

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE



ROYAL
COLLEGE
OF MUSIC
London



TOP 10 REASONS TO STUDY AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC



01 **PERFORM IN PRESTIGIOUS LONDON VENUES**

You will have the opportunity to perform with world-leading conductors and artists in venues across London and further afield. Composers can hear their works brought to life by RCM musicians.

02 **LEARN WITH EXCEPTIONAL PROFESSORS**

Our dedicated and experienced professors are at the forefront of their fields and come from every corner of the globe. Many are principal players with London's major orchestras and ensembles.

03 **PREPARE FOR A GLOBAL CAREER**

Follow in the footsteps of the world's leading musicians – our students have gone on to enjoy successful international careers for more than 135 years.

04 **AN INSPIRATIONAL LONDON LOCATION**

Situated in the heart of London and standing proudly opposite the Royal Albert Hall, home to the famous BBC Proms, our location is the envy of the musical world.

05 **GAIN PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Our Creative Careers Centre offers countless opportunities to perform at prestigious events and venues across the capital and to take music into the wider community.

06 **ACCESS WORLD-CLASS FACILITIES**

In recent years we have transformed and expanded our campus to provide you with world-class facilities, from magnificent performance spaces to state-of-the-art accommodation.

07 **IMMERSE YOURSELF IN OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

With students from more than 60 countries, the RCM is a global community in the heart of London. Our teaching staff, too, represent the best of international talent, creating a friendly, exciting and diverse hub of music-making and allowing you to build friendships with musicians from around the world.

08 **EXPERIENCE DIGITAL INNOVATION**

Our new virtual learning environment, cutting-edge research and innovative facilities make the RCM a world-leader in the use of digital technologies.

09 **TAILOR YOUR STUDIES**

We are the only UK conservatoire to award our own degrees right up to doctoral level, meaning you can create a bespoke course to suit your aspirations.

10 **ENGAGE WITH WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH**

The RCM is internationally renowned for its thriving research community, which informs our teaching and can help you develop fully as an artist.

WELCOME

Founded in 1882 by the future King Edward VII, the Royal College of Music is one of the world's greatest conservatoires. We are proud to be ranked the top conservatoire for performing arts in the UK for four consecutive years in the QS World University Rankings 2016–19. For more than 135 years, we have trained gifted musicians from across the globe for international careers. At the RCM you can follow in the footsteps of these performers, conductors and composers.



As an RCM musician you will benefit from a huge number of performance opportunities. We hold more than 500 events a year in our magnificent performance spaces and in venues across London, including orchestral concerts, opera, chamber music and works by our very own composers.

The RCM encourages a journey of self-discovery, where you are mentored and supported by professors and professional staff at the international cutting-edge of research and innovation. In 2017 the RCM was rated gold for its outstanding teaching and learning provision for undergraduates in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

You will be encouraged to develop as an artist by exploring the research behind music in practice. The RCM is the perfect place to do this as we were named the London conservatoire with the highest percentage of world-leading research in the latest Research Excellence Framework in 2014.

We are proud of our heritage and seek to push the boundaries of music as leaders in digital innovation. The RCM's exceptional facilities, teaching staff and Creative Careers Centre will help you to become the future of music.

Professor Colin Lawson, Director
CBE, MA (Oxon), MA, PhD, DMus, FRCM,
FRNCM, FLCM, HonRAM



A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

At the Royal College of Music, we consider our international community to be our greatest asset. Over half our students come from outside the UK, and we currently have musicians from more than 60 different countries studying here. Our professors come from across the globe too, and we work in collaboration with institutions such as Princeton University and the Nanyang Academy to offer joint programmes of study.



We understand that moving to a new country can feel like a big step and we will do everything we can to make you feel at home. Our Registry and Student Services staff provide advice and support for international students across a range of practical subjects including visas, immigration and finance.

Your fellow students will also help you to settle in. There are plenty of opportunities to get to know each other with welcome events at our hall of residence and a lively and varied social calendar run by our Students' Union (SU). The SU is the social hub of the RCM and home to a diverse range of student-run societies, including a Jazz Society and Football Society.

The SU also represents the student voice at all levels, providing regular feedback to the College on every aspect of student life. Mental and physical wellbeing are a priority of the SU, which works closely with Student Services to ensure the correct support is there for every student throughout their studies.

Our graduates in more than 80 countries tell us how fondly they remember their time at the RCM. We believe that you won't find a more welcoming and inspiring place to study anywhere in the world.

Kevin Porter, Deputy Director
HonRCM

- **Apart from the undeniably superb teaching quality, I've had a lot of opportunities to perform and have attended faculty classes, masterclasses, lunchtime concerts and keyboard festivals. At first I found living in London challenging because the weather and culture are different to Asia, but now I love it.** ●

LiFei Weng, Bachelor of Music (Hons)



PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

At the Royal College of Music you will have access to unmatched performance opportunities. Every year we present more than 500 events, ranging from masterclasses and chamber performances to orchestral concerts and operas, giving you as much performance experience as possible.

- **The RCM has given me the chance to get involved in many composition workshops, competitions and masterclasses, as well as regular opportunities to work with performers.**

Carla G Ginjume, Master of Music in Composition



RCM ORCHESTRAS AND ENSEMBLES

We have many in-house ensembles covering a wide range of repertoire, from baroque to contemporary and from String Band to Big Band.

The RCM Symphony Orchestra is regularly joined by some of the world's greatest conductors and artists and performs at external venues such as the Royal Festival Hall. Recent visiting conductors and artists include Martin André, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Andrew Gourlay, Bernard Haitink, Vladimir Jurowski, Rafael Payare, Steve Reich, Jac van Steen, John Wilson and Thomas Zehetmair.

You can also explore a range of repertoire in our faculty ensembles, new music with RCM New Perspectives and our From the Soundhouse electronic music series, historical performance with the RCM Baroque Orchestra, or the world of jazz and swing with the RCM Swing and Big Bands.

Concerto opportunities are available and recent performances include Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto no 3 conducted by RCM alumnus Andrew Gourlay at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Szymanowski's Violin Concerto no 1, Chaminade's Flute Concerto, Ravel's Concerto for the Left Hand, Weber's Bassoon Concerto and Dutilleux's *Sur le même accord*.

CHAMBER MUSIC

You can perform solo and chamber works in our chamber music series, and all students are able to apply to take part in these lunchtime and rush-hour concerts. You can also perform at venues across London, including at the Royal Albert Hall, Cadogan Hall and Victoria and Albert Museum. Visiting ensembles, including the Harlem Quartet and Sacconi Quartet, provide further opportunities to play alongside professional performers.

OPERA PRODUCTIONS

The Royal College of Music Opera Studio presents three fully staged operas each year. Some of the world's most acclaimed directors, designers and choreographers join us for these productions, providing a professional experience within a supportive environment. In addition, every two years we present fully staged productions of mini-operas written by RCM composers.

COLLABORATIONS AND FESTIVALS

There are many collaborative projects at the RCM each year and our Great Exhibitionists series offers you the chance to devise your own ground-breaking events. With the full support and mentorship of the RCM, students collaborate to create and present unique projects that redefine what classical music means today. RCM musicians have also created music to accompany exhibitions at the Royal Academy of Arts and the National Gallery, and principal players from the Chamber Orchestra of Europe visit regularly to work and perform with students.

Every year we stage several festivals which showcase different faculties. Our annual Keyboard Festival features a live-streamed day of performances; our Festival of Percussion provides an opportunity to hear and perform with some of the greatest percussionists in the world; Super String Sunday explores sensational string music; and we celebrate historical performance practice with the RCM International Festival of Viols.

WATCH ONLINE

Many RCM concerts are streamed live on our website at www.rcm.ac.uk/live. It's a great way for family and friends outside London to experience your performances. You can watch previous performances on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/RCMLondon



WELCOME TO LONDON

London is one of the most international cities on earth, with communities from every corner of the globe. Studying at the Royal College of Music, in one of the world's leading cultural capitals, will offer you amazing opportunities.

- **London has always been the centre of musical performance. Moving here meant that I have been able to attend many concerts and explore the city's buzzing culture.** ●

Andrés Villalobos, Bachelor of Music (Hons)



Our students perform at major venues across the city, including the Royal Festival Hall, the Royal Albert Hall's Elgar Room, Kings Place, St Martin-in-the-Fields and St James's Piccadilly. There are also opportunities to play at churches, museums and galleries, such as the Royal Academy of Arts, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Science Museum.

In addition to the major London orchestras which present exciting programmes every year, the finest international musicians, conductors and ensembles regularly perform in beautiful concert halls across the city. London also offers world-class theatre, dance and art, unmissable historical attractions and world-famous museums and art galleries, many of which are free to visit.

STUDYING IN SOUTH KENSINGTON

The RCM is situated directly opposite the Royal Albert Hall in one of London's most attractive, prestigious and vibrant areas – South Kensington.

The RCM sits within the heart of the Exhibition Road Cultural Quarter, London's premier hub of cultural activity. We are just ten minutes' walk from South Kensington underground station, allowing you to easily explore everything this vibrant area has to offer, including:

- Imperial College London, which has one of the largest and most active student bodies in the capital
- The Royal Albert Hall, home of the BBC Proms
- Three of the UK's biggest museums: the Science Museum, the Natural History Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum
- Hyde Park, one of the most attractive green spaces in London
- The Royal College of Art
- The Goethe-Institut, Institut français and Ismaili Centre



FIND OUT MORE

www.rcm.ac.uk/location

OUR CAMPUS & FACILITIES

The Royal College of Music's resources are internationally renowned, and we are continually investing in our facilities to enhance and support your learning.

WORLD-CLASS STAGES

The RCM has three fantastic large performance spaces. The Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall is the primary rehearsal and concert venue for RCM orchestras and large ensembles, while our new Performance Hall will house a vibrant series of public concerts. The Britten Theatre with orchestra pit, meanwhile, is one of London's best-loved opera stages.

For chamber and solo performances, our new Performance Studio and the Parry Rooms, which overlook the Royal Albert Hall, will provide more intimate venues for rehearsals, masterclasses, concerts, community workshops, exhibitions and collaborative music-making of all kinds.

To find out more about our new facilities, please visit www.rcm.ac.uk/facilities

TEACHING AND PRACTICE

Our campus has a number of sound-proofed Amadeus music pods for private practice. We also have new dressing rooms for opera productions, in-house instrument surgeries including luthier services and resident piano technicians, instrument storage and dual purpose practice and teaching spaces with audio visual equipment.

Our purpose-built percussion suite opened in 2015 and features spaces dedicated to specific instruments, such as timpani and marimba, as well as a multi-percussion room, a large main space for masterclasses and a bespoke studio room for recording.

DIGITAL SUPPORT

Our highly skilled technology team provides a range of IT support services and is constantly improving and developing the technology available to support your studies. Your learning is further supported by learn.rcm, the RCM's online learning platform, which can be accessed from any online device, anywhere in the world. We also host collaborative masterclasses, lectures and performances with partners around the world using high-quality video conferencing.

RCMSTREAM

Many RCM concerts and events are professionally filmed or recorded. As an RCM student, you can watch back performances, recorded lessons and faculty events on our online internal archive, RCMStream. This valuable teaching aid lets you analyse and learn from your performances.

RCM STUDIOS

Our audio, video and composition technology facilities enable performers and composers to work in professional studio conditions. Students can book the studio, with a professional engineer, for a small fee to make recordings and videos for audition submissions, self-promotion and other purposes.



LEARNING & DISCOVERY

By coming to the Royal College of Music, you become part of a continually unfolding story of success. For more than 135 years our students have gone on to international stardom, so at the RCM you can enjoy treading in the footsteps of the world's leading composers, conductors, singers and instrumentalists.





INTERNATIONALLY RESPECTED DEGREES

At the RCM you can create a course to fit your individual professional aspirations. As you progress, you will be able to shape your degree to suit your preferences.

At the heart of your RCM experience is individual one-to-one lessons with your principal study faculty professor. All your tuition is delivered by our distinguished and experienced team of staff.

Alongside numerous internal performance activities such as masterclasses, orchestral projects and workshops, you will also be able to participate in faculty-based classes and activities. We also welcome regular international artists to teach and perform, including Emanuel Ax, Dmitri Bashkirov, Peter Donohoe, Angela Hewitt, Lang Lang, Maximiliano Martín, Murray Perahia, Sir Andrés Schiff, Kathryn Stott, Mitsuko Uchida and Mats Zetterqvist.

RCM LIBRARY

The RCM Library is run by a friendly and knowledgeable team who are here to support you during your course. Our collections cover a wealth of material including printed music and scores, books, music journals, recordings and online resources such as Oxford Music Online, medici.tv and Naxos Music Library.

You can find out more at
www.rcm.ac.uk/library

RCM MUSEUM

Following a major development, the Royal College of Music Museum will reopen with a purpose-built gallery and hands-on discovery area showcasing the RCM collections, which contain more than 15,000 instruments, images and sculptures. Students will also have access to a climate controlled performance space and dedicated research centre.

Many of the objects in our collection can also be explored online through a variety of resources, including Google Arts and Culture, via www.rcm.ac.uk/museum

CENTRE FOR PERFORMANCE SCIENCE

Our Centre for Performance Science is home to researchers investigating the psychological, developmental and social sciences of music, including music's impact on physical and mental health and wellbeing. Students also have access to the Centre for Performance Science's revolutionary computerised performance simulator, which helps musicians learn to deal with performance anxiety.

FIND OUT MORE

www.rcm.ac.uk/research
www.rcm.ac.uk/facilities

STUDENT SUPPORT

The Royal College of Music provides access to a wide range of support services including advice on financial matters, performance opportunities and Alexander Technique sessions.

Our Registry and Student Services staff provide advice and support for international students to help you prepare for your move to London and make the most of your time while you're here.

A confidential and impartial advice service is available to all students on a range of issues, including visas and immigration, opening bank accounts and financial concerns, musicians' injuries, private accommodation and more.

We have a range of activities and resources to support student health and wellbeing, including the Big White Wall, an online mental health support resource available 24/7. Our Counselling Service is also available if you experience personal issues during your time here.

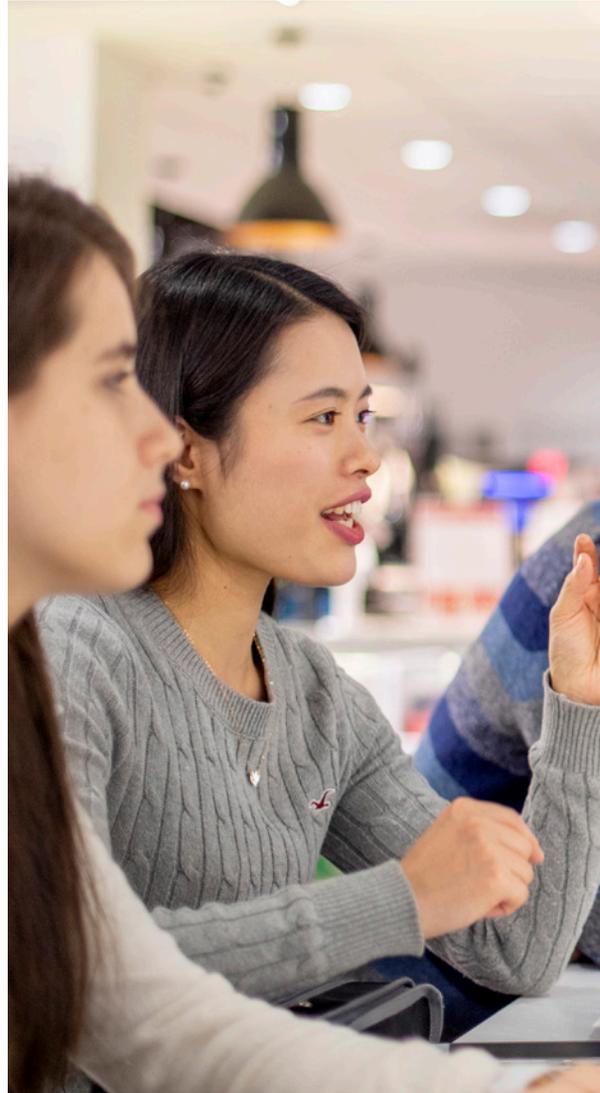
The Chaplaincy Centre at Imperial College London also welcomes all RCM students. Located just two minutes away from the RCM, it is a place of advice and information relating to issues of faith and spirituality.

The RCM is also linked with Imperial College Health Centre, just a few minutes' walk away. Eligible students living in the catchment area (including Prince Consort Village) can register as full NHS patients, while other students can use the Centre for urgent medical problems during the day. Find out more about healthcare in the UK at www.rcm.ac.uk/international

CONTACT STUDENT SERVICES

To arrange a confidential discussion please email studentservices@rcm.ac.uk

Our international support staff are available to help if you have any questions about studying at the RCM and life at the College. Contact them at international@rcm.ac.uk



STUDENTS WITH 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. To find out more visit www.rcm.ac.uk/disabilities

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Royal College of Music is committed to accepting the best students from around the world. Any student who auditions in person for a place on a performance or composition programme will automatically be considered for a scholarship or study award. In 2018/19, more than 60% of our students received financial support during their studies.



FIND OUT MORE

www.rcm.ac.uk/studentsupport

ACCOMMODATION

The Royal College of Music's hall of residence, Prince Consort Village, provides high-quality accommodation including studio apartments, en-suite rooms and standard rooms.



FACILITIES

Prince Consort Village is fully equipped and specially designed for RCM students, with acoustically treated bedrooms allowing you to practise at home. Amenities include: 23 dedicated practice rooms available 24/7, a film room, open mic space, high speed Wi-Fi, laundry, reception, gym, bicycle storage and indoor and outdoor communal spaces.

SUPPORT

The accommodation is staffed 24 hours a day and the residence manager and in-house team are dedicated to the wellbeing of residents.

LOCATION

Located in leafy south-west London, Prince Consort Village is within easy travelling distance of the RCM via London Underground from Ravenscourt Park to South Kensington.

The accommodation is in an ideal location, close to the greenery of Ravenscourt Park as well as many local shops, cafes and amenities. Shepherd's Bush and Notting Hill, renowned for a fantastic selection of shops, cinemas and restaurants, are also nearby.

TRANSPORT

London Underground stations Ravenscourt Park (District Line), Goldhawk Road (Circle Line) and Shepherd's Bush (Central Line) are all a short walk away. There is also a bus stop conveniently located outside the hall of residence which provides connections to the areas of Hammersmith and Shepherd's Bush.



FIND OUT MORE

www.rcm.ac.uk/accommodation



PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE

The Royal College of Music will help you to prepare for a successful career in the profession of your choice, with advice, support and access to a range of job opportunities.



MAKE INDUSTRY CONTACTS

London is one of the world's major classical music centres and the RCM is at the heart of an extraordinary professional network. You will find that agents, publishers and bookers attend RCM events.

For orchestral musicians, we offer side-by-side 'sit-in' schemes with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and English National Opera Orchestra. Composers participate in innovative collaborative projects and hear performances of their works in some of London's most prestigious venues and our singers get to cover roles for English Touring Opera, with whom we enjoy a close relationship. These schemes offer selected students the chance to sit in on professional rehearsals and gain invaluable experience.

FIND OUT MORE

www.rcm.ac.uk/creativecareers

THE RCM CREATIVE CAREERS CENTRE OFFERS:

- Extensive performance opportunities in and around London
- One-to-one career sessions with members of the team and industry specialists
- Resources, lectures and seminars on how to build a successful career
- Guidance on self-management and self-employment, including finance
- Careers workshops and special events
- Weekly jobs e-bulletins
- A private teaching service, matching members of the public with RCM students able to teach

You can use these services from the first day of your course to develop an outstanding wealth of experience which will help shape your future career. The RCM Creative Careers Service also provides advice and services to RCM alumni for five years after graduation.

EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

The RCM Sparks programme is an exciting way to gain experience in leading workshops, develop new skills and share your passion for music with the wider community.

RCM Sparks offers workshops and courses for families and young people, concerts for schools and bespoke projects in partnership with a wide range of arts organisations and charities.

You can get involved and:

- Take part in specially tailored music education training
- Build experience for your CV
- Make useful industry contacts by working with music hubs, orchestras, venues, schools, charities and arts organisations
- Harness the expertise of a wide range of inspiring professionals such as renowned workshop leaders and composers
- Share ideas and passions with other musicians

FIND OUT MORE

www.rcm.ac.uk/sparks



FIND OUT MORE

You can find out a lot more about studying at the Royal College of Music on our website at www.rcm.ac.uk

Keep up to date with the RCM online at

-  facebook.com/royalcollegeofmusic
-  [@RCMLondon](https://twitter.com/RCMLondon)
-  youtube.com/RCMLondon
-  [@RCMLondon](https://instagram.com/RCMLondon)
-  [RCMLondon](https://weibo.com/RCMLondon)
-  weibo.com/RCMLondon

CONTACT US

If you have any questions, please contact international@rcm.ac.uk

HOW TO APPLY

The RCM holds auditions in London, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and the USA. For up-to-date details on how to apply, please visit www.rcm.ac.uk/apply and www.rcm.ac.uk/auditionlocations

APPLICANTS WITH DISABILITIES

The RCM welcomes applications from students with disabilities. If you would like to discuss your particular needs in confidence, you are welcome to contact our Student Services team at studentservices@rcm.ac.uk



OPEN DAYS

The RCM Open Day happens every year and you are very welcome to join us. It's a great way to experience what life at the RCM is like. For more information please visit www.rcm.ac.uk/openday

TOURS

If you can't come to our Open Day but you are in London at another time during the year, you may like to consider a tour.

Tours are held most weeks during term time and last about an hour. Tours must be booked in advance and there is no charge, but places are subject to availability.

To book a tour, please visit www.rcm.ac.uk/studenttours

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is fair and accurate at the time of going to print. Information on programmes, fees and services contained within this publication are subject to occasional changes, and no guarantee can be given that these will not be made following publication.

For the most up-to-date information on our programmes visit www.rcm.ac.uk

Any complaints concerning the fairness or accuracy of this publication should be addressed to prospectus@rcm.ac.uk

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