

Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2026 Entry

BA (Hons) Jazz

BA (Hons) Jazz with Foundation Year

Introduction

Applicants have the option to audition online via portfolio submission or in person at an audition at our Leeds campus.

In person auditions are likely to take place during weeks commencing 27 October and 8 December 2025.

Once these audition dates have passed you will only be able to audition online.

This guide will set out what you will need to prepare and / or submit when auditioning for one of our Jazz courses at Leeds Conservatoire.

Application Process

Once you have submitted your application to the conservatoire via UCAS Conservatoires, if you meet or are likely to meet our minimum entry requirements, you will receive an email that will detail how to send your audition materials to us, or how to book an in person audition.

Once we have made our decision on your application we will update UCAS with our decision and you will be notified via UCAS Hub.

In Person Audition Days

If you choose to audition in person we will assign you a date and time to attend the conservatoire during our October or December audition dates.

You will have a 30 minute warm up slot followed by a 30 minute audition.

On the day, as well as your audition, you will have the opportunity to have a tour of the conservatoire and meet some of our current students.

IN PERSON AUDITION

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You will have 30 minutes to warm-up followed by your 30 minute audition. During the audition, you will play with a Leeds Conservatoire ensemble.

There will be no warm up time with the ensemble however there is a short amount of time allocated in each audition to communicate common instructions to the ensemble. The band is experienced and will be quick to understand any instructions. However, the panel are looking to see you perform in an organic setting, allowing the music to unfold naturally.

Performers:

1. You may choose ONE of the following two options:

a. Perform two Jazz standards chosen from the repertoire list on the final page of this guide (with the ensemble), demonstrating your skills in Jazz improvisation and your ability to play with an ensemble. Please do not overcomplicate the arrangements – head in/solo/head out is appropriate. Singers will be able to find lyrics to these standards and should prepare in a key they find comfortable.

OR

b. Perform one Jazz standard from the [repertoire list](#) at the end of this guide (with the ensemble) 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.

2. You will be asked to improvise over a given chord progression at sight in an ensemble setting.

3. You will be asked to sight-read a short piece of music, which will be given to you during the audition.

4. We might ask you to play or sing some scales or technical exercises as appropriate to your instrument and level.

5. You will have a short interview, where we will explore your general musical knowledge and interests.

ONLINE AUDITION VIA ACCEPTD

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Performers:

Please provide video recordings of:

1. You may choose ONE of the following two options (instrumentalists and voice):

a. Submit a video recording of yourself performing TWO Jazz standards chosen from the repertoire list below (with either a play-along or a live ensemble of your choosing), demonstrating your skills in Jazz improvisation and your ability to play with an ensemble. Please do not overcomplicate the arrangements – head in/solo/head out is appropriate. Singers will be able to find lyrics to these standards and should prepare in a key they find comfortable.

OR

b. Submit a video recording of yourself performing ONE Jazz standard (with either a play-along or a live ensemble of your choosing) from the repertoire list at the end of this guide 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 play-along.

The performance of the standard should be taken from a 'Real Book' style lead sheet and include an improvised solo as well as your interpretation of the melody. We encourage you to research notable recordings (from your principal instrument) of your chosen repertoire.

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

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?

Jazz 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

Softly As In a Morning Sunrise - Hammerstein/Romberg

Just Friends - Lewis/Klemmer

Ladybird - Tadd Dameron

Night and Day - Cole Porter

Satin Doll - Ellington/Strayhorn/Mercer

