



Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2025 Entry

BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting)

BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting) with Foundation Year

Introduction - Application Process

Once you have submitted your application to the conservatoire via UCAS, 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 if applicable.

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

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

This guide will set out what you will need to prepare and / or submit when auditioning for our BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting) courses at Leeds Conservatoire.

Audition, Interview and Portfolio Requirements

Your audition materials will be slightly different depending on which course you are applying for.

Please ensure therefore that you look at all the requirements for the correct course(s) so you know the expectations for each.

- **Single pathway courses e.g. BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting).**

If you have applied for both the four-year and three-year route for the same course e.g. BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting) and BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting) with Foundation Year then you will just make ONE audition submission and we will assess your suitability for both routes.

Please see the following pages for full details of what you will need to prepare.

IN PERSON AUDITION

Your audition will consist of 30 minutes warm up time in a practice room followed by a 30 minute individual audition with staff in a different room.

We are looking for evidence of individual musical skills, creativity and enthusiasm for the subject. If you choose an in-person audition day you will be asked to do the following:

1. Prepare three original songs in total for the audition

- At least one of these should be played live in the audition to demonstrate your ability to play and/or sing as well as your compositional strengths and style. Please note: you are unable to bring along any band members or accompanists. You are very welcome to perform along to a backing track for your live performance if you wish.
- For the remaining two songs, applicants can choose whether they would prefer to play these live or bring in recorded versions on an audio playback device (a phone or laptop are fine).
- Please note that all lyrics should be written and performed in English.
- You do not need to send us any compositions in advance, we will listen to them in the audition with you.
- A CD player and mini jack will be provided in the audition room for playing backing tracks through a PA. A member of staff will help you set this up.
- The audition room will contain a piano, a selection of amps, a drum kit and PA with microphone which you will be able to use.

2. Take part in a short interview after you have performed and played your material

- Here we will ask you about your influences, approach and ambitions etc.
- We will discuss your pieces/compositions/songs in terms of the technical, creative and compositional process as well as your influences and direction
- We will also ask you to answer some music theory based questions to ascertain your theoretical knowledge. These will not involve reading sheet music or notation but will be regarding what you have written and/or performed in the audition. Please therefore be prepared to discuss material you have written in theoretical terms. This will include elements such as key, song structure, chord progression and melodic repetition and shape etc.

ONLINE AUDITION SUBMISSIONS VIA ACCEPTD

1. Submit recordings of three full songs that you have written entirely by yourself

- At least one of these songs must be submitted in the form of a video of you singing, or performing it with an instrument you play. You may submit all audition songs in this format if you wish. If the video includes more than one performer, please make it clear which one is you.
- You may perform as a soloist or with accompaniment.
- Any remaining songs not submitted as videos should be submitted as audio recordings with accompanying lyric sheets.

2. Submit a short video (no longer than 10 minutes) with your answers to the following questions (please speak to camera)

- Why do you want to study at Leeds Conservatoire?
- Who are your influences as a songwriter and how/why do they influence you?
- What music are you currently listening to and why?
- Tell us about your experience of playing/performing solo/or in bands.
- Tell us about your experience of using music recording technologies.
- Please briefly analyse one of your audition pieces/songs to demonstrate your knowledge of music theory.
- Tell us about an issue facing songwriters that you think is particularly important at the moment.
- Why do you believe we should offer you a place? What can you bring to the conservatoire?
- What do you want to do once you've finished your studies?

