

## **DSA Study Needs Assessments 2022-23: Information for Assessors**

### **Overview of Courses**

#### **Undergraduate Pathways on BA (Hons) Music:**

- Classical (with possible Foundation year)
- Film Music (with possible Foundation year)
- Folk
- Jazz (with possible Foundation year)
- Music Business
- Popular Music (with possible Foundation year)
- Production (with possible Foundation year)
- Songwriting (with possible Foundation year)
- Combined pathways – these could be a combination of Classical, Jazz, Folk, Popular and Production as a major and minor pathway

Students on the Classical, Jazz, Folk and Popular Music pathways are required to have a Specialist Study of either Performance or Composition, in their chosen genre.

Students following a combined pathway will have specialist study 1:1 lessons on their major pathway, and specialist group study lessons on their minor pathway. Students following a single pathway will have both specialist study 1:1 lessons and specialist group study lessons on their Single pathway.

#### **Undergraduate Degrees BA (Hons):**

- Acting
- Actor Musician
- Musical Theatre

#### **Undergraduate Foundation Degrees FdA:**

- Electronic Music Production
- Music Production

#### **Postgraduate Pathways:**

- MA/PGDip Music
- MA Dramaturgy
- MA Musical Direction
- MA Musical Theatre Company
- MA Musical Theatre Creatives

Further information on our courses is available on our website:

- <https://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate-study/>
- <https://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate-study/>

## **Methods of Assessment**

Modules on the BA (Hons) are assessed through a combination of performances, compositions and recordings with supporting critiques, individual and group presentations, essay style written assignments and practical work in various studios both in and out of college. All students undertake a major project in their third and final year, with supporting written work.

There are formal timed written examinations on the BA (Hons) pathways, and students may be required to take music theory examinations, timed technical performance or composition and studio-based assessments.

The Foundation Degrees include a work placement plus a yearlong independent project in the second year that requires students to create a fully marketable professional music product.

Postgraduate pathways are assessed via essays, performances and compositions with accompanying critiques, performance recitals and/or viva voce oral exams.

## **Conservatoire Facilities and Resources**

The conservatoire has a programme of continuous investment in high-end facilities for our students to work with. For production students this includes professional quality recording studios in which students are taught and which they can additionally book to complete their assignments. For performance students this includes soundproofed practice rooms, ensemble rooms and purpose-built performance suites and venues.

Our specialist music courses, with the exception of the Classical pathway, are taught on the Apple Mac platform as this is the music industry standard. The Classical pathway can be taught using either Mac or Windows platforms.

We have a number of class-leading Apple Mac suites that students should access throughout their courses. These facilities are available until 3am on weekdays and during the daytime at weekends. Students have access to our music production Apple Macs when teaching is not taking place. Production students are allowed to book 6 hours per week per studio group and can also book other available slots within a 24-hour period in order to get the most from the production resources (potentially a total of 9 hours a week).

Due to the restricted networking capabilities of Apple Macs and software licensing restrictions, Leeds Conservatoire is unable to provide students with individual licenses of all the course-specific software that they require for their pathway of study. All students are expected to be taking advantage of in-house facilities as they are of a professional standard. Students will be required to use these facilities as much as possible to complete their studies during term time. The facilities noted are provided in-house, so that each student is not required to own an Apple Mac with a professional specification level capable of running music creation software.

Leeds Conservatoire is not able to help students with the initial £200 fee that Student Finance require when they have been recommended a Windows-based laptop to access assistive technology, nor with any extra costs should the student choose to upgrade from a PC to a Mac platform. Students are expected to use the professional standard conservatoire facilities as described above.

The core music software packages used on the Production and Film pathways are:

- Year 1 onwards: Pro Tools, Logic Pro
- Year 2: Ableton Live and Max for Live (Production pathway only)

Pro Tools and Logic Pro have equal standing, although the first year curriculum is geared more towards Pro Tools initially. Production pathway students take additional Apple Authorised Training qualifications on the Logic Pro software. These are provided in-house at Leeds Conservatoire as we are an Apple Accredited training provider.

The core music software packages in use on the Jazz and Pop pathways, dependent upon module choices, are Ableton Live, Logic Pro and Pro Tools. Students who major in Composition for their first study, as opposed to performance as a first study, will make much more extensive use of Ableton Live, Logic Pro and Pro Tools. Classical students will use Avid Sibelius.

All course information and lecture notes are accessed only via Space, the conservatoire's online Virtual Learning Environment. The majority of assignments are submitted online via the VLE and use of the internet for research is also required.

For notetaking and lecture recording purposes, all main lectures in large groups taught in classroom and lecture theatres are captured by Panopto (lecture recording) and available online via Space, the conservatoire intranet. However, it is not possible to record one-to-one tuition, small group sessions, studio sessions and seminars, so a digital recording device with a built-in two-way microphone may be a useful aid to learning.

Office 365 logins are given to all students upon enrolment, to assist with producing assignments, presentations etc.

Extended library loans are available from the conservatoire's Library service for some items, and the Library can advise on the availability of resources such as e-books and journals. Students can access course reading lists via Space once they have enrolled.

## **Disabled Students studying music/acting**

Students with learning difficulties/conditions that affect their working memory, co-ordination, focus or information processing speed often experience extra difficulty in reading music, accurately handwriting musical scores or inputting information into music writing software. Coping with the high-density multiple screen set-up of information in the music software programmes, especially Logic Pro, can be challenging. This is similar to the difficulties experienced when producing word-processed written work and the process of working with music goes alongside working with other written information as a core part of the learning process on our courses.

Mental health or other difficulties causing concentration problems can also make specialist music software more difficult to use due to the volume and complexity of information the user is required to input and manipulate.

Further information on the support available at Leeds Conservatoire is available on our website: <https://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/student-life/student-support/disability-support/>

## **DSA Non-Medical Helper Support**

Leeds Conservatoire employ an in-house Mentoring team for both Autism and Mental Health branches of the DSA NMH framework, with both both in-person and online modes of delivery available for recommended students. Please keep an eye out for our competitive pricing when recommending our students, as we are present on both the NMH Practitioners & DfE-held approved registers.

## **Contact information**

The Disability Support Team is located in the Student Services room (4<sup>th</sup> floor) of the Leeds Conservatoire St Peter's Square building.

Email: [disability@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk](mailto:disability@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk)