



Leeds Conservatoire

Portfolio Requirements

2026 Entry

MA Music (Jazz)

Introduction

Auditionees for MA Music (Jazz) may request to complete their audition process by submitting audition materials online, or by attending an in-person audition day in Leeds (subject to availability of audition dates.)

We may not always be able to facilitate an in-person audition requesting depending on the time of year. If no in-person auditions are available, we will ask you to submit materials online.

Once you have submitted your application, if you meet or are likely to meet our entry requirements, we will contact you with further details of how to submit your audition materials online through our application system, Acceptd, and to request an in-person audition if applicable.

Online Portfolio Submissions

You will be required to submit all of the following materials for assessment:

Performance of two standards/jazz compositions of the applicant's choice

- The performance must include both the melody and a section of improvisation (no more than 2 choruses)
- The performance can be recorded with backing track or live accompaniment

Performance of an entirely improvised piece of music

- The performance must be no more than 4 minutes long

Interview

Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel)

- Describe your journey into jazz and improvised music, including previous study
- Talk about your experiences as a jazz performer, outlining any key projects
- Tell us about your influences, especially the artists you have studied/listened to the most
- Why do you want to come and study at Leeds Conservatoire?

Depending on the outcome of your portfolio, you may be contacted by a member of the academic team to schedule an additional Zoom interview where you will be asked a series of short questions exploring your interest, experience and knowledge of Jazz Music, as well as discussing your application and the programme.

Applicants who receive offers and have further questions about the programme can request an online meeting with the Jazz team or in-person visit.

In-Person Auditions

In person auditions take place at Leeds Conservatoire.

You will have 30 minutes to warm-up followed by your 30 minute audition. During the audition, you will play with a Leeds Conservatoire ensemble or accompanist if possible, however, we cannot guarantee this. Therefore, please come prepared to perform solo or with backing tracks.

If we can provide accompaniment, there will be no warm up time with the ensemble however there is a short amount of time allocated in each audition to communicate common instructions to the ensemble. The band is experienced and will be quick to understand any instructions. However, the panel are looking to see you perform in an organic setting, allowing the music to unfold naturally.

Performance

You may choose ONE of the following two options:

A) Perform two Jazz standards of your choice, demonstrating your skills in Jazz improvisation. Please do not overcomplicate the arrangements – head in/solo/head out is appropriate.

OR

B) Perform one Jazz standard and one solo piece of your choice. 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.

- You will be asked to improvise over a given chord progression at sight in an ensemble setting.
- You will be asked to sight-read a short piece of music, which will be given to you during the audition. Don't worry, we understand that this isn't everyone's strength.
- We might ask you to play or sing some scales or technical exercises as appropriate to your instrument and level.

Interview

You will have a short interview, where we will explore your general musical knowledge and interests.

