



Student Support

# Personal and Academic Support

Together with our parent University, we offer excellent support for all of our students. Whatever your individual needs, we will work hard to make sure that they are met.

## Advice for All Students

Beginning a course of study can mean a dramatic change in lifestyle. To assist you, we have a comprehensive and integrated Student Services Unit which provides help and advice in a number of key areas, including accommodation, careers, chaplaincy, child-care, counselling, disability, healthcare and legal matters. For further details, visit [www.ssv.uce.ac.uk](http://www.ssv.uce.ac.uk)

## Advice for Disabled Students

As a result of recent modifications at the Conservatoire, all our major venues are now fully accessible to disabled users. Throughout the rest of the building, access and facilities are also significantly improved and our evaluation of how we can continue to meet the needs of disabled students and audiences is ongoing.

Our Disability Service aims to enable students with disabilities or learning support needs to make the most of their time at university, whether they have a physical, sensory or hidden disability, mental health difficulties or specific learning difficulties. In order to help you plan and prepare for university life, we have a range of services and equipment which can be made available to you. We think it is important that you feel you can tell us about any disability you may have. We regard disclosure of a disability as a positive step, because once we are aware of your disability we can then try to support your individual needs.

If you have not made us aware of your disability or you feel you may have a disability, please contact the Disability Service (T: **+44 (0)121 331 5128** (text/voice) / [disability@uce.ac.uk](mailto:disability@uce.ac.uk))

## Equal Opportunities

The Conservatoire and its parent University promote equality of opportunity in every aspect of their provision. University and Conservatoire policy and practice will seek to provide an environment that is free from discrimination against students, staff and others. The Conservatoire and its staff will ensure that all prospective students are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential. The Conservatoire will seek to prevent discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, religious belief, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family circumstances, citizenship, social and economic status, or any other individual differences. For full details of our Equal Opportunities Policy, please visit [www.uce.ac.uk](http://www.uce.ac.uk)

# Accessing Personal & Academic Support

Throughout your study, you will have access to both academic and personal support. Because of the close working relationship between student and first-study teacher, as well as the fact that you will be used to receiving feedback from him or her, your first study teacher will probably be your primary source of formal personal support. Your Head of Department, too, will be able to provide valuable advice and guidance when needed. You will also be allocated a Personal Tutor, whom you will meet during the first week of your course and again during the first term. You will be able to meet with your Personal Tutor by appointment as

often as necessary and, if possible, you will remain with the same Personal Tutor for the duration of your course. Furthermore, each Department normally nominates a senior student to act as a student mentor, giving advice and support to fellow students. Your academic progress will be monitored by your Module Tutors and Module Co-ordinators; with whom you can book appointments as and when needed. You will also have a Year Tutor who can provide advice on course matters through meetings with all the students in your year. Additional academic and personal support is available for international students (see p17).

## Personal Development Planning

Now embedded into every year of every one of our courses, Personal Development Planning (PDP) is not just about getting the best out of your course; it's about getting the best out of yourself. Through PDP, you'll be able to discover and articulate your personal and professional goals, as well as devise a plan for achieving them. On the most practical and immediate level, PDP will help you to plan an appropriate choice of electives to enhance and

complement your first study and course modules and, if you're an undergraduate, to develop a rationale for your fourth-year Major Project. In a wider context, you'll benefit from having the opportunity to consider your individual learning style and work patterns, which can then inform how you approach your studies, your practice and your career.

## Lifelong Learning

We believe that learning is for everyone and that people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities should have the opportunity to experience high-quality music making and music education. To this end, our education projects, including our Brass Explosion! events and our Lower Strings Days for all-comers are a great way to get enthusiasts, beginners, professionals and teachers playing and learning together (see p36). At the other end of the spectrum, our Continuing

Professional Development events provide a vehicle for music teachers to top up or diversify their own professional skills. On the most basic level, our undergraduate and postgraduate courses are truly open to all musicians who meet our entry requirements and who demonstrate the desire and potential to develop their musical abilities to professional standard. What you do after that is limited only by your own imagination (see opposite).

## Adrian Flowers, PgCert, trumpet

*Studies with: Jon Holland and Peter Fisher*



I would have loved to have studied music when I left school, but I took a job in local government instead. I kept up my cornet playing through brass bands until the chance for early retirement came up. I knew I wanted to apply to the Conservatoire, so I went to see David Purser informally to ask 'What do you think?' and he encouraged me to apply. It took me a while to settle in, but once I had a plan, it was easy. The students have been great – very supportive, welcoming and helpful with repertoire. The teaching is excellent and my tutors have been extremely supportive. As a mature student, it's necessary

to be realistic about time commitments and what you want to do, and to be disciplined – I think I've benefited from having had a professional career in this respect. This is the right place to make contacts and I've really enjoyed playing with other people in ensembles and orchestras that I would never have had an opportunity to be a part of otherwise. Eventually, I would like to play professionally, ideally in an orchestra, but I'm realistic enough to know that competition is very stiff. I don't have to start a new career in music, but it's good fun and anything that comes now is a bonus.



# Music in the Community

One of the fastest growing areas of employment for conservatoire graduates is in providing practical music support for schools and community-based music projects.

## Music in the Community

Through tutorials, action research and project delivery, we encourage our students to explore ways in which participatory music can be used to affect positively the lives of children and young people. Targeting those with little or no access to music provision, our students work in partnership with host organisations to plan and execute projects that achieve a series of musical and social objectives. Two community music electives *Music and Well Being* and *Nurturing Creativity in Early Years* have been designed to support the work of the DCSF/DCMS-led Music Manifesto, the new Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and Birmingham City Council's youth arts strategy – Creative Futures (see p93 for details). Taking part requires you to work as part of a team and demonstrate a willingness to experiment, take risks and work outside of existing comfort zones.

## Education & Outreach Projects

Throughout the year, our education events actively engage people of all ages and backgrounds with music making, including young musicians and teachers from across the UK. Previous projects have included specific string, brass, woodwind and percussion events for people of all ages and abilities; world music workshops; professional development training for school and music service teachers and specialist instrumental 'roadshows'. Our programme of activities has led to the formation of strong long-term partnerships with organisations and institutions in the West Midlands region, across the UK and abroad. Participating in these projects under the supervision of experienced workshop leaders and professional practitioners can help you to develop your group leadership and communication skills and can form a significant part of your professional portfolio, improving your career prospects as a versatile professional musician.

