit 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 (can be extracted from notation software) and PDF of notation. We may then arrange to contact you for a short interview about your compositions.

2. Performance of Jazz Standard on Principal Instrument/Voice:

Submit a video recording of yourself performing **ONE** of the Jazz standards chosen from the repertoire list shown on the previous 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. The performance should be taken from a 'Real Book' style lead sheet and include an improvised solo as well as your interpretation of the melody. We encourage you to research notable recordings (from your principal instrument) of your chosen repertoire.

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 do you want to study at Leeds Conservatoire?
- Who are your influences as a performer/producer/composer and why?
- What music are you currently listening to and why?
- Why should we offer you a place?
- What can you bring to the conservatoire?
- 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?

Jazz 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

Softly As In a Morning Sunrise - Hammerstein/Romberg

Just Friends - Lewis/Klemmer

Ladybird - Tadd Dameron

Night and Day - Cole Porter

Satin Doll - Ellington/Strayhorn/Mercer

Combined Courses

If you have applied for a combined course you will either: select your Jazz 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 Jazz you will submit your minor materials at the same time.

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz with Folk, Roots and Blues)

In addition to the materials required for BA (Hons) Music (Jazz), 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 (Jazz with Production)

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

1. A portfolio of no longer than 10 minutes that includes a variety of material, including at least one of your own original compositions (this can be coursework from your studies or any other material you have composed or produced).

2. A short written document or video of yourself answering the following questions:

- Can you provide details about your Music Production experience over the past 12 months?
- What DAW software are you familiar with? What is your level of experience with it?
- How much studio/recording experience have you had as a producer? Please provide specific details about the equipment you have used.
- What experience if any do you have playing an instrument/music (including production related performance, e.g. live sets)?
- Please can you tell us about a producer's work that you admire or that has influenced your own work?

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz with Classical)

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

1. Instrumentalist / Singer applicants: 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 and contrasting in style. Please introduce each piece by stating the title and composer.

One of your pieces should be accompanied by piano (excepting piano, guitar, harp and percussion). Where this is not possible passages of accompaniment lasting more than two bars should be cut, taking a short break rather than counting all your bars' rests.

Percussion applicants: Submit three pieces – one each for tuned percussion, snare drum and timpani

Please ensure there is a clear view of your hands and arms.

Composition applicants: Submit a portfolio of 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 for Instrumentalists / Singers: 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/singer? 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?

Interview for Composers: 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?
- Which composers do you most admire and why? How do they influence 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 also perform?

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz with Popular)

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

1. Performers (excluding drummers): Submit two pieces you have selected to demonstrate your musical strengths and identity. Ensure that the pieces chosen demonstrate both your technical abilities on your instrument and your identity and character as a popular musician.

These two pieces can be submitted in either of the following orientations: a) 1 audio recording and 1 video performance; or, b) 2 video performances.

- You may play original pieces and/or covers. If you perform solely covers at least one of the pieces should be your own creative version that differs from the original version.
- 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.

Drummers Only: You should submit only one full length audition piece of your choosing and a video in which you perform three x 16 bar demonstrations of popular rhythm styles (hip hop, breakbeats, drum-and-bass, reggae, funk, blues shuffle, disco, etc.). You may choose the rhythm styles to perform, though they should include some demonstration of fill work and/or improvisation within the style.

2. Music Theory

Please perform a brief spoken analysis of one of your audition pieces (no longer than five minutes), considering at least three of the following components that you feel are most interesting and relevant. You may also demonstrate aspects of this analysis on your instrument as is relevant and helpful.

- Harmony
- Rhythm
- Melody
- Structure
- Texture
- Timbre/tone
- Instrumentation
- Lyrics

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). 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?

