



Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2026 Entry

MA Directing

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The audition process is your opportunity to demonstrate your skill and passion for Theatre Directing, and is our opportunity to assess whether your skill and ambitions align with the programme. In particular, we are looking to understand the work you want to make, your skill in working with actors and experience collaborating with other storytellers.

We are proud to have removed all audition fees for our programmes at the conservatoire. If you have an interest in applying for our programmes, we don't want finances to be a barrier to you gaining access to our audition process.

STAGE 1: Online Portfolio Submission

We use an online system called Acceptd which you will need to use to upload your portfolio. Full details on how to access Acceptd will be sent to you following your application.

Personal Statement

Please submit a 500-word statement or a video recording of no more than four minutes about who you are and what you hope to achieve through this MA.

We are particularly interested in learning about what skills you wish to improve and the kinds of work you want to make, rather than your previous experiences.

Portfolio

Please upload evidence of your work that demonstrate your experience and ambitions as a Theatre Maker.

Your portfolio should include a one-page pitch document outlining a midscale production you would like to direct and why, plus a CV or Biography.

You may also have production shots, video links, marketing materials or reviews from previous work you wish to include.

Portfolio Guidance

- Pitch documents should be a single A4, with minimum size 12 font.
- Work can be submitted in any format; video, audio, pdfs, JPEGs etc.
- CV's should not be longer than two sides of A4. Bios maximum 300 words.
- Any video content should be no more than 8 minutes long.
- External links to video content can be saved on a document, if file size is a challenge.
- With each of these, please accompany them with a brief description of the piece and (where relevant) your role in it.
- You don't need to show all of your skill in Stage 1. A CV or bio and pitch document is fine.

STAGE 2: Working with Actors and Interview

You can choose whether to attend the second stage in person or online. Please let us know which when you confirm your attendance.

If you are successful in Stage 1 we will contact you to invite you to a Stage 2 audition, which will include a demonstration of your work with actors and an interview.

Working with Actors

We will ask you to work with an actor or actors, on an excerpt of text. You will be required to identify what you would like to bring out in the actors based on their first read/interpretation of the text and demonstrate your tactics in doing so. The actors will be our School of Drama undergraduate students or graduates.

If you are auditioning online then you will coach a solo actor as described above. The text will be provided prior to the interview.

Interview

In the interview we will ask questions about your work with the actors, portfolio submission and personal statement.

We will conclude the session with a chat about your needs and aims in applying for the programme and you will have a chance to ask any questions you may have.

FAQs:

What does the interview entail?

The interview is a brief opportunity for the programme team to get to know the person behind the personal statement and the work presented. It is a relaxed and informal discussion in which you will be asked questions about your interests, passions, experiences and you are given the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the programme, team or life at Leeds Conservatoire. Try not to overthink the interview or worry about giving the 'right' answer. The team genuinely want to know who you are and why you think you would benefit from training here at Leeds Conservatoire.

Do I need to have directed a production before?

It is not expected that applicants will have professional credits but directing experience in another setting is advantageous. This may be in a teaching, university, community or fringe setting for example. You may also be moving into directing having had experience in another art form, performance, writing or design as examples.

Will I receive feedback?

Unfortunately, due to the number of applicants for the MA programmes, we are unable to provide feedback for first stage applicants. At the second stage audition, applicants are able to discuss their suitability for the programme and feedback will be built into the interview.

