

# Applying & Auditioning

*Birmingham's Bullring juxtaposes the ultra-modern Selfridges building with the traditional splendour of St Martin's Church*



# Applying online at [www.cukas.ac.uk](http://www.cukas.ac.uk)

The Conservatoire is a member of **CUKAS**, an online admissions service for most UK conservatoires. Application for all of our courses (apart from Research degrees and joint courses, see pp134 & 135) should be made via **[www.cukas.ac.uk](http://www.cukas.ac.uk)**. You must apply in English.

## Apply

Like UCAS, CUKAS uses a system called **Apply** – an online application system.

### 1. To make an application, you should first register at [www.cukas.ac.uk](http://www.cukas.ac.uk)

Registration is a process of entering your personal details, for example name, date of birth, address. Once you have completed the registration, a username will be automatically generated, but you will be asked to create a password of your choosing. Be sure to make a note of your username and password as they will enable you to log into Apply later.

### 2. Once you have registered, you will be able to access the online application.

There are full instructions on the CUKAS website to make it as easy as possible for you to fill in your online application. You can work on your application, save it and return to it any time using your username and password. If you're stuck, remember to check the Help Text first. If you still need further information or advice, you can contact the CUKAS Customer Service Unit: +44 (0) 871 468 0470. The helpline is open Monday to Friday, 8.30am – 6.00pm (UK time).

### 3. You must provide contact details for two referees when you apply.

One of your referees must be able to comment on your academic ability; the other must be able to comment on your musical ability. Your referees should know you well enough to write about you and your suitability for higher education. CUKAS will not accept references from family, other relatives or friends. The reference forms are available in Apply and you should email or post them to your referees.

## 4. Fees & Payments

- ⊙ There is a one-off application fee of £15, payable to UCAS.
- ⊙ An additional non-refundable audition fee of £45 (£80 for a double audition) is payable to the Conservatoire; this is collected through the CUKAS system.

You can make your payment online using a credit or debit card. The card doesn't have to be in your name, but you do need to get the consent of the cardholder. If you can't pay by card, you can choose to pay by an alternative method, such as cheque, postal order or bank transfer.

## 5. Deadlines

The closing date for on-time applications is **1 October 2007**, however you are advised to apply as early as possible. Late applications will be accepted until 31 August 2008 in instruments / areas in which we have unfilled places.

If you have a disability, we would encourage you to apply as early as possible. Once we are aware of your disability we can then try to support your individual needs. We have a range of services and equipment which can be made available to you to help you make the most of your time at the Conservatoire. If you have not made us aware of your disability or you feel you may have a disability, please contact our Admissions Team (see right) or our Disability Service.

**T:** +44 (0)121 331 5128 (text/voice)

**E:** [disability@uce.ac.uk](mailto:disability@uce.ac.uk)

## Advice for UK Applicants

All enquiries concerning UK undergraduate and postgraduate admissions should be addressed to: Admissions Team

**T:** +44 (0)121 331 5901/5902

**E:** [conservatoire.admissions@uce.ac.uk](mailto:conservatoire.admissions@uce.ac.uk)

## Advice for Non-UK Applicants

All applicants from outside the UK are strongly advised to contact us in the first instance for advice on submitting an application. All enquiries concerning Non-UK admissions should be addressed to:

Ruth Stanton, Assistant Registrar

**T:** +44 (0)121 331 5901

**E:** [ruth.stanton@uce.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.stanton@uce.ac.uk)

# Research Applications (MPhil / PhD)

Research applications cannot be accepted through CUKAS.

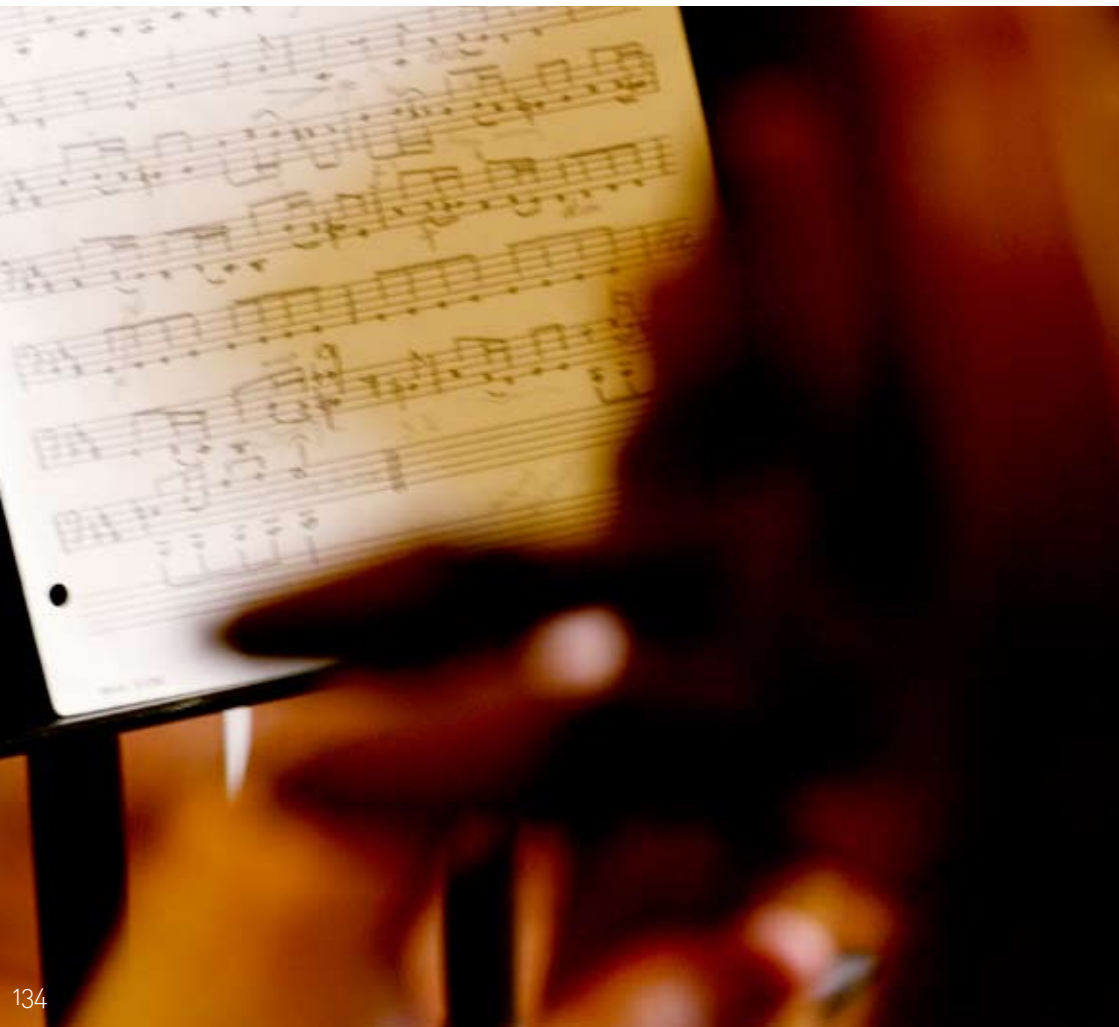
You are instead invited to contact the Head of Research, Dr Peter Johnson with a draft proposal of about 500 words, as well as brief notes covering your academic career, current activity and any relevant experience. We will provide advice and assistance in generating a viable project which can then be submitted with the formal application form.

Promising candidates will be invited to an interview, which may include an audition if the project includes performance. The formal

selection criteria are: quality of application judged against UK university standards; suitability of project vis-à-vis the Conservatoire's research priorities; availability of supervisors; overall numbers and critical mass; and other matters, such as ethical considerations.

**E:** [peter.johnson@uce.ac.uk](mailto:peter.johnson@uce.ac.uk) / **T:** +44 (0)121 331 5925

Research studies may, in principle, commence at any time of the year, but it is most convenient to enrol at the start of the academic year in September / October.



# Applications to Joint Courses

Applications for our joint courses cannot be accepted through CUKAS.

Applications for the **HND Popular Music Studies**, run in collaboration with South Birmingham College, are received through **UCAS**: Institution Code **S29** / Course Code **043W**

UCAS  
Rosehill  
New Barn Lane  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire GL52 3LZ. UK

**Applicant Hotline:**  
+44 (0)870 1122211  
**E:** enquiries@ucas.ac.uk  
**W:** [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)

Applications for the **BSc (Hons) Music Technology**, run in partnership with the University's Technology Innovation Centre, are received through **UCAS**: Institution Code **C25** / Course Code **W350**

UCAS  
Rosehill  
New Barn Lane  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire GL52 3LZ. UK

**Applicant Hotline:**  
+44 (0)870 1122211  
**E:** enquiries@ucas.ac.uk  
**W:** [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)

Applications for the **PgDip Musical Theatre**, run in partnership with Birmingham School of Acting (BSA), are received directly by **BSA**:

Birmingham School of Acting  
Millennium Point  
Curzon Street  
Birmingham B4 7XG. UK

**T:** +44 (0)121 331 7220  
**E:** rachel.jennings@bsa.uce.ac.uk  
**W:** [www.bsa.uce.ac.uk](http://www.bsa.uce.ac.uk)

Applications for the **MA Digital Arts in Performance**, run in partnership with Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (BIAD), are received directly by **BIAD**:

**Enquiries:**  
Gregory Sporton  
Visualisation Research Unit  
BIAD - Department of Art

**T:** +44 (0)121 331 5978  
**E:** vru@uce.ac.uk  
**W:** [www.biad.uce.ac.uk/vru](http://www.biad.uce.ac.uk/vru)

**Applications:**  
Faye Gelly  
BIAD Faculty Office  
Gosta Green  
Corporation Street  
Birmingham B4 7DX. UK  
**T:** + 44 (0)121 331 5800/01  
**E:** faye.gelly@uce.ac.uk

# Main Auditions

Our main auditions period, for undergraduate and postgraduate places, is in November. In order to be eligible for our main auditions, you must submit your CUKAS application before the on-time deadline: **1 October 2007**.

If you are an organist, please be aware that organ scholarship trials are held at the same time as auditions and places fill up very quickly. You are therefore strongly advised to apply by 1 October if you wish to audition for an organ scholarship.

For a standard single instrument audition, a non-refundable audition fee of **£45** is payable through CUKAS at the time of application.

If you are choosing between two areas / instruments, or you wish to apply for joint study (see p39), you may request a double audition, for which there is a non-refundable fee of **£80** payable through CUKAS at the time of application.

For audition requirements, please see the appropriate course page.

# Late Auditions

If you apply between 1 October and 4 January, you may be eligible for late auditions. However, late auditions are only held if a first study area still has vacancies after the main auditions, so you are encouraged to apply on time if at all possible. Late auditions are normally held in February and are open to both undergraduates and postgraduates.

If we receive your application after 4 January, you may be given an audition if your first study area still has vacancies; this will be arranged through our Admissions Team.



# International Audition Centres

If you are applying from outside the UK, you may be able to attend an audition at one of our international audition centres.

## Scandinavian Audition Centre

Auditions for 2008 Entry will be held on **2-4 November 2007 (tbc)**. For further details and an application form, please contact:

Peter Lyne

Härnösands Folkhögskola

Murbergsvägen 32

87150, Härnösand

Sweden

## Taiwanese Audition Centre

Auditions for 2008 Entry will be held on **7-9 December 2007 (tbc)**. Candidates may also be able to receive help with application procedures at the same time. Auditions are usually held in Taipei, and hosted by the Taipei Philharmonic Society. For further information and application advice, please contact Ruth Stanton, Assistant Registrar (details right).

## Chinese Audition Centre

We do not plan to hold auditions for 2008 entry in China, however we hope to hold auditions in partnership with China Conservatory in Beijing in the future. Until such time, applicants based in China are asked to send audition recordings, as detailed on p138.

## Japanese Audition Centre

We are currently developing links in Japan and hope to begin auditioning prospective students there soon. Until such time, applicants based in Japan are asked to send audition recordings, as detailed on p138.

Please address all queries regarding international applications, entry requirements and international audition centres to:

Ruth Stanton, Assistant Registrar

**T:** +44 (0)121 331 5901

**E:** [ruth.stanton@uce.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.stanton@uce.ac.uk)

# Audition Recordings

If you are an international applicant already studying or living in the UK at the time of your application, you should request an audition in Birmingham rather than sending an audition recording. If you are an international applicant and you cannot attend an audition in Birmingham or at one of our international audition centres (see p137), you must send a high quality recording on CD in lieu of an audition.

## Recording Guidelines

- ⦿ At the start of the recording, you must:
  1. state your name
  2. say a few words in English about each of the pieces to be performed
- ⦿ Performance candidates must have their recordings validated by an appropriate school / college / university authority as their own un-edited performance.

## Portfolio Guidelines

- ⦿ Composers must have their portfolio validated by an appropriate school / college / university authority as their own work.



## Audition Recording Requirements

The requirements for audition recordings are very similar to our live audition requirements:

### **BMus (Hons)**

- ⊙ Instrumentalists (Percussionists excepted) should submit a recording of their own performance of at least two contrasting pieces.
- ⊙ Singers must perform two pieces (or movements) of different styles and periods of their own choice. At least one of the pieces must be an aria (with recitative, if available) from an opera or oratorio.
- ⊙ Percussionists should submit a recording of pieces on Timpani, Drum Kit, Snare Drum and Tuned Percussion (Xylophone or Vibraphone or Marimba).
- ⊙ Composers must send a portfolio of at least three compositions and a recording of at least one of these works.

### **BMus (Hons) Jazz & GradDip Jazz**

- ⊙ You should provide a recording of two contrasting pieces including rhythm section, as well as a short transcribed solo (unaccompanied). One of the pieces performed must be chosen from a list of standards; the other one is your own choice.
- ⊙ Full details of our audition requirements are available from our Admissions Team (see p133).

### **PgCert / PgDip / MMus**

- ⊙ Performance candidates (excluding Jazz performers and accompanists) must send a high-quality recording of their own performance of three or four contrasting works or movements (minimum 15 minutes).
  - ⊙ Wind & Brass players must also include two orchestral excerpts.
  - ⊙ Singers must include works in at least three European languages, including English.
  - ⊙ Brass Quintet candidates must include examples of ensemble and individual playing.
  - ⊙ Jazz performers should provide a recording of two contrasting pieces including rhythm section, as well as a short transcribed solo (unaccompanied).
  - ⊙ Piano Accompaniment candidates should send a recording of three works with a singer (including a Lied), and an extended piece/movement for solo piano.
- ⊙ Composers must send a portfolio of at least three compositions and a high-quality recording of at least one of these works when requested.
- ⊙ Choral Conducting & Community Music candidates may be asked to send a DVD or VHS video tape-recording of a suggested programme. Please contact Ruth Stanton (as on p133) for details.
- ⊙ Musicologists should send a summary of their proposed project and be prepared to discuss this.
- ⊙ All PgDip & MMus candidates must send an essay / piece of written work from their undergraduate course, or on a prescribed topic when requested.

### **AdvPgDip**

- ⊙ See requirements for PgCert / PgDip / MMus Performance candidates above.
- ⊙ To be considered for the AdvPgDip, you must also send a DVD or VHS video tape-recording of the same performance.
- ⊙ All AdvPgDip applicants (repetiteurs excepted) must send a current repertoire list and two sample 50-minute recital programme proposals.
- ⊙ You must also send an essay / piece of written work from your undergraduate course, or on a prescribed topic.

# Scholarships & Financial Aid

In addition to the basic financial aid available to UK/EU undergraduates described on p14, we offer a variety of scholarships at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. All candidates are automatically considered for financial assistance up to the value of full scholarships. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit (according to audition panel recommendation), with some specifically reserved to assist candidates in financial need or studying in specific areas.

## Entrance Scholarships (UK/EU candidates)

A number of Entrance Scholarships are awarded each year to UK and European Union candidates on the recommendation of auditions panels.

## Tuition Fees Scholarships (Non-EU candidates)

A number of part-tuition fees scholarships are awarded each year to overseas candidates. These scholarships are normally renewed for each subsequent year of a student's course.

## Beatrix Myatt Scholarship for Piano

This new scholarship will be awarded once every three years to an undergraduate piano student on the recommendation of audition panels. The scholarship is worth £3,000.

## Corton Hyde Early Music Scholarships

Two scholarships are available to support talented students wishing to further their studies in Early Music. The Corton Hyde Continuo Scholarship supports a keyboard, cello/viola da gamba, or lute/theorbo player specialising in continuo, while the Corton Hyde Performance Practice Scholarship is open to a variety of musicians, including period violinists, vocalists, early oboe or flute players, recorder players and cellists. Both scholarships are worth £1000 and may be renewed after one year by negotiation.

## Denis Matthews Scholarships

Established in 1989 in memory of the distinguished pianist and scholar, the Denis Matthews Trust offers scholarships through competition to pianists who are studying at Birmingham Conservatoire, as well as an additional entrance scholarship of £1000.

## Ella Cheshire Scholarship (Soprano)

A scholarship of approximately £1500 is awarded annually to a nominated postgraduate soprano candidate.

## EMI Music Sound Foundation Bursaries

UK students who would be unable to undertake study without financial assistance may apply to the Conservatoire for an EMI Music Sound Foundation bursary. Up to five bursaries are made available each year.

## Leverhulme Trust Scholarship (UK candidates)

As a result of a generous donation by the Leverhulme Trust, a number of scholarships are awarded each year to excellent UK candidates on the recommendation of audition panels.

## Symphony Hall Whitlock Organ Scholarship

This scholarship, generously funded by the Percy Whitlock Trust, offers a talented organ student access to the outstanding four-manual Klais organ in Symphony Hall, acclaimed as one of the finest concert halls in the world. The Scholar plays a significant role in Symphony Hall's education programme, presenting the organ to school groups and members of the public. The Scholarship also includes an annual recital. The successful candidate will be a highly competent player, with excellent presentational skills and the ability to capture the imagination of young people. The appointment is for one year initially, but may be renewed. The value of the Scholarship is £1000 per annum.

## Weingarten Scholarships

These prestigious scholarships, established through the generosity of Joseph and Lilian Weingarten, are available by competition to final year undergraduate or postgraduate Piano, Violin or Voice students at the Conservatoire. Successful students undertake up to a year of postgraduate study at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest. Another scholarship is available to enable a student to study the Kodály Method at the Kodály Institute at Kecskemét in Hungary.

## Junior Department Scholarships

Applicants to the Junior Conservatoire may be eligible for a DCSF Music and Dance Award, or bursary funding from the Leverhulme Trust or the Wolfson Foundation. The Junior Conservatoire can provide advice and guidance to suitable candidates (see p120).

## Other financial aid available to Conservatoire students

### Access to Learning Fund

The Access to Learning Fund, provided by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), is managed by the University's Student Services Department. A limited amount of money is available to UK students only, in the form of either a loan or a grant.

### Birmingham Conservatoire Association BSM Centenary Appeal Fund

The Trustees of these two charities consider requests for financial aid from Birmingham Conservatoire students. Modest awards are made for projects or needs related to students' official studies.

### Scholarship & Bequest Committee

This Conservatoire Committee administers two funds on behalf of the University's Trustee Committee. Applications from students are considered termly, and small grants are awarded towards the cost of Summer School fees and expenses, instrument repair and purchase, etc. For further details, please contact the Admissions Team (see p133).

