

Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2026 Entry

MA Musical Theatre Writing
(formerly MA Musical Theatre Creatives)

MA Musical Theatre Writing

The audition process is your opportunity to demonstrate your skills as a Musical Theatre Writer, whether as a composer, writer, lyricist, or any combination of the above. It is also our opportunity to assess your skill and suitability for the programme.

Stage 1: Online Portfolio Submission

We use an online system called Acceptd which you will need to use to upload your portfolio. Full details on how to access Acceptd will be sent to you following your application. Please submit the following:

Personal Statement

Please submit a 500-word statement or a video recording of no more than four minutes about who you are and what you hope to achieve through this MA.

We are particularly interested in learning about what skills you wish to improve and the kinds of work you want to make rather than focusing entirely on your previous experiences.

Creative Portfolio

Please upload examples of your work that show your skills in your particular field. We want to see your skills and interests as a creative making new theatre. Your examples may evidence a combination of skills or highlight your single skill set.

Select pieces which demonstrate the range of your abilities. These can be rehearsal materials (lyrics, book excerpts, sheet music, arrangements) recordings of performances or rehearsals. The examples you share don't exclusively need to be from stage, although this is most common.

If you find it easier to perform your own work, please do. Note: you aren't being assessed on performance.

Portfolio Guidance:

- Work can be submitted in any format; video, audio, PDFs etc.
- Each piece uploaded should be no more than 5-10 minutes/10-20 pages long.
- They do not need to be professionally recorded - recording on your phone or using a camera is fine.
- With each of these, please accompany a brief description of the piece and (if relevant) your role in it.
- Please submit a minimum of two pieces, but feel free to share as many as you like.

STAGE 2: Presentation and Interview (In-Person or Online)

If you are successful at Stage 1 we will contact you to book and attend an interview, where you will present your response to the task below and discuss your ideas.

Note: You will also need to upload supporting materials for the presentation task in advance of the interview.

Presentation Task

For your Stage 2 interview you will be asked to present an original idea for a project that speaks directly to you as an audience member and could be developed in a year of Masters study.

The idea you present in your Round 2 interview can be in its infancy but [you should upload in advance any initial ideas; motifs, lyrics, opening scene, presentation visuals etc.](#) that will contextualise your idea and give an indicative sense of tone for the panel.

The presentation should last no more than 3-4 minutes, and should explore the content of this story, how it would be told and why you want to tell it.

We will discuss your original portfolio, presentation, process and areas of interest during the interview.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What does the interview entail?

The interview is a brief opportunity for the programme team to get to know the person behind the personal statement and the work presented. It is a relaxed and informal discussion in which you will be asked questions about your interests, passions, experiences and you are given the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the programme, team or life at Leeds Conservatoire. Try not to overthink the interview or try to give the 'right' answer. The team genuinely just want to know who you are and why you think you would benefit from training here at Leeds.

I don't fit neatly into a 'composer', 'lyricist' or 'librettist' category. Is this the right course for me?

The face of musical theatre and theatre is changing - in style, content along with a shift in these traditional roles. You may want to write, compose and perform a one-person show, or create spoken word music to tell new stories. We are looking for artists who want to challenge what theatre is and what it can be. If this sounds like you, then this is the course for you.

I want to MD as well as compose - should I apply for MA Musical Direction instead?

OR I want to perform as well as write, should I apply for MA Musical Theatre Company instead?

You can apply for multiple courses, and often meeting with the different teams gives you insight as to where your focus needs to lie for a year of intensive study. In theatre there is often crossover with various creative roles; dramaturgs often work as directors, actors often write, and composers often work as musical directors (and vice versa). Often performers write their own work, and so this tailor-made quality to the courses allows you to explore several sides. Although all courses share several modules, we'd recommend looking at all courses and seeing which one fits you and your aspirations.

Will I receive feedback?

Unfortunately, due to the number of applicants for the MA programmes, we are unable to provide feedback for first stage applicants. At the second stage interview, applicants are able to discuss their suitability for the programme and feedback will be built into the interview.

