



Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2023 Entry

BA (Hons) Music (Folk, Roots and Blues)

BA (Hons) Music (Folk, Roots and Blues with Classical)

BA (Hons) Music (Folk, Roots and Blues with Jazz)

BA (Hons) Music (Folk, Roots and Blues with Popular)

BA (Hons) Music (Folk, Roots and Blues with Production)

Introduction

Applicants have the option to audition online via portfolio submission or in person at an audition on our campus.

In person auditions will take place w/c 20th February 2023.

Once the February audition week has passed 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, Roots and Blues courses at Leeds Conservatoire.

Application Process

Once you have submitted your application to the conservatoire via UCAS, if you meet or are likely to meet our minimum entry requirements, you will receive an email that will detail how to send your audition materials to us, or how to book an in person audition.

Once we have made our decision on your application we will update UCAS with our decision and you will be notified via UCAS Hub.

In Person Audition Days

If you choose to audition in person we will assign you a date and time to attend the conservatoire during our February audition week commencing 20th February 2023.

You will have a 30 minute warm up slot followed by a 30 minute audition.

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.

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.

- **Combined pathway courses e.g. BA (Hons) Music (Folk, Roots and Blues with Jazz).**

You will be asked to submit your minor audition materials (in this case Jazz) only after your major study (in this case Folk, Roots and Blues) has been assessed, (ie. you've attended an audition or submitted materials online).

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

IN PERSON AUDITION

BA (Hons) Music (Folk, Roots and Blues)

Performers Only:

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.

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 Only:

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, Roots and Blues)

Performers Only:

Please submit 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 Only:

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?

BA (Hons) Music (Folk, Roots and Blues with Popular)

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

1. Performers (excluding drummers): 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 Only: 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. Music Theory

Please perform a brief spoken analysis of one of your audition pieces (no longer than five minutes), considering at least three of the following components that you feel are most interesting and relevant. You may also demonstrate aspects of this analysis on your instrument as is relevant and helpful.

- Harmony
- Rhythm
- Melody
- Structure
- Texture
- Timbre/tone
- Instrumentation
- Lyrics

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). 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, Roots and Blues with Classical)

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

1. Instrumentalist / Singer applicants: 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.

One of your pieces should be accompanied by piano (excepting piano, guitar, harp and percussion). Where this is not possible passages of accompaniment lasting more than two bars should be cut, taking a short break rather than counting all your bars' rests.

Percussion applicants: Submit three pieces – one each for tuned percussion, snare drum and timpani

Please ensure there is a clear view of your hands and arms.

Composition applicants: 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 for Instrumentalists / Singers: 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?

Interview for Composers: 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 (Folk, Roots and Blues with Jazz)

In addition to the materials required for BA (Hons) Music (Folk, Roots and Blues), 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](http://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, Roots and Blues with Production)

In addition to the materials required for BA (Hons) Music (Folk, Roots and Blues), 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 (this can be coursework from your studies or any other material you have composed or produced).

2. A short written document or video of yourself answering the following questions:

- Can you provide details about your Music Production experience over the past 12 months?
- What DAW software are you familiar with? What is your level of experience with it?
- How much studio/recording experience have you had as a producer? Please provide specific details about the equipment you have used.
- What experience if any do you have playing an instrument/music (including production related performance, e.g. live sets)?
- Please can you tell us about a producer's work that you admire or that has influenced your own work?

