

Applying to study Music or Drama 2024

A quick guide

Do you want to go to University OR to a Conservatoire?

- Make sure that your son/daughter knows where they want to go. Universities and Conservatoires offer quite different experiences.
- Students may need higher grade requirements to go to university.
- Students **will have to audition** if you want to go to a conservatoire. You need to be *at least* Grade 8 standard for Music.

- Most universities offer a Music or Drama course of some kind. These are VERY varied and could allow you the option to specialise in a particular area
 - STUDENTS NEED TO DO THEIR RESEARCH. MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE APPLYING FOR THE RIGHT COURSE FOR THEM.
- Students can apply for both Conservatoire and University at the same time.

Applying to **university** – see SWCHS information

- Students do this through UCAS
- Students can apply to up to 5 different universities
- The deadline for **2024 is 31 January** - although we have an internal deadline of **October half term**
- Look carefully at individual courses. They can be very different. Your son/daughter need to know that the course is what **THEY** want. They may want more composing or more musical analysis. For Drama courses, some are more practical than others. Make sure that the course suits them.
- Look at what their usual offers are. **Don't apply for courses where you are unlikely to meet their requirements.**

UCAS/UCAS Conservatoires

- When applying to attend a conservatoire rather than a university there are some key differences.
 - You go on to the UCAS website but you will apply through UCAS Conservatoires
 - **The deadline for music applications is much earlier, usually 1st October – this year 2nd October. Please check for Drama applications as these vary between institutions.**

2024 Entry via UCAS Conservatoire

For 2024

Music

2 October 2023

Dance, Drama or Musical Theatre

31 January 2024

Entry Requirements - AUDITION

- The **entry requirements** are based more on your **audition** than your A level results. Check individual requirements of each Conservatoire. You will have to pay a fee to audition – this can be very expensive.
- The application fee was £27.00 for 2023 entry and you can make a maximum of six choices.

Cost

- Applying for Conservatoire can be **VERY** expensive.
- You will pay your £27 (2023) application fee but will also have to pay a fee for every AUDITION that you have.
- This can be as much as £100 for a Single Study Music (£160 Joint Study)
- So – applying to 5 conservatoires could cost you over £500. You may also have to factor in travelling costs.

Not all Drama schools and Music colleges are on UCAS Conservatoires

- In fact – most Drama schools are not on UCAS Conservatoires

Institutions on UCAS Conservatoires

- [Royal Birmingham Conservatoire](#)
- [Leeds Conservatoire](#) 
- [Royal Academy of Music](#) 
- [Royal College of Music](#) 
- [Royal Conservatoire of Scotland](#) 
- [Royal Northern College of Music](#) 
- [Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama](#) 
- [Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance](#) 

Other institutions...

- Are on UCAS but are not considered to be Conservatoires
 - Eg Rose Bruford
 - Royal Central School of Speech and Drama
 - Italia Conti – through the University of East London

Some institutions do not use UCAS/UCAS Conservatoire

- To apply for some Conservatoires you may need to apply directly to them.
- Examples of these include:
 - RADA
 - Guildhall School of Music and Drama

You must check each individual college for their requirements and their course fees – which can be higher than £9250

References for University

For university, this will be done by sixth form tutors at school using information from your children's teachers.

References for Conservatoire - Drama

- Please check each institution for their individual requirements – they can vary enormously
- Eg LAMDA

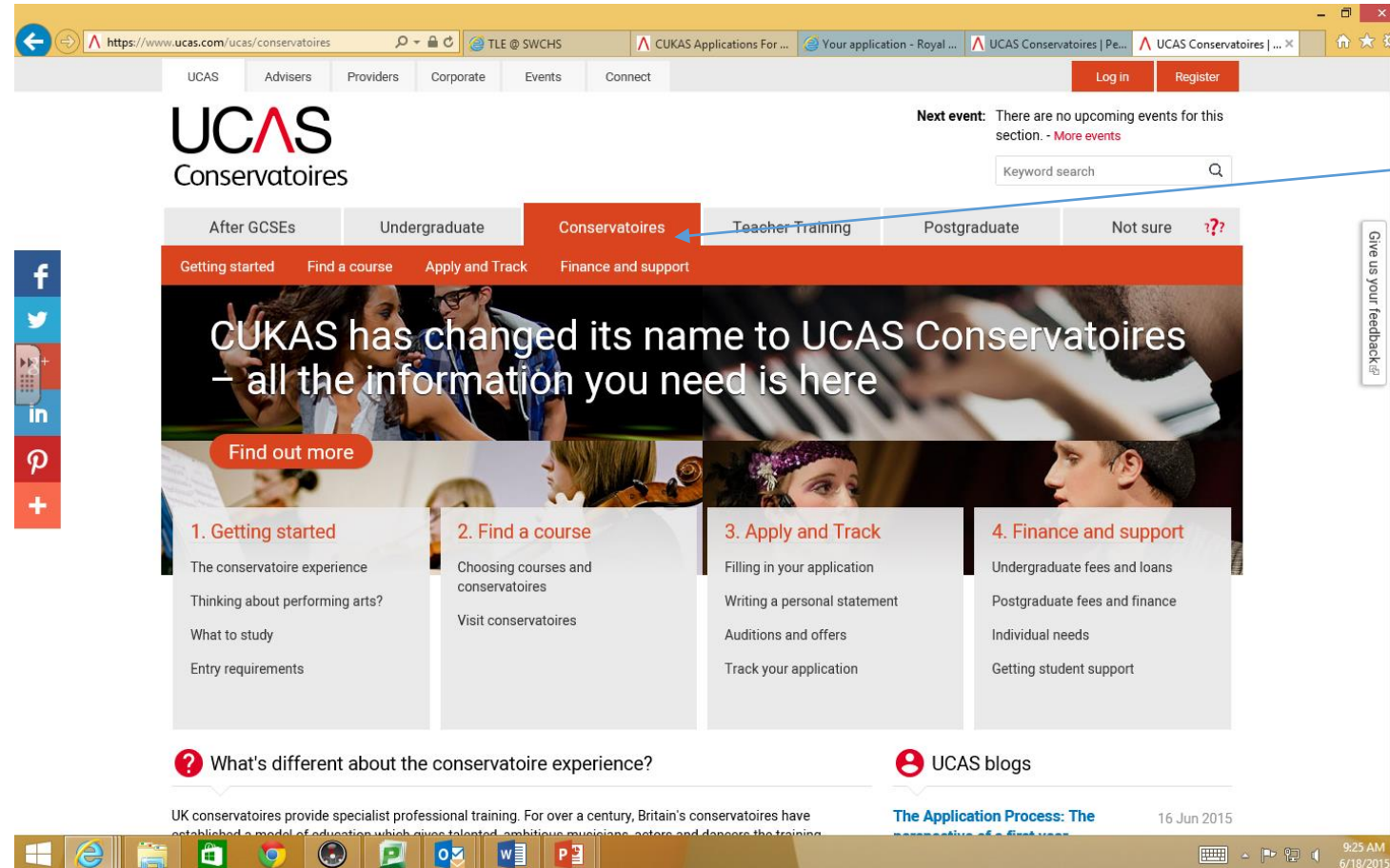
Please note: LAMDA does not require references as part of your application. If you are only applying to LAMDA, you can write “reference not required” in the UCAS application form text box. This also applies if the other institutions you are applying to are happy to consider your application without a reference.

References for Conservatoire - Music

Music Conservatoires will need **two** references

- one as an **academic reference** (this will be done in school by your tutor like the uni reference)
- one as a **practical reference** (usually your instrumental teacher or music teacher at school)
- When you have chosen your referees, enter their contact details in Apply.
- Then **print out or download** the two forms in the reference section of Apply. You can either post them or email them to your referees. If your references are being posted, give your referees stamped addressed envelopes for your chosen conservatoire(s).
- If you are making six choices, you will need 12 reference forms in total (six academic reference forms and six practical reference forms).
- Your referees need to complete their references and email or post them direct to your chosen conservatoire(s). This can be done after you have submitted your application.
- Read the advice about [references for conservatoires](#) on the UCAS website.

The UCAS/UCAS Conservatoires website is brilliant.



Click here

Do your research....

- Your children should be looking up lots of different courses at lots of different institutions. You will be surprised by the number of courses AND the huge variety that is on offer.
- Check out the entry requirements. They should not set their heart on something that is not achievable. They should talk to teachers – ask their advice.
- Individual music or drama teachers should be well placed to see if you son/daughter is looking at the right courses.

Use the *Search for Courses* tool

This is useful -
TIPS

Search for
courses

And this...
OPEN DAYS

The screenshot shows the UCAS Conservatoires website. The browser's address bar displays the URL <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/conservatoires/find-courses>. The website's navigation bar includes links for UCAS, Advisers, Providers, Corporate, Events, and Connect, along with 'Log in' and 'Register' buttons. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is titled 'Find a course' and includes a sub-header 'How to choose a course'. A sidebar on the left contains social media links for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Pinterest, along with a 'Follow us on Twitter' link. A vertical banner on the right side of the page reads 'Looking to study...'. The bottom of the page features a Windows taskbar with various application icons and a system clock showing 9:41 AM on 6/18/2015.

Annotations with blue arrows point to the following elements:

- 'This is useful - TIPS' points to the 'Find a course' section.
- 'Search for courses' points to the 'Search for courses' button in the 'How to choose a course' section.
- 'And this... OPEN DAYS' points to the 'Go to conservatoire open days' button in the 'How to choose a course' section.

Conservatoires - this is what they say about themselves...

- **What's different about the conservatoire experience?**
- *UK conservatoires provide specialist professional training. For over a century, Britain's conservatoires have established a model of education which gives talented, ambitious musicians, actors and dancers the training, freedom and encouragement to fulfil their creative and professional aspirations.*

Be prepared – the audition

Know the requirements

- If your son/daughter decide to apply for a Conservatoire place you will **have to** audition. You may also have to audition at university. Some do this – some don't.
- **Make sure you know what the requirements are. DO THIS NOW!** You know how long it takes to prepare a performance. Work with your instrumental teacher.
- The requirements can be VERY specific. Here are the requirements of the Royal Academy of Music for Violin for example:

Violin: Undergraduates

First movement (with cadenza) of a concerto by Haydn or Mozart and a contrasting piece. Before the audition date you will also receive a short technical study which you may be asked to perform.

If you are auditioning to become an undergraduate:

Musicianship and keyboard skills tests may be required.

These normally are a set of ear and keyboard tests of increasing difficulty. We regret we are unable to issue specimen tests. Please bring a short piano piece to demonstrate your level of keyboard skills, except if you are principal-study piano, organ or harpsichord.

Drama auditions

- Can be gruelling! Make sure that you know what to expect.
- Eg RADA

Auditions ^

The four audition stages

- Preliminary audition – November to April
- Recall audition – December to May
- Short workshop (three-hour session)
- Workshop day

What to do now...

- Lots of research. Use the UCAS website. Really work out where you want to go and what course you want to study.
- Speak to teachers – find out as much as you can.
- **Go to some Open Days – if this is available.** This helps you get a feel for the place. This is from RNCM....

<https://www.rncm.ac.uk/study-here/make-an-application/open-days/>

- Prepare for your audition. Ideally you will already be doing this now.
- Start to write your personal statement...

Personal Statement – this is what they say...

- Firstly, leave plenty of time to write it. You'll have up to 4,000 characters of text to show why you'd make a great student – so it might take a few redrafts until you're happy.
- Course descriptions mention the qualities, skills and experience the university/conservatoire would like you to have – take note of these to help you decide what to write about.
- Remember it's the same personal statement for all the courses and conservatoires you apply to. They'll be able to see where else you've applied, so explain why you've chosen those courses.
- Have a look at our personal statement mind map for more ideas, or use our personal statement worksheet to write down answers to these questions and more.

What to include....

- **What to write about**
- Why you are applying – your ambitions and what interests you about the subject, university or conservatoires and higher education.
- Your reasons for choosing the courses you have listed. Remember that each conservatoire will be able to see the other conservatoires and courses you've applied to.
- What interests you about your chosen study area (playing an instrument, singing, conducting, composing or another specialist area).
- Your experience within your chosen specialist area and in any other activity related to the course(s) for which you have applied. Masterclasses you have attended. Bands you have been in.
- What makes you suitable – membership of national/international orchestras, choirs or chamber groups (such as NYO, National Youth Theatre, Britten Sinfonia Academy) and any other relevant skills and achievements gained from education, work or other activities. Masterclasses you have attended. Performance experience. Teaching experience.

Use the UCAS/Conservatoire website...

There is lots of useful advice

The screenshot shows the UCAS Conservatoires website. The left sidebar contains a menu with items: Key dates, Filling in your application, Writing a personal statement (highlighted), References for conservatoires, Track your application, Auditions and offers, Replying to your offers, Making changes, Results, and FAQs. The main content area is titled 'How to write it' and includes a numbered list of four points: 1. Structure your info to reflect the skills and experience the conservatoires value most. 2. Write in an enthusiastic, concise and natural style – nothing too complex. 3. Try to stand out, but be careful with humour, quotes or anything unusual – just in case the admissions tutor doesn't have the same sense of humour as you. 4. Proofread aloud and get your teachers, advisers and family to check – then redraft until you're happy with it and the grammar, spelling and punctuation are correct. Below this list, there is a paragraph of advice: 'We recommend you write your personal statement in a word processor first, and then copy and paste it into your online application when you're done. Check the 4,000 character and 47 line limits though – some word processors get different values if they don't count tabs and paragraph spacing as individual characters.' Another paragraph follows: 'When you do add it to your application, make sure you save it regularly, as it times out after 35 minutes of inactivity.' Below this, there is a section titled 'What happens to personal statements that have been copied?' with a blue arrow pointing to it from the right. The text in this section states: 'We screen all personal statements across Copycatch our Similarity Detection system – so make sure your personal statement is all your own work. Don't copy from anyone else or from the internet and don't share your personal statement with other applicants. If we find any similarity in your personal statement, your application will be flagged. Then we'll email an alert to you and your conservatoire choices and this could have serious consequences for your application.' At the bottom of the main content area, there is a section titled 'Other pages to look at'. The right sidebar contains a 'Give us your feedback' button. The top of the page has a navigation bar with 'UCAS' and 'Conservatoires' links, and a 'Log in' button. The bottom of the page shows a Windows taskbar with various application icons and a system clock showing 10:23 AM on 6/18/2015.

UCAS

Log in Register

Mature students

How to write it

- 1 Structure your info to reflect the skills and experience the conservatoires value most.
- 2 Write in an enthusiastic, concise and natural style – nothing too complex.
- 3 Try to stand out, but be careful with humour, quotes or anything unusual – just in case the admissions tutor doesn't have the same sense of humour as you.
- 4 Proofread aloud and get your teachers, advisers and family to check – then redraft until you're happy with it and the grammar, spelling and punctuation are correct.

We recommend you write your personal statement in a word processor first, and then copy and paste it into your online application when you're done. Check the 4,000 character and 47 line limits though – some word processors get different values if they don't count tabs and paragraph spacing as individual characters.

When you do add it to your application, make sure you save it regularly, as it times out after 35 minutes of inactivity.

International and EU students

What happens to personal statements that have been copied?

We screen all personal statements across Copycatch our [Similarity Detection](#) system – so make sure your personal statement is all your own work. Don't copy from anyone else or from the internet and don't share your personal statement with other applicants.

If we find any similarity in your personal statement, your application will be flagged. Then we'll email an alert to you and your conservatoire choices and this could have serious consequences for your application.

Other pages to look at

Give us your feedback

And don't copy it!