



Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2022 Entry

BA (Hons) Music (Popular)
BA (Hons) Music (Popular with Classical)
BA (Hons) Music (Popular with Folk)
BA (Hons) Music (Popular with Jazz)
BA (Hons) Music (Popular with Production)
BA (Hons) Music (Popular) with Foundation Year

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 Popular 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 (Popular)**.
- If you have applied for both the four-year and three-year route for the same course e.g. **BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting)** and **BA (Hons) Music (Popular) 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 (Popular with Classical)** you will be asked to submit our minor audition materials (in this case Classical) only once your major study (in this case Popular) 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.

IN PERSON AUDITION

Your audition will consist of 30 minutes warm up time with your instrument followed by a 30 minute individual audition.

We are looking for evidence of individual musical skills, creativity and enthusiasm for the subject.

Performers (except drummers)

If you choose an in-person audition day you will be asked to do the following:

- 1. You will be asked to play two pieces you have selected to demonstrate your musical strengths and identity**
 - You may play original pieces or covers but covers should ideally be interpretative and not identical copies (i.e. you should put your own stamp on them).
 - You may accompany yourself, play unaccompanied or use a backing track for any/all of your audition pieces. **Please note: you are unable to bring along any band members or accompanists.**
 - A CD player and mini jack will be provided in the audition room for playing backing tracks. A member of staff will help you set this up.
 - The audition room will contain a piano, a selection of amps, a drum kit and PA with microphone which you will be able to use.
 - 2. You may be asked to play or sing some scales and technical exercises as appropriate for your instrument and level during the audition. We will also ask you to answer some music theory-based questions in relation to one of your audition pieces to ascertain your theoretical knowledge**
 - 3. You will have a short interview where we will ask you about your influences, approach and ambitions, and understanding of current musical culture and industry context**
 - If you compose as well, you may wish to bring some examples to play for the panel as this may come up in conversation.
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Drummers

If you choose an in-person audition day you will be asked to do the following:

- 1. You are required to perform one prepared piece with a play-along track**
 - In addition, you will be prepared to improvise various common beats and fills as instructed in the audition, e.g. reggae, drum-and-bass, funk, blues shuffle, disco, etc.
 - A CD player and mini jack will be provided in the audition room for playing backing tracks. A member of staff will help you set this up.

- The audition room will contain a piano, a selection of amps, a drum kit and PA with microphone which you will be able to use.
2. You may be asked to play technical exercises during the audition. This may include rudiments and standard patterns and techniques
 3. You will have a short interview where we will ask you about your influences, approach and ambitions, and understanding of current musical culture and industry context
 - If you compose as well, you may wish to bring some examples to play for the panel as this may come up in conversation.

ONLINE AUDITION SUBMISSIONS

BA (Hons) Music (Popular)

BA (Hons) Music (Popular) with Foundation Year

Please send the following items or assessment:

1. Performance

Submit two pieces you have selected to demonstrate your musical strengths and identity. Ensure that the pieces chosen demonstrate both your technical abilities on your instrument and your identity and character as a popular musician. These two pieces can be submitted in either of the following orientations: a) 1 audio recording and 1 video performance; or, b) 2 video performances.

- You may play original pieces and/or covers. If you perform solely covers at least one of the pieces should be your own creative version that differs from the original version.
- 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.

Drummers: You should submit only one full length audition piece of your choosing and a video in which you perform three x 16 bar demonstrations of popular rhythm styles (hip hop, breakbeats, drum-and-bass, reggae, funk, blues shuffle, disco, etc.). You may choose the rhythm styles to perform, though they should include some demonstration of fill work and/or improvisation within the style.

2. Interview

Video yourself talking to camera responding to the following questions and tasks. 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 Popular Music at Leeds Conservatoire?
- Who influences you as a popular musician and why?
- Why do you believe we should offer you a place? What can you bring to the conservatoire?
- Please tell us about your experience in live performance, recording, and songwriting/composition. Give as much detail as you can (where, how often, what type of experience, etc.)
- What are the most important issues in popular music right now and how are these impacting musicians, listeners, and/or the industry?
- Please perform a brief analysis of one of your audition pieces, considering musical features you feel are most interesting and relevant (harmony, rhythm, melody, structure, instrumentation, etc.).

Combined Courses

If you have applied for a combined course you will be asked to submit your major study (in this case Popular) 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 (Popular with Classical)

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

Performers :

Perform 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 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:

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) - 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 (Popular with Folk)

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

Performers:

1. 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

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

Composers:

If you are applying as a composer/arranger, you will need to 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 (Popular with Jazz)

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

Performers:

1. You may choose one of the following two options:
 - b. Perform two Jazz standards chosen from the repertoire list below (with either a playalong or a live ensemble of your choosing), demonstrating your skills in Jazz improvisation and your ability to play with an ensemble

OR

- c. Perform one Jazz standard (with either a playalong 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 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. 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:

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) - 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 (Popular with Production)

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

1. A portfolio of no longer than 10 minutes that includes a variety of material, including 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.
2. A short written document answering the following questions:
 - Why do you want to study at Leeds College of Music?
 - 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) 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.

