



Advice for all applicants

Why music?

There was a time when it was far easier to draw a box around what was classed as a 'music career'. Then, in the public consciousness at least, being a 'musician' meant a) playing in an orchestra, b) touring as a soloist, c) teaching or d) being unemployed! Of course, it sounds ridiculous now, because the music industry today is one of the broadest and most dynamic fields in which to work, as well as a big player in the national economy.

According to the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), the UK music industry:

- ⊙ generates nearly £5bn annually
- ⊙ employs some 130,000 people, nearly 90% within small or medium enterprises
- ⊙ is second only to the USA as a source of repertoire
- ⊙ contributes to the third largest market in the world for music sales

In a reality where sugar-coated pop bands, challenging modern composers, cutting-edge jazz artists, cult DJs, classical virtuosos, die-hard rockers, specialist period performers and masters of indigenous music can all coexist and inspire each other, there are more opportunities for musicians than ever before.

Music is an immensely enjoyable, challenging and rewarding subject to study; and one which is likely to lead you to an exciting full-time job or diverse 'portfolio' career. This might involve combining performance and/or composition with a huge variety of other jobs that rely on the skill of highly-trained musicians, including production and engineering, music management, teaching, publishing, concert promotion, community workshops, recording, online music, music therapy, working across art forms... it's yours to create. Our courses will help you get there.

Conservatoire or university?

Aspiring professional musicians can face difficult decisions when considering where to continue their studies. The reputation of the institution, quality of teaching, professional training opportunities, location and cost of living must all be considered. On a more intrinsic level, many music students feel they must balance their need for vital specialist training in performance or composition with their desire to have a broad and varied university experience.

As a full faculty of a major university, we can offer all the benefits of university student life in addition to the intensive individual training with professional musicians available only in conservatoires. You will learn in a dedicated building with the creative atmosphere of a music college and, at the same time, be part of a 24,000-strong community of students pursuing a variety of courses and careers at the University. At a time when students are justifiably expecting more from higher education institutions than ever before, we can offer you the best of both music college and university life.

What's it like to study here?

Because of the calibre of the musicians they attract, conservatoires are naturally competitive institutions, yet our students enjoy an atmosphere of support, motivation and collaboration. It is of huge importance to us that you have the opportunity not only to develop your practical skills, but also to explore different types of and approaches to music. We therefore see it as a great advantage that we are situated in the very heart of Britain's most diverse city, home to a vibrant and varied musical and cultural community.

Our own student population is equally cosmopolitan, drawn not just from the surrounding area, but from all over Britain, the EU and overseas. So, wherever you come from and wherever you see yourself going, it's likely that you will feel at home here.

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See for yourself

Our friendly and supportive atmosphere is one of the things that sets us apart, and the best way to experience it is to visit us.

Open Days

Both the Conservatoire and the University hold regular Open Days. Conservatoire Open Days are designed to give you a real insight into student life and involve introductory talks, guided tours, open rehearsals, performances and chances to meet staff and students.

If you cannot make it to a Conservatoire Open Day, you are welcome to attend a general University Open Day, where a Conservatoire representative will be available to answer questions. Please note, however, that you will not normally be able to visit the Conservatoire on University Open Days. For information on University Open Days, contact the University's advice shop, Choices (T: 0121 331 5595 / info@ucechoices.com) or visit www.uce.ac.uk

2008 Conservatoire Open Days:
Thursday 17 January, 10am-4pm
Friday 13 June, 10am-4pm

Further info:
Judy Francis
Open Day Co-ordinator
T: 0121 331 6905
E: judy.francis@uce.ac.uk
W: www.conservatoire.uce.ac.uk/open-days

"Just a brief note to thank you and everyone else involved for putting together such a fascinating, valuable, [exhausting!] and hugely enjoyable day. I arrived as a complete 'innocent' but now have a really good handle on what's on offer and more importantly a feel for the wonderful 'family' atmosphere which somehow, somehow, you create. I can think of no more supportive environment in which to study, learn, develop and HAVE FUN making music. The skill, commitment and passion of all the teaching staff I met was inspirational and hope that I may be fortunate enough to enrol this September."

Visitor from Oxford

Consultation Lessons

If you're considering a place at the Conservatoire, you may request a Consultation Lesson with the relevant tutor for which a fee may be payable. Please contact our Admissions Team for further details (T: 0121 331 5901 / conservatoire.admissions@uce.ac.uk)

