

LEEDS  
CONSERVATOIRE





# INTERNATIONAL GUIDE





# Introducing Leeds Conservatoire

[leedsconservatoire.ac.uk](https://leedsconservatoire.ac.uk)

  LeedsMusicDrama  
  LeedsConservatoire

Leeds Conservatoire is a specialist institution providing undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Music and Performing Arts, based in the north of England.

Founded in 1965 as a Jazz college, we are the UK's largest multidisciplinary conservatoire, running the widest range of courses - from Classical and Jazz to Popular Music, Music Production and Drama.

We're committed to the individual development of our students, offering a supportive and collaborative community with world-class facilities. Whether you are a violinist, a film scorer or are training for musical theatre, you can build the skills, resilience and experience you'll need to thrive in an ever-changing industry.

# Our Courses

## Music

BA (Hons) Music (Business)

BA (Hons) Music (Classical)\*

BA (Hons) Music (Electronic Music Production)\*

BA (Hons) Music (Film Music)\*

BA (Hons) Music (Folk, Roots & Blues)

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz)\*

BA (Hons) Music (Popular)\*

BA (Hons) Music (Production)\*

BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting)\*

\*can also be taken over four years with an integrated foundation year

## Performing Arts

BA (Hons) Acting

BA (Hons) Actor Musician

BA (Hons) Musical Theatre

## Postgraduate

MA / PGDip Music

MA Dramaturgy

MA Musical Direction

MA Musical Theatre Company

MA Musical Theatre Creatives



## Why Study In The UK?

As an international student, when choosing where to study a creative subject, you need a destination with artistic output and a cultural scene – the UK easily provides this environment.

The UK has an outstanding track record in cultural exports, with most cities boasting internationally renowned musicians and theatrical companies.

With Britain's education system also being globally recognised for quality, it is the ideal environment to study creative arts.



## Welcome To Leeds

Often recognised as one of the UK's best student cities, with more than 70,000 students, Leeds is one of northern England's top cultural and educational hubs.

Leeds is the hometown of multi-million selling artists like Kaiser Chiefs, and Corinne Bailey Rae as well as home to internationally recognised performing companies, such as Opera North.

The city hosts major music and arts festivals and is home to a thriving theatre scene. It also boasts extensive food and drink options, museums, cinemas, shopping and sports – and away from the bustling city centre you will find easily accessible countryside and parklands.

Leeds is well connected with major rail lines, motorways and international airports, making it an ideal city to explore the rest of the UK and Europe.





## Preparing You For Industry

At Leeds Conservatoire you will develop professional practice and build the knowledge, skills and network to succeed as a graduate.

Our faculty are active professionals in the creative arts, guiding you through aspects of the industry ranging from copyright to music theory to acting techniques. Regular workshops allow visiting industry professionals to share their wealth of knowledge and experience.

You will have access to the Conservatoire ensembles as well as regular chances to perform at our state-of-the-art concert halls, theatre and event spaces throughout your

studies, including our Crosswire showcase for Popular Music and our B-Side event for Jazz musicians, as well as opportunities for composers and songwriters, such as Film Night. The Conservatoire also has partnerships with arts organisations, equipment manufacturers and educational institutions to keep relevant practice and industry connections at the heart of student learning.

We have an amazing Employability and Enterprise team who support our students' career and artistic ambitions throughout their studies and beyond. Our specialist team help students with many opportunities such as mentoring and specially developed materials and resources.



# Facilities

As a specialist institution, we pride ourselves on providing the highest quality facilities that help our students to fulfil their creative vision.

Our facilities are open late during term time, and include a range of spaces such as:

- Four performance venues
- Two purpose-built dance studios
- 13 on-campus studios including six recording studios and seven mixing rooms with vocal booths
- Over 40 bookable individual, band and ensemble practice rooms
- A DJ suite with professional standard equipment and software

We are also the only conservatoire in England with All-Steinway Status, meaning that over 90% of our pianos are from Steinway & Sons.

# Find Out More

Scan the QR code below to learn more about what we do and how to take the next steps.

You'll find:

- Several video workshops by our expert staff
- A link to our 'Meet our Students' page where you can chat with our students and learn about their experiences
- International pages covering topics such as applications, accommodation and visas
- Information on Leeds as a city and the wider Yorkshire area



Scan here  
to find  
out more

## Important Information

This International Guide was printed in August 2023 and all information was correct at the time of going to print. Prospective students are advised to check our website at [leedsconservatoire.ac.uk](https://leedsconservatoire.ac.uk) for the most up-to-date course and application information.

# Alumni Spotlight

You may make a journey to study with us, but what about your journey afterwards? Our international graduates have taken a wide range of different career paths, with these alumni being just a few examples:

## ① Yi Jia, China, 2020 MA Music graduate

A singer, educator and live-streamer, Yi Jia established a portfolio career in her hometown of Tianjin on graduation. She has rapidly grown a following of over 200,000 subscribers on Douyin (Tik Tok) streaming tutorials, and is sought out for collaborations with companies and other artists. She plans to release more original music, having first gained confidence as a songwriter in Leeds.

## ② Dominique Chan, Hong Kong, 2009 BA Music & 2011 Postgraduate Diploma graduate

Dominique Chan is a mezzo-soprano opera singer, as well as a vocal tutor and choir conductor. She has performed at top Hong Kong venues in collaboration with companies such as Opera Hong Kong, and also performs internationally. Dominique has sung in operas such as Cavalleria Rusticana and Roméo et Juliette, with other work including acappella performances with Yat Po Singers, and movie soundtracks.







③ **Girishh Gopalakrishnan, India,**  
**2009 MA Music graduate**

In 2012, Girishh, a producer, multi-instrumentalist and composer, established himself in the world of film scoring with the soundtrack to the comedy-drama Marina. Since this well-received debut, he has accrued a decade of industry experience. Recent work includes soundtracks to Mookuthi Amman and Netrikann, with the critically acclaimed Veetla Vishesham being his latest project as of summer 2022. Girishh also continues to be active as a vocalist and producer.

④ **Andrei Tiba, Romania, 2017**  
**BA Production graduate**

A music producer, composer and orchestrator, Andrei founded Globiversal Sound Studios in July 2019. Tackling the challenges of establishing a business as a young entrepreneur, he has succeeded in offering young musicians recording, mixing and mastering services at affordable prices. From his London studio, Andrei draws on his diverse experience as a musician to bring his clients' sound to life. Andrei and his creative team also deliver classical training and vocal coaching.





# Applying to Leeds Conservatoire

Our on-demand open day page contains international entry requirements under 'Applicant Information'



Use our website to find your perfect course and then apply to us via UCAS or UCAS Conservatoires. Both these sites allow you to apply for a few courses in the UK with just one application.

**UCAS Conservatoires** is available at [www.ucas.com/conservatoires](http://www.ucas.com/conservatoires). If you want to apply for Jazz or Classical Bachelors or any Masters courses you should use this website.

**UCAS** is available at <https://www.ucas.com/>. If you want to apply for any Bachelors that is NOT Jazz or Classical use this website. Do not use this website for any Masters courses.

## Entry Requirements

To join us at Leeds Conservatoire, you will need to meet entry requirements in these areas:

- Academic requirements (qualifications)
- English Language proficiency
- Non-academic requirements (audition, portfolio and/or interview)

## Academic requirements

In the UK we use UCAS tariff points as part of our entry requirements. These are usually awarded for qualifications such as A levels, BTEC or International Baccalaureate. You can check your qualification on the UCAS tariff calculator here: [www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator)

You will need:

- 96 UCAS points for a three-year degree
- 64 UCAS points for a four-year degree with foundation year

## Masters

For Masters, you need a good honours degree (equivalent to a UK 2:2).

We accept a range of International qualifications and you can find some listed on our website. If your country or qualification is not listed you can contact us directly to check if we are able to accept your qualification and we can also help advise what level you can study with us.



## English Language requirements

All international applicants must demonstrate a good understanding of English Language. If you need a Student Visa to study in the UK you will need an approved English Language Test which scores individual components in relation to the Common Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at B2 level or higher. We ask for IELTS (Academic or Academic for UKVI) with an overall score of 6.0 and no skill below 5.5 for all of our courses.

We also accept the following with an equivalent score:\*

- TOEFL iBT
- Pearson PTE Academic / Pearson PTE Academic UKVI
- LanguageCert International ESOL SELT B2
- Cambridge C1 Advanced
- Trinity College London Integrated Skills in English (ISE II and ISE III) (Available in the UK only)

If you are a national of a UKVI recognised majority English speaking country, please be aware that we may accept an alternative qualification to meet our English requirements and we would be happy to advise further.

\*Please note that some of these tests are only valid for 2 years.

Our on-demand open day page contains international entry requirements under 'Applicant Information'



## Auditions and Interviews

All applicants will be assessed on performance ability. This may be assessed by an online audition, submission of an online portfolio and/or by an online interview. We have some great guides available on our website and more detailed information is shared when you apply.

[www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/courses/international-applicants/entry-requirements](http://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/courses/international-applicants/entry-requirements)

As an inclusive Conservatoire we do not charge any audition fees.

## Foundation Year

If you are not ready for Conservatoire level training, want an extra year to develop your performance or music theory or maybe your academic results are not quite right for a Bachelors, we have an amazing four year Foundation with Bachelors course. You will have one-to-one study, masterclasses and access to our world-class facilities. Our BA (Hons) Music with Foundation is available for the following pathways:

Classical, Film Music, Jazz, Popular, Music Production, Electronic Music Production.

You can apply for this using UCAS Conservatoires for Classical and Jazz pathways and UCAS for all others.

# Student Support

Our dedicated Student Support team are here to support you during your time with us.

## Disability Support

Our disability advisers can discuss your needs and make sure you get the right support, adjustments, advice and guidance to help you succeed with your studies.

## Health & Wellbeing

We offer wellbeing advice and support, from homesickness to anxiety. We provide confidential counselling, informative group work, occupational therapy and tailored mental health support if you have any long-standing mental health issues.

## Performers' Wellbeing

We provide a range of regular wellbeing initiatives for music and performing arts students, such as hearing checks, Alexander Technique Classes, yoga and access to physiotherapy clinics.

## International Students

We have a dedicated adviser to offer additional wellbeing support to International Students.

If you have questions about the UK, how to apply, life at the Conservatoire or anything

else before you join us you can contact, [international@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk](mailto:international@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk) and we will be happy to help. We also work with a network of International Representatives in some countries who can guide you with applications, qualifications and visa applications. To check for in-country help please see our international pages on the website.

## Your Students' Union (SU)

Here to help make your time in Leeds the best it can be. The societies will help you connect with like-minded students, whether you like sports, music or cultural events. From Fresher's Week activities to regular events, gigs and fundraisers, the SU welcomes all students and works hard to create an environment where you can feel at home and make new friends.

We value student voice and have a number of diversity representatives to give a platform to help make positive changes for all students, as well as working with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity team to create a safe space to celebrate a calendar of culture which includes Black History month, LGBTQ+ history, Lunar New Year and International Women's Day, among many more. Visit: [lcsu.org.uk](http://lcsu.org.uk) to find out more

## Skills for Learning

Skills for Learning is a service available for all students to support them with their academic learning needs throughout their time at the conservatoire. The support offered is varied, from timetabled skill specific sessions to online resources and a bookable one-to-one in-person drop-in service where students can receive support with academic writing, referencing, organisation or time management and reviewing of work.

## Accommodation

Leeds is one of the most popular student cities in the UK, with a wide variety of student accommodation to suit all needs and budgets. We work with established providers to offer accommodation close to campus for our students. You can find out more about your accommodation options at [leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/accommodation](https://leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/accommodation)

## Working in the UK

Most student visas will allow you to work 20 hours per week in the UK but you cannot be self-employed or work as an entertainer. Instead of performing at external gigs we will offer similar opportunities to try your new material, collaborate and perform within the Conservatoire. You can find out more about this, and general working rights, at [leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/international-work](https://leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/international-work)

You might want to work for us as a Student Ambassador. This is a great role where you will be able to help at Open Days, give campus tours and use your experience to guide potential new students to the Conservatoire.

## Meet our Students

Find out what life at Leeds Conservatoire is really like by chatting to our friendly team of current students, staff and alumni.

Visit: [www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/student-life/meet-our-students](https://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/student-life/meet-our-students)



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# Find Out More

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