



# Leeds Conservatoire

## Portfolio Requirements

### 2023 Entry

BA (Hons) Music (Production)

BA (Hons) Music (Production) with Foundation Year

BA (Hons) Music (Electronic Music Production)

BA (Hons) Music (Electronic Music Production) with Foundation Year

BA (Hons) Music (Production with Classical)

BA (Hons) Music (Production with Folk, Roots and Blues)

BA (Hons) Music (Production with Jazz)

BA (Hons) Music (Production with Popular)

## BA (Hons) Music (Production) 3yr / 4yr route with Foundation Year

## BA (Hons) Music (Electronic Music Production) 3yr / 4yr route with Foundation Year

### Introduction

Applicants for BA (Hons) Music (Production) or BA (Hons) Music (Electronic Music Production) single pathway course or a combined course with Production major will not normally be required to attend an interview at the conservatoire.

Instead you will be asked to submit a portfolio of work for our course team to assess through our application system Acceptd. The following guide will detail what you need to prepare, and once you have applied we will send you full instructions on how to submit materials and what your deadline to submit is.

If we are not able to make a decision based on your portfolio, we may invite you for a video / online interview.

If you have applied for both the three-year route and four-year route including foundation year then you will just make ONE audition submission and we will assess your suitability for both routes.

Similarly if you have applied for both Music Production and Electronic Music Production you will only be required to submit one portfolio of work and we will assess your suitability for both courses.

### Portfolio Submission

Please upload the following material for assessment:

1. A portfolio of no longer than 10 minutes that includes a variety of material, including at least one of your own original compositions (this can be coursework from your studies or any other material you have composed or produced).
2. A short written document or video of yourself answering the following questions:
  - Can you provide details about your Music Production experience over the past 12 months?
  - What DAW software are you familiar with? What is your level of experience with it?
  - How much studio/recording experience have you had as a producer? Please provide specific details about the equipment you have used.
  - What experience if any do you have playing an instrument/music (including production related performance, e.g. live sets)?
  - Please can you tell us about a producer's work that you admire or that has influenced your own work?

### Combined Courses

If you have applied for a combined course you will be asked to submit your major study (in this case Production) portfolio and your minor study portfolio at the same time.

# BA (Hons) Music (Production with Classical)

In addition to the materials required for BA (Hons) Music (Production), please provide the following:

**1. Instrumentalist / Singer applicants:** Performances of TWO pieces that are contrasting in style and that demonstrate your musical strengths.

Aim to show us what you can do technically and expressively. The pieces should be of Grade 8 standard and contrasting in style. Please introduce each piece by stating the title and composer.

One of your pieces should be accompanied by piano (excepting piano, guitar, harp and percussion). Where this is not possible passages of accompaniment lasting more than two bars should be cut, taking a short break rather than counting all your bars' rests.

Percussion applicants: Submit three pieces – one each for tuned percussion, snare drum and timpani

Please ensure there is a clear view of your hands and arms.

Composition applicants: Submit a portfolio of three scores (in PDF format) and, where possible, recordings (e.g. MP3/video/a document containing audio links).

Each piece should be a single document (please do not send each page of your score separately).

**2. Music Theory:** To help us assess your music theory knowledge, submit a video recording of you responding to the following question:

- Identify and describe THREE interesting features of one of your audition pieces (these can be harmonic, rhythmic, melodic, or any other aspect that interests you).

**3. Interview for Instrumentalists / Singers:** Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel).

- Why are you interested in studying at Leeds Conservatoire? What do you believe you would bring to the conservatoire?
- What sort of repertoire do you like playing? Are there any historical periods or styles that you feel suited to and why?
- What do you feel are your strengths as a player/singer? Which aspects would you like to improve most?
- Have you had any experience of chamber music, such as duo, trio, quartet or other smaller ensemble?

**Interview for Composers:** Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel).

- Why are you interested in studying at Leeds Conservatoire? What do you believe you would bring to the conservatoire?
- Which composers do you most admire and why? How do they influence your writing?
- What do you feel are your strengths as a composer? Which aspects would you like to improve most?
- Tell us about the software that you use to score your music. What do you like and dislike about it?
- Tell us about any other significant experiences as a musician. Do you also perform?

# BA (Hons) Music (Production with Jazz)

In addition to the materials required for BA (Hons) Music (Production), please provide the following:

## Performers:

1. You may choose one of the following two options:

b. Perform two Jazz standards chosen from the repertoire list below (with either a playalong or a live ensemble of your choosing), demonstrating your skills in Jazz improvisation and your ability to play with an ensemble

## OR

c. Perform one Jazz standard (with either a playalong or a live ensemble of your choosing) from the repertoire list below and one solo piece. 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 playalong.

### Repertoire List

A Child Is Born - Thad Jones

All The Things You Are - Kern/Hammerstein

Autumn Leaves - Kosma/Mercer

Beautiful Love - Young/King/Alstyne/Gillespie

Blue Bossa - Kenny Dorham

Just Friends - Lewis/Klemmer

Ladybird - Tadd Dameron

Night and Day - Cole Porter

Satin Doll - Ellington/Strayhorn/Mercer

Softly As In a Morning Sunrise - Hammerstein/Romberg

## 2. Reading Test:

This should be performed on your principal instrument and submitted as a separate video file. This performance is unaccompanied. There is a specific piece for each instrument which you can download [here: www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/jazz-reading-test](http://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/jazz-reading-test)

## Composers

A portfolio of at least two of your own contrasting compositions (or part thereof) – with a maximum length of 10 minutes in total. These should be submitted as both audio files (which can be extracted from notation software) and a PDF of the notation. We may then arrange to contact you for a short interview about your compositions, this would be either by telephone or online video call.

# BA (Hons) Music (Production with Popular)

In addition to the materials required for BA (Hons) Music (Production), please provide the following:

1. Performers (excluding drummers): Submit two pieces you have selected to demonstrate your musical strengths and identity. Ensure that the pieces chosen demonstrate both your technical abilities on your instrument and your identity and character as a popular musician.

These two pieces can be submitted in either of the following orientations: a) 1 audio recording and 1 video performance; or, b) 2 video performances.

- You may play original pieces and/or covers. If you perform solely covers at least one of the pieces should be your own creative version that differs from the original version.
- You may accompany yourself on another instrument (primarily in the case of vocal auditions), play unaccompanied or use a backing track or band for any/all of your audition pieces.

Drummers Only: You should submit only one full length audition piece of your choosing and a video in which you perform three x 16 bar demonstrations of popular rhythm styles (hip hop, breakbeats, drum-and-bass, reggae, funk, blues shuffle, disco, etc.). You may choose the rhythm styles to perform, though they should include some demonstration of fill work and/or improvisation within the style.

## 2. Music Theory

Please perform a brief spoken analysis of one of your audition pieces (no longer than five minutes), considering at least three of the following components that you feel are most interesting and relevant. You may also demonstrate aspects of this analysis on your instrument as is relevant and helpful.

- Harmony
- Rhythm
- Melody
- Structure
- Texture
- Timbre/tone
- Instrumentation
- Lyrics

## 3. Interview:

Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel). We want to get to know you and learn about your experience and knowledge, so make sure you give plenty of detail.

- Why do you want to study at Leeds Conservatoire?
- Who influences you as a popular musician and why?
- What music are you currently listening to and why?
- Please tell us about your performance experience (where, when, with whom, what type of performances/bands, studio/live performance, etc.)
- What challenges do popular musicians face today?

## BA (Hons) Music (Production with Folk, Roots and Blues)

In addition to the materials required for BA (Hons) Music (Production), please provide the following:

### Performers

A performance of two contrasting pieces of your choice, that may be any combination of the following:

- Traditional songs or pieces performed in traditional style.
- Traditional songs or pieces performed in an original style/arrangement.
- Original songs or pieces that you have written.

The two pieces should be video recordings and last no longer than 10 minutes in total.

### Composers/Songwriters/Arrangers

A portfolio of at least **TWO** of your own contrasting pieces (or part thereof) – with a maximum length of 10 minutes in total. We may then arrange to contact you for a short interview about your compositions, this would be either by telephone or online video call.

