LIPA
THE LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMING ARTS

BA (Hons) Sound Technology
In-Person Interview Guidelines 2024 Entry

Congratulations on getting through to the interview stage.

Our interviews take place between November and March. We understand how nerve-wracking attending interviews can be. We will do all we can to help you feel at your ease throughout. A top tip is to read these guidelines through straight away and then a few times more before your interview and to not leave anything till the last minute. This should help you feel calmer on the day.

Before the interview

Listening to and discussing a recording of your sound production work is an important part of the interview. So, we ask you to prepare a recording no longer than four minutes in length which demonstrates your skills in recording music and to bring this with you on the day of the interview.

It can either be a recording of someone else's music performance or your own. Please ensure that it is a **single WAV file (44.1 kHz and 16 bit) with your surname in the filename and that is the only file on a USB memory stick**. We won't keep the USB stick.

Please **do not bring a data-compressed audio file such as a MP3**, or even a file that has at some stage been a MP3 as this may make our judgement of your recording more difficult.

If you have experience in live sound, you are welcome to put together a portfolio showing photographs and other relevant information of live sound projects you have worked on to bring with you on the day. This is an optional extra, but if you do have experience in live sound, we'd love to talk to you about it.

What to expect on the day

You will be invited to attend **one** interview event, starting at **either** 09.00 (A) **or** 11.15 (B) **or** 13.30 (C). Each event will follow the same structure. You should expect to attend for the full duration of the event you are invited to (e.g. Start Time A = 9.00 – 12.15).

	Start time A 09.00	Start time B 11.15	Start time C 13.30
Registration	09.00 - 09.15	11.15 - 11.30	13.30 − 13.45
Introduction and test	09.15 - 10.15	11.30 - 12.30	13.45 − 14.45
Building tour	10.15 - 10.45	12.30 - 13.00	14.45 − 15.15
Meet the students	10:45 - 11.00	13:00 - 13.15	15.15 − 15.30
Group interview	11.00 - 12.15	13.15 − 14.30	15.30 − 16.45

Registration
Please use our entrance on Pilgrim Street, where you will be met by our Admissions staff.

Introduction and test
You start the day, with a presentation about the course from one of our Sound Technology lecturers to give you a clearer insight into what our course covers. You then sit a 30-minute test, which has 10 multiple choice questions and 2 brief written questions.

The questions are related to music technology, studio equipment, software and microphones, plus some maths associated with acoustics. It's not a problem if you don't know all the answers – the test helps us understand your current strengths and weaknesses, so we know how to build on those. It also gives you an insight into areas that are going to be covered on the course.

If you are normally allowed additional time for written tests, please email admissions@lipa.ac.uk so we can make that adjustment for you.

Building tour
This is a short tour of our building and the Sound Technology facilities. You are not being assessed during this. We include it in the event to help give you a better insight into LIPA and our facilities.

Meet the students
A chance to speak to some of our current students about their experiences here.

Group interview
We conduct the interviews in groups as this is more representative of some of the teaching sessions on the course. The interviews are held in groups of 3 or 4 candidates with 2 members of the Sound Technology teaching team.

During the group interview we will listen to recordings from all candidates and look at any of the optional portfolio evidence and use these as the jumping off point for individual questions and to invite you to contribute to group discussion.

We are primarily interested in your ability to discuss and analyse your recording, so don't worry if you think your recording wasn't perfect. Our questions usually cover areas such as the equipment/software you used, the techniques you applied and maybe how you think the recording could be improved.

If your experience is primarily in live sound rather than recorded sound, we will base our questions and discussion around the pdf portfolio you sent to us. We will also encourage you to talk about what attracts you to our course and to share your long-term career aspirations.

At the end of the interview, you'll also have time to ask any questions you have.

Useful information

Do you have an access need related to a disability that may require specialist arrangements?
If you think you will require any type of support for your audition, please contact our Well-being and Disability Officer, at student.support@lipa.ac.uk

When will you hear from us after the interview?
We need time to reflect on the candidates we've seen, so we do not tell you the outcome of your interview on the day itself. We don't like to keep you waiting though, so we always aim to communicate our decision to you within two weeks.

Unfortunately, due to the high volume of applications we receive, if you are not successful we are unable to offer feedback.

Any questions?
If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of the interview, please get in touch using the contact details below.

Contact us
For applicants within the UK (including Ireland and the Channel Islands) please email our Admissions Team: admissions@lipa.ac.uk

For applicants outside of the UK, please email our International Team: international@lipa.ac.uk

You can also reach us by phone by calling +44 (0)151 330 3000 and asking for either the Admissions or International Teams as appropriate.

We wish you the best of luck and look forward to meeting you.

Jon Thornton
Head of Sound Technology