



Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2022 Entry

BA (Hons) Music (Folk)

BA (Hons) Music (Folk with Classical)

BA (Hons) Music (Folk with Jazz)

BA (Hons) Music (Folk with Popular)

BA (Hons) Music (Folk 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 Folk courses at Leeds Conservatoire.

Application Process

Once you have submitted your application to the conservatoire via UCAS, you will receive an email that will detail how to send your audition materials to us, or how to book an in person audition.

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 and you will be notified via UCAS Track.

In Person Audition Days

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 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.

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 (Folk)**.
- For **Combined pathway** courses e.g. **BA (Hons) Music (Folk with Classical)** you will be asked to submit our minor audition materials (in this case Classical) only once your major study (in this case Folk) has been assessed, (ie. you've attended an audition or submitted these online).

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

BA (Hons) Music (Folk)

Performers:

We welcome both traditional and contemporary approaches to performance and therefore acknowledge traditional instrumentation and new approaches to performance and accompaniment.

- You will be scheduled for 30 minutes warm-up time before your audition.
- You may perform as a soloist or with accompaniment.
- You may bring your own accompanist or use a backing track. On request, the conservatoire may be able to provide live accompanists, but you will need to bring copies of your music/charts if appropriate and arrange this in advance with the Admissions Team.

1. You will perform two contrasting pieces of your choice that may be any combination of the following:

- Traditional repertoire with traditional arrangements
- Traditional repertoire with arrangements that you have written
- Original material that you have composed
- You may perform as a soloist or with accompaniment, or backing track

The two pieces should last no longer than 10 minutes in total

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

Songwriting / Composers / Arrangers:

1. You will have a structured interview based on your portfolio of pieces which you should bring with you
 - The interview will involve discussing your pieces (compositions / songs / arrangements) in terms of the creative and writing / arrangement process as well as your influences and direction.
 - Compositions, songs and arrangements may be in recorded or scored form.
 - There is no set limit, but the panel will consider approximately 10 minutes of music.
2. You will be asked to perform one piece that demonstrates your musical and performance strengths. This can be your own composition or an existing piece

BA (Hons) Music (Folk)

Performers:

Please provide video recordings of:

1. A performance of two contrasting pieces of your choice that may be any combination of the following:
 - Traditional repertoire with traditional arrangements
 - Traditional repertoire with arrangements that you have written
 - Original material that you have composed
 - You may perform as a soloist or with accompaniment, or backing track

The two pieces should last no longer than 10 minutes in total

We welcome both traditional and contemporary approaches to performance and therefore acknowledge traditional instrumentation and new approaches to performance and accompaniment.

2. Interview:

Submit a short video 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 musician and how/why do they influence you?
- What music are you currently listening to and why?
- Tell us about your experience of composing or playing/performing solo/or in bands.
- Tell us about an issue facing musicians in the folk and traditional music industry 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?

Songwriting / Composers / Arrangers:

Please provide the following for assessment:

1. Portfolio

Songwriters, composers and arrangers are required to submit a portfolio of two or three pieces as recordings (e.g. MP3/ M4A/ video/ a document containing audio links) or scores. You may also submit any lyrics as a word document or pdf.

We welcome both traditional and contemporary approaches to songwriting, composition and arrangement and acknowledge both traditional instrumentation and new approaches to writing and arrangement.

2. Performance

Submit a video of you performing one piece that demonstrates your musical and performance strengths. This can be your own composition or an existing piece.

You may perform as a soloist or with accompaniment, or backing track. We welcome both traditional and contemporary approaches to performance and therefore acknowledge traditional instrumentation and new approaches to performance and accompaniment.

3. Interview:

Submit a short video 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 musician and how/why do they influence you?
- What music are you currently listening to and why?
- Tell us about your experience of composing or playing/performing solo/or in bands.
- Tell us about an issue facing musicians in the folk and traditional music industry 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?

Combined Courses

If you have applied for a combined course you will be asked to submit your major study (in this case Folk) audition first. Once this has been assessed you will be invited to submit your minor study audition materials, you can find instructions for these below and on the following pages.

BA (Hons) Music (Folk with Classical)

You will prepare your BA (Hons) Music (Folk) audition as detailed on previous pages, plus prepare recorded material for your minor as follows:

Performers

Video yourself performing two contrasting pieces that demonstrate your musical strengths.

- The pieces should be of grade 8 standard and contrasting in style – aim to show us what you can do technically and expressively.
- For all performers, at least one of your chosen pieces should have piano accompaniment. This does not apply to piano, guitar and percussion applicants.

Percussionists should include one tuned percussion piece and one for snare drum or timpani.

Composers

Submit a portfolio of at least two of your own contrasting compositions (or part thereof) - maximum length 10 minutes in total. We may then arrange to contact you for a short interview over the phone about your compositions.

BA (Hons) Music (Folk with Jazz)

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

Performers:

ONE of the following two options:

- a. Perform **TWO** Jazz standards chosen from the repertoire list on the next 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.

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

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

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 (Folk with Popular)

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

In addition to the materials required for BA (Hons) Music (Folk), 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?
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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 / Songwriting / Arrangers) ABRSM, London College of Music, Trinity College, or Rock School.

