



Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2025 Entry

BA (Hons) Acting

BA (Hons) Actor Musician

BA (Hons) Musical Theatre

All Undergraduate BA (Hons) Courses

School of Drama

The audition process is your opportunity to showcase your storytelling skills and introduce yourself to the School of Drama team. It consists of two stages, allowing the team to assess your creativity, skill, and readiness for Conservatoire training.

The process also gives you a chance to evaluate the programme and determine if it's the right fit for you.

We understand that auditions can be daunting and appreciate the effort applicants put into preparing. That's why we work hard to make our auditions accessible and supportive for everyone. Our recall days are designed to reflect the quality of training you'll experience at Leeds Conservatoire.

We also recognise that multiple auditions can be expensive and time-consuming. At Leeds Conservatoire, we don't charge for auditions, and our in-person recalls are scheduled over a single day to minimise travel costs. Additionally, travel refunds may be available for applicants from low-income households. For more information, please visit our website.

Our audition process is in two parts.

Round 1:

- If you meet or are likely to meet our entry requirements we will invite you to upload your round 1 audition using our online application system, Acceptd. We will send you full instructions of how to do this and when you need to submit by.
- Round 1 requires an introduction video and two examples of your work, see course details below.
- A panel will assess your Round 1 materials and if successful invite you to a Round 2 recall audition.

Round 2:

- You attend an 'in-person' (if you live in the UK) or 'virtual' (if you live outside of the UK) recall audition, participating in a series of activities to assess your skill in a creative, ensemble environment.
- We share details of the programme, course content and training methodologies.
- You have the opportunity to ask questions of staff and current students about the course and life at Leeds Conservatoire.
- You will receive a tour of our performance spaces.
- After the audition you will receive either an offer of a place, a place on our waiting list or a reject decision on UCAS.

What to submit for Round 1:

BA (Hons) Acting

- A short, introductory video. Tell us who you are, why you are applying to the course at Leeds Conservatoire and how you think the Acting course will serve your development.
- Two contrasting speeches from published play texts (maximum 3 minutes per speech). Please introduce the speech at the beginning of the video or save the file name with this information: This is [CHARACTER NAME]'s speech from [TITLE OF PLAY].
- A headshot. This does not have to be a professionally-taken photograph - just a clear image that is recognisably you.

BA (Hons) Actor Musician

- A short, introductory video. Tell us who you are, why you are applying to the course at Leeds Conservatoire and how you think the Actor Musician course will serve your development.
- One speech from a published play text (maximum 3 minutes). Please introduce the speech at the beginning of the video or save the file name with this information: This is [CHARACTER NAME]'s speech from [TITLE OF PLAY].
- A musical piece to perform on your primary instrument (maximum 3 minutes). Please introduce the piece at the beginning of the video or save the file name with this information: This is [TITLE OF PIECE] from [SOURCE] or composed by [NAME OF ARTIST/BAND].
- A headshot. This does not have to be a professionally-taken photograph - just a clear image that is recognisably you.

BA (Hons) Musical Theatre

- A short, introductory video. Tell us who you are, why you are applying to the course at Leeds Conservatoire and how you think the Musical Theatre course will serve your development.
- One song in any style from a published musical. Ideally performed with piano accompaniment but a backing track is also acceptable. Please introduce the song at the beginning of the video or save the file name with this information: This is [SONG TITLE] from [MUSICAL] by [COMPOSER]' OR 'This is a song from [PRODUCTION/SOURCE]'.
- One speech from a published play text (maximum 3 minutes). Please introduce the speech at the beginning of the video or save the file name with this information: This is [CHARACTER NAME]'s speech from [TITLE OF PLAY].
- A headshot. This does not have to be a professionally-taken photograph - just a clear image that is recognisably you.

Advice for Round 1 applicants:

- Your videos are a virtual representation of the live audition experience, so set up should reflect this as much as possible.
- Choose materials that suit you and that you enjoy performing. Ensure you know the source material well, not just the excerpt shared.
- Dress in loose fitting, comfortable rehearsal clothes, ready to work. You don't have to be 'dressed up'.
- For solo materials choose whether you direct your performance to camera (audience address) or to a character/point of focus as if performing onstage. Try to be consistent in your choice.
- Clear a space with a plain background if possible, make sure you can be seen and heard throughout.
- Record each file individually and name it what it is when saving i.e. 'Introduction – John Smith'
- Despite being recorded you don't need to give a televisual performance, do what you would do for an audition panel in the room.
- Actor Musicians should try and include their hands playing their instrument if possible.
- Musical Theatre songs should show YOUR voice. Try to avoid "character" voiced songs.
- Please ensure your song choice allows you to tell a story through song.

Round 2 - UK Recall

Your audition is a full day event which includes ensemble and solo workshops, interview, tour and welcome activities.

BA (Hons) Acting

Group Workshop

The group workshop part of the day is designed to replicate timetabled sessions. Activities are creative, fun and engaging, enabling you to do your best work. This is your time to meet staff and students, share your work and collaborate with others.

You do not need to prepare anything for this part of the audition but you need to be prepared to play around with one of the monologues you performed for Round One.

Solo Audition

For the solo audition you will be asked to present one or both of your Round 1 monologues and will be given direction from one of the panelists to demonstrate how you collaborate with a Director.

Interview

You will be asked a series of short questions exploring your interest, experience and knowledge of acting as well as discussing your application and the programme. This is also your opportunity to ask any questions you have about Leeds Conservatoire and the Acting programme.

BA (Hons) Actor Musician

Group Workshop

The group workshop part of the day is designed to replicate timetabled sessions for actor musicians. Activities are creative, fun and engaging, enabling you to do your best work. This is your time to meet staff and students, share your work and collaborate with others.

You do not need to prepare anything for this part of the audition but you need to be prepared to play around with one of the monologues you performed for Round One.

Solo Audition

For the solo audition please prepare a second monologue and a solo piece on your instrument. These should contrast the original pieces you submitted. You will be asked to present both and will be given direction from one of the panelists to demonstrate how you collaborate with a Musical Director/Director.

Interview

You will be asked a series of short questions exploring your interest, experience and knowledge of acting as well as discussing your application and the programme. This is also your opportunity to ask any questions you have about Leeds Conservatoire and the Actor Musician programme.

BA (Hons) Musical Theatre

Group Dance Class

You will be led through a group dance audition, which may include elements of jazz, ballet and contemporary styles.

We welcome applicants with all levels of dance training. Please dress appropriately in dance/ sports attire with either soft jazz shoes, jazz trainers or foot thongs. Jewellery should be removed for safety.

Solo Audition

You should prepare two songs, at least one of which should be from a musical. Please bring sheet music with you for the piano accompanist. Select songs which best show YOUR voice.

Your songs should contrast in either tempo (ballad, patter song, upbeat etc.), vocal style (legit, contemporary, pop etc.) or both. Try to avoid “character” songs or songs from overdone or popular musicals.

You should be prepared to work with the monologue you shared in Round 1.

Interview

You will be asked a series of short questions exploring your interest, experience and knowledge of musical theatre as well as discussing your application and the programme. This is also your opportunity to ask any questions you have about Leeds Conservatoire and the Musical Theatre programme.

Round 2 Audition – Online (if you live outside of the UK)

BA (Hons) Acting - Online 'Virtual' Recall

BA (Hons) Acting applicants will not be required to submit further materials. Instead, an online 'virtual' recall will be arranged with applicants outside of the UK.

During your online recall you will be required to work practically on your Round 1 monologues with a Director over Zoom.

The panel will complete the interview part of the recall in the same session.

You will be given the key information about the programme and an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

For both BA Actor Musician and BA Musical Theatre, applicants from outside of the UK are required to upload a portfolio containing further examples of their work.

BA (Hons) Actor Musician - Portfolio Content

Monologue

You should prepare a second monologue, no longer than two minutes in length, that contrasts your original submission.

Please begin the video by introducing the speech: 'This is a piece from [PLAY TITLE by PLAYWRIGHT] and I'll be reading the role of [CHARACTER]' or save the title and character in the video file name.

Music

You are required to record a second musical piece, no longer than four minutes in length that contrasts your original submission. This can be on a secondary instrument or the same instrument in a different style.

Interview

Depending on the outcome of your video audition portfolio, you may be contacted by a Senior member of the School of Drama team to schedule a short interview where you will be asked a series of questions exploring your interest, experience and knowledge of actor musicianship as well as discussing your application and the programme.

BA (Hons) Musical Theatre - Portfolio Content

Monologue

You should prepare a second monologue, no longer than two minutes in length, that contrasts your original submission.

Please begin the video by introducing the speech: 'This is a piece from [PLAY TITLE by PLAYWRIGHT] and I'll be reading the role of [CHARACTER]' or save the title and character in the video file name.

Singing

Please record two contrasting songs, at least one of which should be from a musical. These should ideally be performed with piano accompaniment however a backing track is also acceptable.

Please refer to the advice for first stage applicants regarding how to choose a song.

Please introduce the song at the beginning of the video or save the file name with this information: This is [SONG TITLE] from [MUSICAL] by [COMPOSER]' OR 'This is a song from [PRODUCTION/SOURCE]'.

Dance

You will be sent a video guide to a routine which contains a number of technical elements we need to assess.

Please study, learn and submit a recording of a performance of this routine.

Whilst the routine is a combination of technical elements, do place emphasis on the performance of your dance. We would like to see your energy and personality through movement.

We welcome applicants with all levels of dance training. Please dress safely and appropriately for your dance recording and ensure you have enough space to record your video.

Interview

Depending on the outcome of your video audition portfolio, you may be contacted by the programme leader to schedule a short interview where you will be asked a series of short questions exploring your interest, experience and knowledge of musical theatre as well as discussing your application and the programme.

FAQs

Will I receive feedback?

Peer-to-peer feedback happens as a natural part of the 'in-person' recall masterclasses on the day. Unfortunately, due to the volume of applicants we are unable to provide any further feedback for either Round 1 or Round 2 auditions.

Can I apply for more than one programme?

Absolutely. This is not uncommon and depending on the combination, we ask applicants to make one application and state their intention in introduction. See combinations below:

- If you are considering applying for the Acting and Actor Musician programme, submit for Actor Musician and state clearly in your introduction that you wish to be considered for both courses.
- If you are considering applying for the Acting and Musical Theatre programme, submit for the Musical Theatre programme and state clearly in your introduction that you wish to be considered for both courses.
- If you are considering applying for the Actor Musician and Musical Theatre programme, submit for the Actor Musician programme, add an example of singing (either self-accompanied or with accompaniment) and state clearly in your introduction that you wish to be considered for both courses.

How does the waiting list work?

A place on the waiting list is our way of saying you are ready for this programme and we would be thrilled to work with you. However, we have more excellent candidates than we have places, so we have to look at the whole group before making a firm offer.

In order to ensure the audition process is fair, we have to have places to offer throughout the audition process. As a result, it is often necessary to identify candidates who are ready to train on the programme and make offers at a later date when we have recalled all applicants.

School of Drama courses are ensemble practices, so building a cohort is like building a company. To ensure the richest learning experience, each cohort represents a broad range of skills, celebrates diversity and consists of individuals with different experiences.

When should I apply/audition?

We encourage all applications to be submitted by the UCAS Equal Consideration Deadline (29 Jan 2025), as after this date applications may close at short notice.

It is important to audition when you are feeling prepared and ready to do your best work. However, we do encourage you to submit your Round 1 materials by the deadline communicated in your invitation, as submitting later may result in limited recall dates being available if invited for Round 2.

We do have places available on our courses until the final recall date, but if at all possible we advise you to accept a recall date as soon as one is offered to you, in order to ensure we are able to accommodate you within the finite recall slots available.

What do we mean by contrasting speeches?

In order to show your full range, we ask BA Acting applicants to prepare two speeches that are different from one another. You can contrast style, language, character or tone. If you have experience of classical plays and verse speaking (Shakespearean, Elizabethan, Jacobean, Greek) this provides an immediate contrast with a modern play. However, there are other options, so choose what makes you comfortable and best demonstrates what you can do.

Can I cut a longer speech?

Yes, it is expected that you would cut a longer speech to fit within the three-minute time frame. It is often simplest to make a cut to the beginning or the end of a speech. Any other edit should be done with care and be sympathetic to the story being told. Try and retain the through line of story and avoid bolting together the 'best bits' if it is unlikely the character would evolve so quickly.

Can I write my own piece?

We are excited to discover the full extent of your creativity. If you have written something you think is excellent, you are welcome to prepare it and submit it as an additional file. We will however, still require the preparation of speeches from published texts.

How do I choose a speech?

When choosing audition material it is fundamental that you like the piece and enjoy performing it. So, take your time researching and choosing texts that excite you. Try and choose material that is easy for you to access, a role you can imagine yourself playing and a speech that demonstrates your skill. The best way to discover speeches is to see plays, live or via a digital platform like NT Live or Digital Theatre.

Reading plays is the next best option and is great research for the aspiring actor. Even if a play doesn't have a speech for you, you may find a writer you love and can seek out other plays by them. Speaking to performers, drama school graduates, teachers and youth theatre professionals in person or online is also a great way to get advice and ideas.

Finally, there are books of speeches available to buy or borrow from the library but remember these are very popular and read the advice about performing speeches from monologue books below.

Can the speech be from a monologue book?

It can be. However, if you chose a speech from a monologue book be sure to read the whole play. This will enable you understand the character's speech in the context of their whole journey.

Should I do an accent?

Unless an accent is excellent and so sounds native, or is essential to the speech, we would prefer work to be performed in your native accent. What we want to hear is your natural voice quality.

Do I need to know the speech by heart?

Yes. In order to communicate your story to your audience you need to be able to work script-free. Everyone learns lines at different rates and in different ways, so ensure you give yourself enough time for this preparatory work. Learning your speech thought-by-thought and exploring ways of communicating it, can often be more effective than line-by-line repetition. Whatever approach you take, the ultimate aim is to be able to deliver your speeches with the same familiarity as your own phone number.

If I'm applying for Musical Theatre, how do I prepare sheet music?

Make a copy of the song you wish to sing, ensuring that it is clear for the pianist to read and has no parts cut off. Tape your music - alternating sides, so that it is easy to turn the pages (like a book) or put it in a folder. Mark anything on the music that will help the pianist, especially anything you have cut, so that the accompanist knows where to jump to. Be careful of downloading piano vocals from the internet, look instead for the vocal selections or full score of the show that will have the fullest accompaniment.

I'm an Actor Musician and I play more than one instrument, should I prepare a piece on each?

You are welcome to do so, but we only require one for Round 1 audition purposes. Play the instrument you consider your primary instrument. If you play piano and guitar, or a similar combination, you could always demonstrate a secondary set of skills by accompanying yourself in your song. Please note you will need an instrument other than voice as a primary instrument.

Can I borrow an instrument for my recall?

Yes. If you are unable to transport your instrument, or don't have access to your own, we will endeavor to provide you with one for the purposes of your audition. This is subject to the type of instrument and availability so please give as much advance notice as possible.

What sorts of instruments are acceptable to play?

Applicants should be able to demonstrate confidence and proficiency in at least one instrument. We accept applications from traditional instrumentalists and electronic music producers with a passion for creating music for and participating in live theatrical performance.

Can I use sheet music?

Yes, you can use sheet music/chord charts. If you do, bear in mind we are assessing musicality as well as skill. Think about how you are communicating the music as well as how skillfully you are playing it. The more ownership you have over the music, the easier it will be to think about its effect on the listener.

