



Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2025 Entry

BA (Hons) Music (Popular)

BA (Hons) Music (Popular with Jazz)

BA (Hons) Music (Popular with Production)

BA (Hons) Music (Popular) with Foundation Year

Introduction - Application Process

Once you have submitted your application to the conservatoire via UCAS, if you meet or are likely to meet our minimum entry requirements, you will receive an email that will detail how to send your audition materials to us, or how to book an in person audition if applicable.

Once we have made our decision on your application we will update UCAS with our decision and you will be notified via UCAS Hub.

Applicants have the option to audition online via portfolio submission or in person at an audition on our campus.

This guide sets out what you will need to prepare and / or submit when auditioning for our BA (Hons) Music (Popular) courses at Leeds Conservatoire.

Audition, Interview and Portfolio Requirements

Your audition materials will be slightly different depending on which course(s) you are applying for.

Please ensure therefore that you look at all the requirements for the correct course(s) so you know the expectations for each.

Please note that for Popular Major courses you can only audition on one principal instrument (although you may self accompany on another instrument if you wish.) Please ensure it is clear which is your principal instrument that you are auditioning with.

- **Single pathway courses e.g. BA (Hons) Music (Popular).**

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.

- **Combined pathway courses e.g. BA (Hons) Music (Popular with Jazz).**

Please see the following pages for full details of what you will need to prepare for audition.

IN PERSON AUDITION

Your audition will consist of 30 minutes warm up time with your instrument followed by a 30 minute individual audition.

We are looking for evidence of individual musical skills, creativity and enthusiasm for the subject.

1. Performers (except drummers): You will be asked to play two pieces you have selected to demonstrate your musical strengths and identity

- You may play original pieces or covers but covers should ideally be interpretative and not identical copies (i.e. you should put your own stamp on them).
- You may accompany yourself, play unaccompanied or use a backing track for any/all of your audition pieces. Please note: you are unable to bring along any band members or accompanists.

2. Drummers only: You will be required to perform one prepared piece with a play-along track.

- In addition, you will need to be prepared to improvise various common beats and fills as instructed in the audition, e.g. reggae, drum-and-bass, funk, blues shuffle, disco, etc.
- You may be asked to play technical exercises during the audition. This may include rudiments and standard patterns and techniques

3. 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. You will not be required to sightread or read from any notation. This is a chance for us to get to know a bit more about the language and theoretical understanding you have at this stage.

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

4. Interview

We will also ask you some questions about yourself as a performer, your influences, your performance experience and your understanding of the music industry.

Additional audition information:

- If you compose as well, you may wish to bring some examples to play for the panel as this may come up in conversation.
- A mini jack will be provided in the audition room for playing backing tracks through a PA. A member of staff will help you set this up.
- The audition room will contain a piano, a selection of amps, a drum kit and PA with microphone which you will be able to use. If you have any additional technical set up requests please email them to admissions@lcm.ac.uk with at least one week's notice of your audition.

ONLINE AUDITION SUBMISSIONS VIA ACCEPTD

BA (Hons) Music (Popular)

BA (Hons) Music (Popular) with Foundation Year

Please submit the following items for assessment:

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. If any video includes more than one performer, please make it clear which one is you.

- 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 (Popular with Jazz)

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

Performers:

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

a. 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

b. 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)

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

- Why do you want to study at Leeds Conservatoire?
- Who are your influences as a performer/producer/composer and why?
- What music are you currently listening to and why?
- Why should we offer you a place?
- What can you bring to the conservatoire?
- Give us an example of something you have found particularly challenging in your studies and how you have met the challenge.
- What do you want to do once you've finished your studies?

Composers:

1. If you are applying as a composer, you will need to submit a portfolio of at least two of your own contrasting compositions (or part thereof) - maximum length 10 minutes in total. We may then arrange to contact you for a short interview over the phone about your compositions.

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

- Why do you want to study at Leeds Conservatoire?
- Who are your influences as a performer/producer/composer and why?
- What music are you currently listening to and why?
- Why should we offer you a place?
- What can you bring to the conservatoire?
- Give us an example of something you have found particularly challenging in your studies and how you have met the challenge.
- What do you want to do once you've finished your studies?

BA (Hons) Music (Popular with Production)

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

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 Q&A video of yourself answering the following questions. (The submitted video answering these questions should be formatted and submitted as .avi or .mpeg4):

- 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 experience have you had using music production software alongside your music performance experience?
- Please can you tell us about a producer's work that you admire or that has influenced your own work?

