

Introduction to

# UCAS Conservatoires

Helping you apply to study at a UK conservatoire

## What are conservatoires?

Conservatoires are providers of performance-based higher education, including music, drama, screen and production courses. Their courses are very much based around individual tuition, practical training, and frequent opportunities to perform. Students come from all over the world, to gain performance skills they can use to succeed on international stages.

## What is UCAS Conservatoires?

It is the **application service** for performance-based courses at conservatoires in the UK – at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Through UCAS Conservatoires, you can apply for courses at the following conservatoires:

- Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- Leeds College of Music
- Royal Academy of Music
- Royal College of Music
- Royal Northern College of Music
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
- Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

## Why study in the UK?


The UK is full of different cultures, historical landmarks, and amazing events to keep you entertained.

- There's a mix of cosmopolitan cities and countryside villages throughout the four regions of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- You'll find widely varied cuisine, strong transport links, famous music festivals, and sporting championships.

## How to apply

There are four simple steps to applying through UCAS Conservatoires. Steps 1, 2 and 3 are completed through the UCAS Conservatoires website – [www.ucas.com/conservatoires](http://www.ucas.com/conservatoires) – which also has information on the arrangements you need to make for step 4.





## Step 1 – choosing courses

- Research courses using our [search tool](#). You can refine your search and filter by level, discipline, location, and more...
- Visit [www.ucas.com/conservatoires/courses](http://www.ucas.com/conservatoires/courses) for help with how to choose the right course for you.
- When you find a course you like, check the minimum entry qualifications and English language requirements – take a look at the conservatoires' websites for further information.

## Step 2 – applying

Start your application by registering online at [www.ucas.com/conservatoires/apply](http://www.ucas.com/conservatoires/apply).

You can apply from mid-July the year before a conservatoire course starts. Application deadlines vary, depending on what courses you apply for:

- **2 October**, 18:00 (UK time) – for music courses
- **15 January**, 18:00 (UK time) – for most undergraduate dance, drama, or screen production courses

However, there are some exceptions for certain audition locations or postgraduate courses, and many conservatoires will continue to accept applications from international students until later in the year. Contact the conservatoire **before** you apply, to check they will consider your application.

There are eight sections of the application to fill in:

1. **Personal details** – so we can contact you and let you know about the replies your chosen conservatoires have given.
2. **Further details** – such as your nationality, and how you expect to pay for your tuition fees. You'll be able to enter your passport number as well, which will help if you need to arrange a student visa.
3. **Choices** – you can apply for up to six separate courses. You only need to apply to the highest level of course you are interested in, and there is no need to apply for more than one course at any particular conservatoire. If you are not sure which level of course you should apply for, contact the conservatoire to discuss your options.
4. **Education** – details of the schools and colleges you have most recently attended, or are still attending.
5. **Qualifications** – a list of current and pending qualifications.
6. **Personal statement** – an important part of the application to show a conservatoire why you would be a great fit for their course.
7. **References** – two letters of recommendation from teachers, advisers, or professionals; one who knows you academically, and another who knows your practical skills and commitment to music, dance, drama, production, or screen as a profession.
8. **Pay application and assessment fees** – there's an application fee of £25 (for 2018 entry) and most courses will require you to attend an audition or interview, or send a recording or portfolio, fees vary. Our search tool at [digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search) shows the assessment fee information for each course and location.

## What happens after I have completed and sent my application?

Once your application has been processed, we'll send you a welcome email containing your Personal ID, which you'll use to log in to Track – our online system, where you can see how your application is progressing. Conservatoires can access it online. You'll then have to wait for responses from the conservatoires you've applied to. Conservatoires will normally invite you to attend an audition or interview, or ask you to send a portfolio of your work.

Whenever there's an update to your application, we'll email you.



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## Step 3 – auditioning and interviews

### What does an audition or interview involve?

Conservatoires will let you know what you should prepare for an audition or interview. There are audition locations around the world, but if you can't attend any, you might be able to send in a video or recording instead.

- **Music performers** normally play two or more contrasting pieces in a live audition.
- **Musicians** may be asked to play or sing scales, read or sing at sight, take an aural test, or have an interview.
- **Composers** are often asked to submit a portfolio or some other evidence of practical ability, or are invited to an interview.
- **Dance and drama applicants** may be asked to prepare monologues, a performance piece, participate in a dance class, sing, sight-read text, or improvise.
- **Drama production applicants** may be given set tasks prior to the interview, where you will then discuss the tasks, your understanding of the course, and your career aspirations, amongst other things.

See our handy document 'Making the most of your audition' on our website at [www.ucas.com/conservatoires/audition-tips](http://www.ucas.com/conservatoires/audition-tips) to find out more information on how to prepare for your audition.

## What happens after the audition or interview?

After you've attended an audition or interview, conservatoires can make different types of offers, which will be shown in Track. Here, you can reply to offers and make amendments, like updating your email address.

Details of how, and when to reply to your offers, can be found on our website: [www.ucas.com/conservatoires/replying](http://www.ucas.com/conservatoires/replying).

## Step 4 – making arrangements to study

In order to study in the UK, you'll need to make certain arrangements. These are the things you should be thinking about:

### Visas

We don't give advice on visas, but you may require one.

- Find out whether you need a visa at [www.gov.uk/visas-immigration](http://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration).
- Part of the visa application process often includes taking an English language test – find out more below.
- There will be a visa application fee to pay, and you may need to pay a healthcare surcharge as part of your application.

### English language tests

- The UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) website has a list of English language tests approved for immigration purposes – [www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/knowledge-of-english](http://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/knowledge-of-english).
- Individual conservatoires might also have their own language requirements if English isn't your native language – these requirements may be part of a conditional offer to study. Contact the conservatoire for more details.
- For any students who are worried about the level of English language required, many conservatoires offer language courses before the beginning of the main course, to help you get to the right level. Contact the conservatoire for more details. These are often called 'pre-sessional' English courses.

### Living costs

Before you decide which conservatoire to attend, you need to be absolutely certain that you can pay for:

- the full cost of your tuition fees (see conservatoires' websites for their fees)
- everyday living expenses
- music
- instruments or costumes
- travel

For help working out the full cost of studying in the UK:

- contact the international offices at the conservatoires
- contact your local British Council office – [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)
- use the Brightside International Student Calculator at [international.studentcalculator.org](http://international.studentcalculator.org)

### Financial support

- Funds may be available from the Government for UK and EU students – find out more at [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk).
- Scholarship and bursary information can be found at the British Council's Education UK site – [www.educationuk.org/global/articles/scholarships-financial-support](http://www.educationuk.org/global/articles/scholarships-financial-support).

## Further help and support

We're here to answer your questions about the application process.

- Visit [www.ucas.com/conservatoires](http://www.ucas.com/conservatoires) to find out all you need to know about applying.
- Call us on +44 330 3330 232 to speak to one of our trained advisers between 08:30–18:00 (UK time), Monday to Friday. If you are calling from the UK, please use 0371 468 0 470.

### Find us on social media

- Like the UCAS Facebook page, to see what other applicants are asking – [www.facebook.com/ucasonline](http://www.facebook.com/ucasonline).
- Follow us on Twitter to find out about the latest news, updates, competitions, and reminders – [www.twitter.com/ucas\\_online](http://www.twitter.com/ucas_online).

### Read UCAS blogs

- Read blogs from other international students – [www.ucas.com/connect/blogs](http://www.ucas.com/connect/blogs).

### Watch our videos

- Watch and share our videos and 'How to' guides – [www.ucas.com/connect/videos](http://www.ucas.com/connect/videos).
- Watch video guides to find out what other international students think – [www.youtube.com/ucasonline](http://www.youtube.com/ucasonline).

### Other sources of information

- The British Council's Education UK website has lots of information to help you prepare for and enjoy your UK experience, including practical advice on visas, travel, and finance – [www.educationuk.org](http://www.educationuk.org).
- The UK Council for International Student Affairs has lots of information for you, on many topics, from immigration advice and English language tests, to scholarships and accommodation – [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk).
- Use the Unistats website to see student satisfaction ratings, and to compare subjects, universities, and colleges – [unistats.direct.gov.uk](http://unistats.direct.gov.uk).

## UCAS Conservatoires

### Key

- 1 Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- 2 Leeds College of Music
- 3 Royal Academy of Music
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