



Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2021 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

Due to current social distancing guidelines, we are asking all of our applicants to submit their audition materials online this year, rather than attend an audition in-person.

This guide will set out what you will need to submit when applying to 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. You should submit them within four weeks of receiving this email.

We will then review and assess your materials, and you may be asked to attend an online interview with a member of our faculty if they require further information to aid their decision.

Following our assessment, we will then update UCAS with our decision. If you apply by the 1 October equal consideration deadline, and submit your audition materials within the four-week deadline, then you should receive your decision by the end of the year.

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 (your Jazz submission should be a separate video file/s).

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

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 who are applying for the **BA (Hons) Music (Classical) with Foundation Year**, the pieces should be of at least 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 then you will ALSO need to submit recorded audition/ portfolio material for your second genre.

BA (Hons) Music (Classical with Folk)

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

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:

Performers:

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

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:

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:

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.