



Leeds Conservatoire

Portfolio Requirements

2025 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 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.

Portfolio Submission

BA (Hons) Music (Production) 3yr/4yr with Foundation year

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 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 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?

Portfolio Submission

BA (Hons) Music (Electronic Music Production) 3yr/4yr with Foundation year

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 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 SDW software are you familiar with? What is your level of experience with it?
- How much experience have you had as a producer/DJ? 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. Ableton or DJ live sets)?
- Please can you tell us about an electronic music 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 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)

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. Submit 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.

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 (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

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. 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

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?

