



Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2022 Entry

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz)

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz) with Foundation Year

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz with Classical)

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz with Folk)

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz with Popular)

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz with Production)

Introduction

This year we are offering applicants the choice to audition either in person at our campus, or online by submitting audition recordings.

Once you have registered on our audition platform, Acceptd you will be given the option to book an in-person audition or submit your recordings online.

(Please note if there are no in person audition dates left at the time of your application then 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, you will receive an email that will detail how to send your audition materials to us, or how to book an in person audition.

Following your audition, we will then update UCAS with our decision and you will be notified via UCAS Track.

In Person Audition Days

Our in person auditions will take place in October and December. These are the only in person audition dates that we will be providing.

You will book your audition date through our online audition platform Acceptd. You will then receive an email with full details of the day. On the day, as well as your audition, you will have the opportunity to meet the programme leader, have a tour of the conservatoire and meet some of our current students.

On arrival you will be assigned your 30 minute warm up slot and your 30 minute audition time slot.

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 (Jazz)**.
- If you have applied for both the four-year and three-year route for the same course e.g. **BA (Hons) Music (Jazz)** and **BA (Hons) Music (Jazz) 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 (Jazz with Classical)** you will submit a portfolio of videos online for your minor study subject (in this case Classical) even if you are auditioning in person for your major study subject (in this case Jazz). If you apply for an in-person audition day, we will contact you following your booking to detail how and when to submit your minor study materials.

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

IN PERSON AUDITION

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz)

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz) with Foundation Year

You will have 30 minutes to warm-up. This will be followed by your audition which will last approximately 30 minutes. 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 below (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 below (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.

Repertoire List

A Child Is Born *Thad Jones*

Just Friends *Lewis/Klemmer*

All The Things You Are *Kern/Hammerstein*

Ladybird *Tadd Dameron*

Autumn Leaves *Kosma/Mercer*

Night and Day *Cole Porter*

Beautiful Love *Young/King/Alstyne/Gillespie*

Satin Doll *Ellington/Strayhorn/Mercer*

Blue Bossa *Kenny Dorham*

Softly As In a Morning Sunrise *Hammerstein/Romberg*

2. You will be asked to improvise over a given chord progression at sight in an ensemble setting.
 3. 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.
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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 on the previous page, 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. and we might ask you to play or sing some scales or technical exercises as appropriate to your instrument. Interview:

ONLINE AUDITION

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. 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 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.

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.

Repertoire List

A Child Is Born Thad Jones

Just Friends Lewis/Klemmer

All The Things You Are Kern/Hammerstein

Ladybird Tadd Dameron

Autumn Leaves Kosma/Mercer

Night and Day Cole Porter

Beautiful Love Young/King/Alstyne/Gillespie

Satin Doll Ellington/Strayhorn/Mercer

Blue Bossa Kenny Dorham

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

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?
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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?
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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)

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 Classical)

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

Instrumentalists / Singers:

1. 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.

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 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.

Percussion applicants should submit three pieces – one each for tuned percussion, snare drum and timpani. We recognise that during this time it may not be possible for percussion applicants to access all instruments needed to audition via recording. Please contact Programme Leader Damien Harron at d.harron@lcm.ac.uk to discuss your personal situation if this is the case for you. For recorded auditions on all percussion instruments, please ensure there is a clear view of your hands and arms.

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/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?

Composers:

1. Portfolio:

Composition applicants are required to 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:

- 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. 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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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:

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.

