Thank you for your interest in the Royal College of Music.

We have written this guide to help you with the next steps in applying to study here, and to direct you to other useful information you may need.
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Top institution for performing arts in the UK for five consecutive years
QS World University Rankings 2016–2020
At a conservatoire you can study performance and composition programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Your principal study is at the heart of your learning experience, and informs the structure of your programme.

You will receive one-to-one lessons throughout the year along with a wide variety of performance opportunities. Successful applicants will usually have achieved a high standard in performance or composition at the time of audition.

Our Bachelor of Music BMus(Hons) programme blends tradition, creativity and innovation. It focuses on performance training or composition alongside modules in historical, technical and vocational subjects.

The RCM’s BMus(Hons) qualification is a fully accredited and internationally recognised undergraduate degree. It is designed to be flexible, enabling you to shape your studies around your own skills and interests.

There is a strong emphasis on independent learning and we believe that the more you put in to your studies at the Royal College of Music, the more you will get out of your time here. There are plenty of opportunities to make the most of your time studying, such as taking part in projects, attending masterclasses and using our wonderful library and historical collections.
The BMus(Hons) is a four-year undergraduate degree designed to give you a high level of performance or composition training, alongside studies relevant to your aspirations as a musician.

Alongside your principal study, the first two years of the programme have compulsory modules in aural, history, musicianship and professional skills, including health and wellbeing for musicians, and career management. Years three and four are designed to be flexible so that you can tailor your studies to meet your own interests and aspirations. Throughout your studies you will develop your skills further in ensemble and solo performance, and develop an understanding of music in different contexts.

Modules on offer currently include Conducting, Performance in the Digital Age, Creative Enterprise, Psychology of Performance, Classical CD Production, Writing About Music, Alexander Technique, Instrumental/Vocal Teaching, Orchestration and Arrangement and many others.

Teaching at the Royal College of Music is made up of one-to-one tuition, performance classes, workshops, masterclasses, lessons from visiting professors, ensemble activities, seminars and lectures. Our world-class professors offer students not only first-rate teaching, but also mentorship and networking opportunities.

You can find a full list of modules on our website at www.rcm.ac.uk/courses

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A BMUS(HONS) QUALIFICATION?

RCM students and graduates enjoy success in major competitions around the globe and our graduates go on to work in a wide range of careers at some of the most prestigious ensembles, venues, educational institutions and opera companies in the world.

One of the most common career paths for a recent graduate is to be a self-employed musician, which usually includes performing and teaching on a freelance basis. Graduates also work as orchestral musicians, musicians in the armed forces, composers, conductors, music administrators and librarians, to name a few.

In addition to the career management and professional elements of the course, our Creative Careers Centre offers bespoke advice and guidance throughout your studies and for five years after graduating. It offers resources, workshops and presentations by industry specialists, plus a broad range of professional opportunities including performances and teaching work. For orchestral musicians we also provide side-by-side ‘sit-in’ schemes with several major orchestras. For many students, the Creative Careers Centre helps pave the way to a successful lifelong career in music.

Grads who decide to progress to further study do so both in London and abroad, with around half deciding to return to the RCM. The most popular courses are Master of Music (MMus), Master of Performance (MPerf) and Master of Composition (MComp). RCM graduates also go on to study for other postgraduate courses and qualifications, as well as conducting their own private study.

FIND OUT MORE
www.rcm.ac.uk/creativecareers
Of the RCM alumni who graduated in 2016/17, 100% of those who responded had moved into employment or further study six months after graduating.

Higher Education Statistics Agency Survey 2018
I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO STUDY MUSIC AND HAD BEEN SET ON THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC AS MUSIC PERFORMANCE REALLY STOOD OUT TO ME. ATTENDING THE RCM’S JUNIOR DEPARTMENT FOR FOUR YEARS REALLY HELPED ME TO CONFIRM MY DECISION THAT THE RCM WAS THE PLACE FOR ME.

MY AUDITION EXPERIENCE AT THE RCM WAS GREAT. THE STAFF ON MY AUDITION PANELS WERE EXTREMELY WELCOMING.

Rianna Henriques, Bachelor of Music (Hons)
The deadlines for applying to study at a conservatoire are slightly earlier than those for universities. Below is a table of the main dates you should be aware of when applying to the Royal College of Music.

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<tr>
<td>16 July 2020</td>
<td>Applications open on UCAS Conservatoires</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 October 2020</td>
<td>Application deadline for those auditioning in London, Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing and Shanghai</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 October 2020</td>
<td>Application and portfolio submission deadline for composers</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2020</td>
<td>Auditions in Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing and Shanghai</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 November 2020</td>
<td>Application deadline for those auditioning in Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok and New York City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late November – mid December 2020</td>
<td>Auditions in London</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2020</td>
<td>Audition results published for London audition candidates</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2021</td>
<td>Auditions in Hong Kong, Singapore and Bangkok</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 February 2021</td>
<td>Deadline for responding to offers received by 4 January 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2021</td>
<td>Auditions in New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 April 2021</td>
<td>Deadline for responding to offers received by 16 March 2021</td>
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Further information about audition venues can be found at [www.rcm.ac.uk/auditionlocations](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/auditionlocations)

*Audition dates and venues correct at time of publication but may be subject to change due to latest guidance on the coronavirus outbreak. See [www.rcm.ac.uk/auditions](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/auditions) for latest information.

FIND OUT MORE
[www.rcm.ac.uk/apply](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/apply)
UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION VOCABULARY

UCAS CONSERVATOIRES
UCAS Conservatoires is the application service for courses at conservatoires in the UK, through which you apply for the RCM’s BMus(Hons) course. It is part of UCAS, which is used for most Higher Education applications in the UK.

You can use UCAS Conservatoires Track to follow the stages of your application, find out when your audition is, see your results and confirm your decision. Find out more at www.ucas.com/conservatoires

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
You must be able to meet the minimum qualifications in order for your application to be considered by the Royal College of Music. This varies depending on the country you are applying from. For full details visit www.rcm.ac.uk/bmus

FACULTIES
Faculties are the different departments that make up our core teaching and learning at the Royal College of Music. These are: Brass, Composition, Conducting*, Historical Performance, Keyboard, Percussion, Strings, Vocal & Opera and Woodwind. For more information about our faculties see www.rcm.ac.uk/faculties

PRINCIPAL STUDY
Your principal study is the main specialism that you will pursue during your course, such as violin or composition. Students may want to take up an additional related or second study alongside their principal study, but this is not a requirement.

JOINT PRINCIPAL STUDY
Students with an equally high level of ability in two areas may undertake joint principal study, in which their two specialisms are taught and assessed with equal weight. This is a demanding option, requiring a very high level of practical skill. Due to the large number of scheduled classes, it is not possible for singers or percussionists to undertake joint principal study.

RELATED STUDY
Related study allows instrumentalists to receive tuition on an instrument closely related to their principal study, such as oboe and cor anglais, or flute and piccolo.

SECOND STUDY
Second study allows students to receive tuition in a second specialism, taught and assessed at a lower intensity than their principal study, in an area that does not qualify for related study. Examples include piano with violin, or trumpet with composition.

*Conducting is only available as a principal or second study specialism at postgraduate level. However, conducting modules are offered as part of the BMus(Hons) course.
UNCONDITIONAL OFFER
An unconditional offer means you are guaranteed a place on the course, as you have already met the entry requirements.

CONDITIONAL OFFER
If you receive a conditional offer it means that we are guaranteed to accept you if you meet all of the entry requirements. For example, you will receive a conditional offer if you are waiting for your A Level results.

TUITION FEES
All students of UK Higher Education institutions are required to make a payment to their institution to cover the cost of their studies. Studying at a world-class conservatoire can be expensive, but we provide financial support to our most talented students through an array of awards and scholarships. For up-to-date information on fees and funding see www.rcm.ac.uk/fees

LIVING COSTS
Your living costs will cover your accommodation, travel, food and lifestyle whilst studying. We cannot say exactly how much money you will need while studying at the RCM, as different students have different needs, preferences and lifestyles. We have broken down the indicative living costs you may need to budget for at www.rcm.ac.uk/livingcosts

SCHOLARSHIPS
Any student who auditions in person or by video for a place on a performance or composition programme beginning in September 2021 will automatically be considered for a scholarship or study award. Scholarships are offered on the merits of your performance at audition or interview. Scholarship amounts vary from student to student, from a contribution towards your tuition fees right up to full fees. For more information please visit www.rcm.ac.uk/scholarships
THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE RCM

The Royal College of Music has been ranked the top institution for performing arts in the UK for five consecutive years (QS World University Rankings 2016–2020), training gifted musicians from all over the globe for a range of international careers. If you’re interested in studying at one of the world’s greatest conservatoires, here are a few things we think you should know about us...

PERFORMANCE AND EVENTS
The RCM presents more than 500 events each year, giving our students as much performance experience as possible in venues across London and further afield. Find out more at www.rcm.ac.uk/performance

OUTSTANDING TEACHING
Having been awarded an overall rating of gold in the first ever Teaching Excellence Framework (2017), the RCM’s teaching and learning is of the highest quality in the UK. Our exceptional teaching staff are often joined by visiting professors from across the music industry. Recent visitors include Sir Thomas Allen, Nicola Benedetti and Sir Antonio Pappano. Explore our professors for each faculty at www.rcm.ac.uk/faculties

EXCELLENT FACILITIES
Our main building, the Blomfield Building, sits on Prince Consort Road opposite the Royal Albert Hall, and is home to performance spaces, classrooms, rehearsal and practice facilities and the RCM Students’ Union.

The RCM has recently invested £40 million to develop more state-of-the-art facilities within our campus, expanding and improving what you can enjoy as a student here. These exciting new facilities, including two new performance venues, open in 2020. Find out more at www.rcm.ac.uk/facilities

ACCOMMODATION
Our hall of residence, Prince Consort Village, provides high-quality accommodation for music students, featuring acoustically treated bedrooms and practice spaces. It is located in leafy south-west London and within easy travelling distance of the RCM.

For more details on accommodation, visit www.rcm.ac.uk/accommodation
INSPIRING LOCATION
The Royal College of Music sits in the heart of South Kensington. We stand proudly opposite the Royal Albert Hall and enjoy fruitful partnerships with our neighbours, such as the Victoria and Albert Museum and Royal College of Art. Students can also enjoy the relaxing expanse of Hyde Park, less than five minutes’ walk away. Find out more about our inspiring location at www.rcm.ac.uk/location

STUDENT SUPPORT
Our experienced and supportive Student Services team provides drop-in and appointment services and free information sheets and booklets on a wide variety of topics. They offer a confidential and impartial advice service to all students dealing with a range of issues, including financial matters, finding accommodation, musicians’ injuries, mental health and wellbeing and much more, including an in-house counselling service. For more details visit www.rcm.ac.uk/studentsupport

DISABILITIES
We welcome and encourage the participation of students with disabilities in all aspects of life at the RCM, and we have particular experience in supporting students with dyslexia and visual impairment.

Our Student Services are designed to support you in a way that enables you to be an independent member of our student community. You may find that you need some extra support while you are studying at the RCM. Each student who discloses a disability or support need will be offered a tailored learning agreement. To find out more visit www.rcm.ac.uk/disabilities

STUDENTS’ UNION
The RCM Students’ Union is here to help you make the most of your time in London. It offers student socials, health and wellbeing services, student feedback, pastoral care and supports student-led music, as well as hosting a variety of societies and events throughout the year. Find out more at www.rcm.ac.uk/rcmsu

CREATIVE CAREERS CENTRE
The RCM is a world-leader in career development for musicians. We emphasise the need for students to be confident and versatile communicators, not just in their professional engagements but in everything they do. Our Creative Careers Centre enables our musicians to discover their professional identity, gain hands-on experience and new skills, develop an entrepreneurial mind-set and build a fulfilling professional portfolio. For more details see page 6 or go to www.rcm.ac.uk/creativecareers
I studied two subjects at my secondary school in Wales, but travelled to a neighbouring school to study music. Although I discovered a love of music at a young age, I really began to take singing seriously during a levels. I fell in love with the RCM at audition. The facilities, students and staff made me feel at ease. Before your audition, make sure you know your pieces inside out, and choose repertoire that you’re comfortable with.

Dafydd Jones, Bachelor of Music (Hons)
REQUEST A PROSPECTUS
If you haven’t already, we recommend that you read the RCM prospectus, which contains further information on our facilities, performance opportunities, student life, faculties and much more. You can download a PDF from www.rcm.ac.uk/prospectus, where you will also find a range of useful guides in different languages.

EXPLORE OUR CAMPUS
There are a range of ways that you can explore our campus including our annual Open Day and tours led by current students. For the most up-to-date information about Open Days please visit www.rcm.ac.uk/openday

For more information about tours please visit www.rcm.ac.uk/studenttours
EXPECTED PERFORMANCE STANDARD

Successful applicants to the Royal College of Music will usually have already achieved a high standard of performance or composition at the time of audition. Competition is high and we always have more applicants than places available. We don’t use ABRSM or other graded exams as a pre-requisite for our BMus(Hons) course, but successful applicants tend to be at a standard equivalent to distinction at grade eight and those who have developed much further.

You can see performances from our students from across different year groups and faculties on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/RCMLondon
‘MY LEARNING DIFFICULTY CAN MAKE SIGHT READING STRESSFUL, ESPECIALLY IN AN ORCHESTRA SETTING, SO I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT I’VE RECEIVED FROM THE RCM.

I AM SURROUNDED BY LIKE-MINDED FRIENDS WHO UNDERSTAND ME, SOMETHING I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE. COMING FROM A LOWER INCOME FAMILY WITH PARENTS WHO AREN’T MUSICAL, MY DECISION TO STUDY MUSIC WAS A REAL JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY FOR US ALL, AND ONE I’LL NEVER REGRET.’

Vicky Richmond, Bachelor Of Music (Hons)
APPLYING

UCAS CONSERVATOIRES
Applications to the RCM are made via UCAS Conservatoires. The conservatoire recruitment cycles is different to universities and you will need to apply by 1 October 2020 for entry in September 2021. Applications for entry in September open in July the previous year; see page 11 for specific dates. There is a useful guide to completing your application on the UCAS Conservatoires website: www.ucas.com/conservatoires

We recognise that the audition process can seem stressful and expensive. To avoid putting yourself under too much pressure we recommend that you research your options carefully and consider only preparing auditions for three or four conservatoires.

The RCM offers audition fee waivers to UK BMus(Hons) applicants from low income households. For more information on eligibility and how to request a fee waiver please visit www.rcm.ac.uk/bmus

APPLICATION
Your UCAS Conservatoires application will include your personal information, details of your previous education and a personal statement, which is your opportunity to tell us more about your musical experience and achievements.

You must also provide two references: the practical reference should be written by your current principal study teacher and the academic reference should be from someone who can comment on your academic ability. If you have your references available at the point of application you can paste them into your UCAS Conservatoires application. If not, you can ask your referees to send them directly to the RCM.
If you want to apply to study more than one instrument or specialism, there are a variety of options you can consider:

• If you feel you have a high level of ability in two areas you can apply for joint principal study. You will need to select this option in your application. You will be auditioned in both specialisms and may be offered a place to study both at equal intensity. Depending on your performance at audition, the RCM may decide to offer a place on only one of the two principal studies.

• You can pursue a second study which you will audition for when you commence your studies in September. Or you can choose to take a related study, this is subject to the approval of the relevant Head of Faculty when you start your course. You don’t need to indicate an interest in second or related study in your application.

For more information about our different study options see page 12.

Currently more than 50% of full-time students receive some financial support thanks to the generosity of individuals, legators, companies and charitable trusts. Scholarships are offered on the merits of your performance at audition or interview. Scholarship amounts vary from student to student, from a contribution towards your tuition fees right up to full fees. You don’t have to apply for a scholarship – any student who auditions or interviews for a place in person or by video for September 2021 entry is automatically considered. If you are offered a scholarship or study award you will receive a confirmation letter following your offer of a place.

We welcome applications from EU students for 2021 entry and beyond. The RCM is currently awaiting further information from the UK Government about tuition fee levels and any visa requirements for future EU students.

For the most up-to-date information please visit www.rcm.ac.uk/eu

FIND OUT MORE
www.rcm.ac.uk/apply
In addition to our main auditions in London, we also hold auditions in the USA and at a number of venues in Asia. You can find out more at www.rcm.ac.uk/auditionlocations.

If you declare a disability in your application the RCM will contact you to discuss confidentially whether you need any reasonable adjustments to enable you to audition.

**YOUR AUDITION DATE**

Once the application deadline has passed we collate all the applications and make our schedule for auditions and interviews. All applicants who are auditioning in London will be notified of their audition date and time by the end of October. Please do your best to attend the audition date given to you as this is a highly complex schedule organised alongside the other UK conservatoires to try to avoid clashes.

If there are mitigating circumstances we may be able to be flexible but in most cases we ask that you attend at your assigned time.

If you have any specific needs during the audition and interview process, please let us know. Your enquiries will be dealt with confidentially.

**PERFORMERS**

The format of your audition will vary depending on your principal study. It will generally last approximately 15–20 minutes and you will need to prepare pieces in advance. There will also be a short sight reading exercise and interview, to allow the panel to get to know you and answer any questions you may have. For some principal studies there may be a second audition or workshop which will happen on the same day. All those auditioning will be given 15–20 minutes to warm up before their audition. There is no theory test.

You can check the audition requirements for your principal study at www.rcm.ac.uk/auditions.
COMPOSERS

Composers are primarily assessed on the basis of their portfolios, and only those whose portfolios demonstrate potential will be invited to attend an interview. A portfolio of between two and five contrasting examples of your work should be submitted by the application deadline. Portfolios should include scores, and you may also submit recordings if they are available. If you are invited for interview, your interview will last around 15 minutes. You do not have to perform but there will be a short aural test. For more information on submitting your portfolio visit www.rcm.ac.uk/comprequirements

PRE-SCREENING

For our auditions in London we do not pre-screen applications for the BMus(Hons) course. If you apply on time you will be guaranteed an assessment, so please ensure that your application is submitted by the deadline.

For several of our overseas venues we do pre-screen due to the volume of applications. Check the requirements for your preferred venue at www.rcm.ac.uk/auditionlocations

Pre-screening videos must be submitted by the application deadline for the relevant audition venue.

ACCOMPANISTS

If you are auditioning in London, an accompanist will be provided for your audition, although you are welcome to bring your own if you prefer. You do not need to request this service or send us your music ahead of time. If you are using an RCM accompanist make sure you bring a hard copy of music for them. For most other audition venues you will need to bring your own accompanist.

FIND OUT MORE

www.rcm.ac.uk/study

AUDITION ADVICE

Audition nerves are completely normal. Our best advice is to make sure you have prepared your repertoire thoroughly. Make sure that you leave enough time for your journey the RCM and arrive in plenty of time to get to your warm up room.

It may also be useful to think of a few questions to ask the panel, as they will be happy to answer any queries you may have. Most of all, try to relax, breathe and enjoy your experience of auditioning at the Royal College of Music.

YOUR AUDITION OUTCOME

All applicants auditioning during our November–December auditions will be notified of the result before Christmas. This will be communicated to you via your UCAS Conservatoires Track account along with conditions of your offer, so make sure you check your account regularly.

CHOOSING YOUR PRINCIPAL STUDY PROFESSOR

Some students will have an idea of who they want to study with by the time they audition. Once you are offered a place on the programme you will have until May 2021 to submit up to three choices for your principal study professor. If you are unsure about who you want to study with, you can organise consultation lessons with any of your choices prior to making this decision. All this information will be given to you with your offer.

FURTHER SUPPORT

If you are successful in your application and decide to accept a place at the RCM, you are welcome to discuss any support needs you may have with the Student Services Manager, for example if you have a disability, are estranged from your family or have caring responsibilities. You may want to visit the College to assess whether there are any needs you have which you might not have thought of already. Arrangements can then be made in advance of your arrival on your course.

*Audition information correct at time of publication but may be subject to change due to latest guidance on the coronavirus outbreak. See www.rcm.ac.uk/auditions for latest information.
Next Steps Checklist

Make sure you follow our handy next steps checklist, and tick them off as you make your way through the application process.

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<td><strong>FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PROFESSORS, FACILITIES AND PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>05</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHECK THE APPLICATION DEADLINES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>APPLY VIA UCAS CONSERVATOIRES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PREPARE FOR YOUR AUDITION OR INTERVIEW</strong></td>
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<td><strong>08</strong></td>
<td><strong>RESPOND TO YOUR OFFER</strong></td>
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<td><strong>09</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHOOSE YOUR PRINCIPAL STUDY PROFESSOR</strong></td>
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Good luck and we hope to see you soon!
If you would like to talk to someone about applying to the Royal College of Music, our audition process or expected standards, feel free to contact our friendly Admissions team who will be happy to advise you.

Full details about applying to the Royal College of Music can be found on our website at www.rcm.ac.uk/apply

APPLICANTS WITH DISABILITIES
If you would like to discuss your particular needs in confidence, you are welcome to contact our friendly and supportive Student Services team at studentservices@rcm.ac.uk

SOCIAL MEDIA
To find out more about life at the RCM, our students, alumni and events, follow us on social media:

Facebook: /royalcollegeofmusic
Twitter: @RCMLondon
YouTube: /RCMLondon
Instagram: @RCMLondon

RCM ADMISSIONS
020 7591 4362
admissions@rcm.ac.uk