

Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2027 Entry

BA (Hons) Songwriting
BA (Hons) Songwriting with Foundation Year

Introduction - Application Process

Once you have submitted your application to the conservatoire via UCAS, 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 if applicable.

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

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

This guide will set out what you will need to prepare and / or submit when auditioning for our BA (Hons) Songwriting courses at Leeds Conservatoire.

Audition, Interview and Portfolio Requirements

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

IN PERSON AUDITION

Your audition will consist of 30 minutes warm up time in a practice room followed by an approximately 30 minute individual audition with 2 members of staff in a band room.

We are looking for evidence of individual musical skills, creativity and enthusiasm for the subject. If you choose an in-person audition day you will be asked to do the following:

1. Prepare three original songs in total for the audition

- At least one of these should be played/performed live in the audition to demonstrate your ability to play and/or sing as well as your compositional strengths and style. We are not necessarily looking for Grade 8 standard here. We simply want to see that you are able to play/perform to a standard that makes your musical ideas clear.
- Please note: you are not able to bring any band members or accompanists into the audition with you. You are however very welcome to perform along to a backing track for your live performance if you wish. A cable and appropriate adapters will be provided in the audition room for playing backing tracks off a device such as a phone or a laptop through a PA. A member of staff will help you set this up.
- For the remaining two songs, you can choose whether you would prefer to play these live or bring in recorded versions on an audio playback device (a phone or laptop are fine).
- Please note that all songs should include a live or recorded vocal and lyrics. At least two of your songs, must be written and performed in English. If your third song is written in a language other than English, an English translation should be provided.
- You do not need to send us any songs in advance. We will listen to them in the audition with you.
- The audition room will contain a piano, a selection of guitar and bass amps, a drum kit and PA with a microphone which you will be able to use.

2. Take part in a short interview after you have performed and played your material

- Here we will ask you about your influences, approach and ambitions etc.
- We will discuss your songs in terms of the technical, creative and compositional process as well as your influences and direction
- We will also ask you some music theory based questions to ascertain your theoretical knowledge. These will not involve reading sheet music or notation but will be asked to enable you to demonstrate your understanding of the songs you have written and/or performed in the audition. Please therefore be prepared to discuss material you have written in theoretical terms. This will include elements such as key, song structure, chord progression and melodic repetition and shape etc.

ONLINE AUDITION SUBMISSIONS VIA ACCEPTD

1. Submit recordings of three full songs that you have written entirely by yourself

- At least one of these songs must be submitted in the form of a video of you singing it live, or performing it live with an instrument you play. You may submit all audition songs in this format if you wish. If the video includes more than one performer, please make it clear which one is you.
- The location of the performance is not important. For example it can be live on stage or just in your bedroom.
- You may perform as a soloist or with accompaniment.
- Please note that all songs should include recorded vocal and lyrics. At least two of your songs must be written and performed in English. If your third song is written in a language other than English, an English translation should be provided as part of the accompanying lyric sheet.
- Any remaining songs not submitted as videos should be submitted as audio recordings with accompanying lyric sheets. Please make it clear which instrument(s) you are playing on the recording.

2. Submit a short video (no longer than 10 minutes) 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 songwriter and how/why do they influence you?
- What music are you currently listening to and why?
- Tell us about your experience of playing/performing solo/or in bands.
- Tell us about your experience of using music recording technologies.
- Please briefly analyse one of your audition pieces/songs to demonstrate your knowledge of music theory.
- Tell us about an issue facing songwriters that you think is particularly important at the moment.
- Why do you believe we should offer you a place? What can you bring to the conservatoire?
- What do you want to do once you've finished your studies?

