



Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2022 Entry

BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting)

BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting) 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 Songwriting 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 (Songwriting)**.
- 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 (Songwriting) with Foundation Year** then you will just make **ONE** audition submission and we will assess your suitability for both routes.

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 and a 20-25 minute group task with other auditionees.

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 live in the audition to demonstrate your ability to play and/or sing as well as your compositional strengths and style. Please note: you are unable to bring along any band members or accompanists.
- For the remaining two songs, applicants can choose whether they would prefer to play these live or bring in recorded versions on an MP3 playback device (a phone or laptop are fine).
- You do not need to send us any compositions in advance, we will listen to them in the audition with you.
- 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. 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 pieces/compositions/songs in terms of the technical, creative and compositional process as well as your influences and direction
- We will also ask you to answer some music theory based questions to ascertain your theoretical knowledge.

ONLINE AUDITION SUBMISSIONS

Please send the following items so that our songwriting specialists can assess the standard of your writing:

1. 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, or performing it with an instrument you play. This is so that we can see the standard of your performance ability which will be relevant for the modules where you will write on an instrument as a member of a band in a writing room. You may submit all audition songs in this format if you wish.
- You may perform as a soloist or with accompaniment.
- Any remaining songs not submitted as videos should be submitted as audio recordings with accompanying lyric sheets.

2. 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 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?

