

Applying to study Music 2027

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.

- A lot of universities offer a Music 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 **2027 is 13th 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 – or be a music tech course. 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.**

2027 Entry via UCAS Conservatoire

For 2027

Music

1st October 2026

UCAS Conservatoire

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.

Cost

- Applying for Conservatoire can be **VERY** expensive.
- You will pay your £34.50 (2026/7) application fee but will also have to pay a fee for every AUDITION that you have.
- This can be as much as £100 (2026) 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.
- You can make a maximum of six choices.
- (Applying with recordings is cheaper – but not always an option)

Institutions on UCAS Conservatoires

- Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- LAMDA
- Leeds Conservatoire
- Royal Academy of Music
- Royal College of Music
- Royal Northern College of Music
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
- Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

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:
 - Guildhall School of Music and Drama

You must check each individual college for their requirements and their course fees – which can be higher than £9790

Music Technology

- These can be very variable –eg sound recording, composing for film...
- Again, there are courses on all platforms – university, conservatoire and some direct applications

References for University

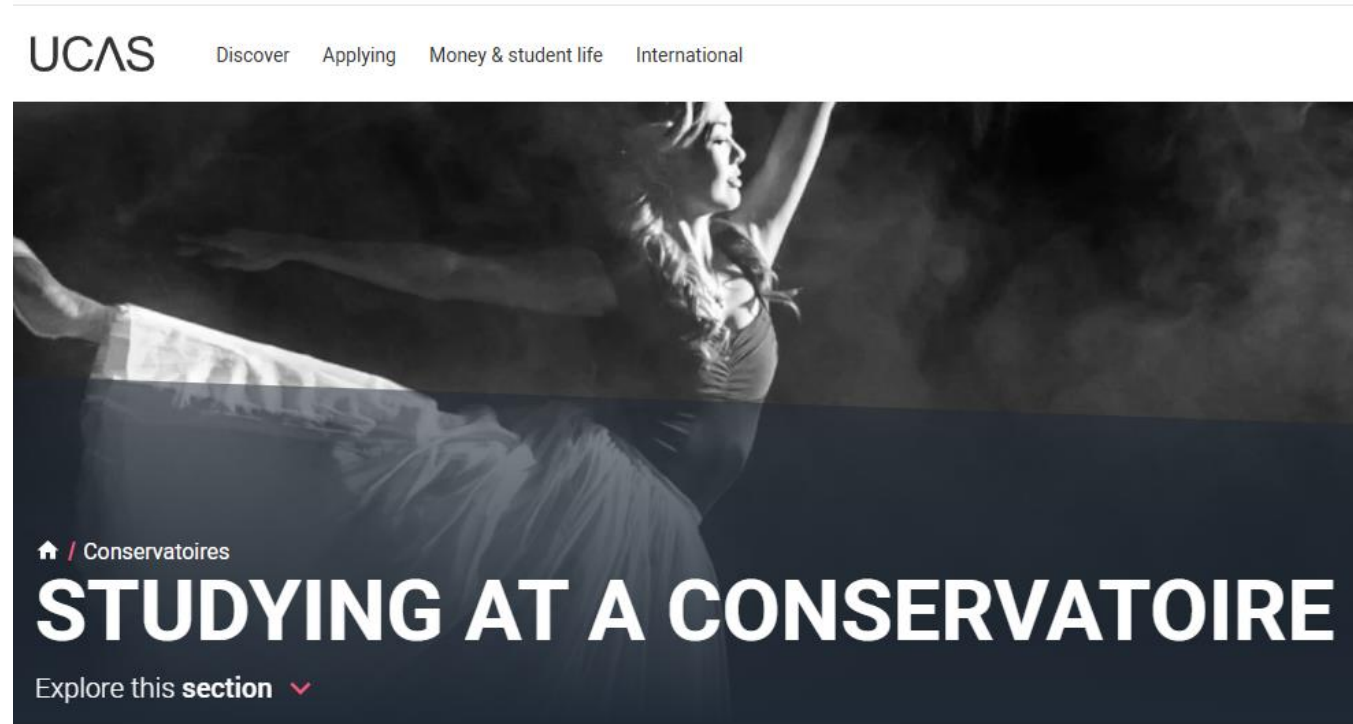
For university, this will be done by sixth form tutors at school using information from your children's teachers.

References for Conservatoire - Music

Music Conservatoires will need **two** references (OR NONE!)

- 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.



What are conservatoires like? How do conservatoires differ from a university or college? Find out 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 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

UCAS
Conservatoires

Log in Register

section. - More events

Keyword search

After GCSEs Undergraduate **Conservatoires** Teacher Training Postgraduate Not sure ???

Getting started Find a course Apply and Track Finance and support

Home > UCAS > Conservatoires > Find a course

Choosing courses and conservatoires

Visit conservatoires

Find a course

With UCAS Conservatoires you can find performance-based courses in music, dance, screen and drama at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

How to choose a course

After [getting started](#) with [what to study](#), [entry requirements](#) and [application deadlines](#), you might still find a large number of courses to choose from around the country.

Browsing through the [search tool](#) might give you inspiration, or you can read our [tips on choosing between similar courses and conservatoires](#), and [visit a conservatoire](#) to see what it's like.

Our [search tool](#) will include courses for 2016 entry from 1 July 2015; you can register to apply for courses starting in 2016 from mid-July 2015.

- > Search for courses
- > Tips on how to choose a course
- > Go to conservatoire open days

UCAS
Conservatoires

Looking to study...

Give us your feedback

Follow us on Twitter

Search for
courses

And this...
OPEN DAYS

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.

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 website interface. The main navigation bar includes 'UCAS', 'Advisers', 'Providers', 'Corporate', 'Events', and 'Connect'. A 'Log in' and 'Register' button is visible. The left sidebar contains a menu with items like '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 features 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. When you do add it to your application, make sure you save it regularly, as it times out after 35 minutes of inactivity.' A dropdown menu is set to 'International and EU students'. Below this, a section titled 'What happens to personal statements that have been copied?' is highlighted with a blue arrow. The text under 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, there is a section 'Other pages to look at'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 10:23 AM on 6/18/2015.

And don't copy it!

Applying to conservatoire is very competitive

- **Have a plan B!**