BA (Hons) Music (All Pathways) Audition Guidelines 2025 Entry

Congratulations on getting through to the audition stage.

Auditions take place between October and April. If you live in the UK, we will invite you to the first available in-person audition event. If you would prefer to attend an online audition, please email **admissions@lipa.ac.uk** to request. If you live outside the UK, we will invite you to an online audition, or to one of our overseas audition events which take place in South Korea (October), the USA (January and March) and Norway (March). Alternatively, if you would prefer to travel to LIPA to attend an in-person audition, or travel to one of the above-named countries, please email **international@lipa.ac.uk**

We understand that attending auditions can be stressful and we will do all we can to help you feel at your ease throughout. Please read these guidelines carefully before your audition to assist with your preparation.

Our BA (Hons) Music degrees require a strong commitment to working collaboratively in an interdisciplinary environment. The programmes are demanding and require high levels of initiative and self-motivation.

The audition is a two-way process, aiming to offer you the opportunity to discover if the course is right for you, whilst we try to determine whether you have the experience and qualities to benefit from what we have to offer. In addition to getting to know more about your relevant skills and attributes, we want to understand; what aspects of music interest and inspire you and why, what attracts you to working in the industry, and, what attracts you to our course. We will, therefore, explore your career aspirations with you, and how you think our course can help you achieve these.

We will endeavour to ensure that the whole process is as positive and relaxed as possible. If at any time during the audition you want clarification on a point or other information, please ask.

Contents	Page
All Music pathways	2
In-person auditions	3
Online auditions	5
Useful information for all candidates	6

BA (Hons) Music – All pathways

Whether you audition in person or online, each BA (Hons) Music course requires you to prepare specific components for your audition. Below you will find the information relating to the individual course audition requirements. Please then also read on to find more guidance relating to both in-person and online auditions.

BA (Hons) Music (Popular, Contemporary & Commercial)
Perform two contrasting pieces of your choice. If you have songwriting or composition experience, please make sure that at least one of the pieces is your own composition. Both pieces of music should be performed on the same instrument (we count voice as an instrument).

BA (Hons) Music (Contemporary Pop Voice & Performance)
Perform two contrasting songs of your choice. These can be covers or originals. Both songs should show your vocal ability and an element of physical performance or movement.

BA (Hons) Music (Production)
Playback two pieces you have produced by yourself, without co-producing. These should be played back from your choice of Digital Audio Workstation. (If in person - we can provide playback facilities for Avid Pro Tools, Apple Logic Pro, Ableton Live and Propellerhead Reason only. You are welcome to bring your own laptop running any application you prefer and please note that for the purposes of setting up quickly, mini-jack output is the most convenient.)

BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting & Performance)
Perform two songs (with lyrics) you have written yourself, without co-writing. Both songs should be performed on one instrument (we count voice as an instrument).

BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting & Production)
Perform or play back two songs (with lyrics) you have composed by yourself, without co-writing. One song should be sung live or performed on an instrument, and the other should be played back from your choice of Digital Audio Workstation. The song you play back should have been only produced by you, involving no co-production. (If in-person - we can provide playback facilities for Avid Pro Tools, Apple Logic Pro, Ableton Live and Propellerhead Reason only. You are welcome to bring your own laptop running any application you prefer and please note that for the purposes of setting up quickly, mini-jack output is the most convenient.

BA (Hons) Music (Session Musicianship)
Perform two contrasting pieces of your choice. Both should be performed on the same instrument (we count voice as an instrument).

Tips for choosing and preparing your pieces:
• Choose pieces from contemporary genres such as Pop, Rock, Jazz, etc.
• Avoid classical repertoire and musical theatre songs.
• Your pieces should show what you do best and reflect your interests.

If we offer you a place at LIPA: On courses where one-to-one tuition is applicable, we will offer you **one-to-one tuition on the instrument that you demonstrated at your audition. This will be confirmed in your offer letter.**

In-person Auditions

The Audition Day
You will be allocated an audition date. Each event will follow the same structure. Once registered, you will be allocated a time slot for the individual audition.

Schedule	Time
Registration	12.00 – 12.30
Welcome Talk about the audition	12.30 – 12:45
Music Theory Test	12.45 – 13.30
Building Tours	13.30 – 17.00
Individual auditions	13.30 – 17.00

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

Welcome talk about the audition
This welcome session gives you a brief overview of what to expect.

LIPA music theory test
Understanding popular music theory is an integral part of communicating with other musicians and is something that we require all our music students to engage with. The test will ask questions surrounding intervals, triads, seventh chords, key signatures, modes, minor scales, rhythms and time signatures – in all keys. It is not a pass/fail test, and you will have 40 minutes to complete it – it is multiple-choice.

Tour of the building
During the day, we offer you a short tour of our building and Music facilities. The tour is usually guided by Music students. 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.

Solo audition and interview (30 minutes)
We ask you to perform pre-prepared pieces in your solo audition. See Page 2 for more information relating to the course you are auditioning for. We may ask you questions about your pieces or questions relevant to studying here. We may ask you to complete short musical exercises or short aural tests.

Accompaniment
Vocalists may bring **one** accompanist with them or accompany themselves on guitar or piano/keyboard. All auditionees may perform their two pieces with a backing track – please inform us on the day if you need audio playback. If you are an instrumentalist and wish to bring an accompanist, please email the Admissions Team **admissions@lipa.ac.uk** before your audition.

What to bring to the audition
You will need to bring your own instruments with you (not drummers and pianists).
Please ensure you bring with you any spares or accessories you may need.
Example's:

- Electric Guitar/Bass Guitar - a jack lead (1/4" to 1/4")
- Effects pedals and any connecting leads
- Strings (Guitars & string players)
- Drummers - bring your sticks
- Piano/Keys – you may be required to play a digital or acoustic piano.
- Reeds or Valve Oil (Woodwind or Brass players)

We recommend bringing water with you as there are likely to be periods when you will be waiting for the next stage of the process. We have a café on site which is usually open on audition days, although often has limited choice at these times. There are vending machines that accept card payment, or you are welcome to bring your own packed lunch.

Online (Remote) Auditions

Individual audition/Interview
Your audition also includes an interview and music theory test and should last up to 50 minutes. It includes an opportunity for you to ask us any questions you have about the course.

We will ask you to perform and/or playback (course dependant) two pieces that you have prepared for us, which are relevant to the course you are auditioning for. The details of what is expected from you for each course can be found on page 2.

We will ask you some music theory-related questions (see details below) and may also ask you to complete short musical exercises or aural tests.

If applicable, please use the 'Share Screen' function in Zoom to share your DAW window from your device – so that we can both see and hear the production session. Ensure that the 'Share Computer Sound' check box is ticked, and the Zoom Audio Driver is selected as your DAW audio output (your interviewer can talk you through this on the day). Please also prepare export or 'bounce' of your DAW session as an '.mp3' file – as a backup to mitigate against internet connection issues.

If you are a vocalist, you can either perform your song to a backing track or with an instrument. If using a backing track, please make sure you have this prepared and set up in advance for each piece. If accompanying yourself on an instrument – we won't be assessing your performance on the instrument – we will only be assessing your vocal performance.

Music Theory
Understanding popular music theory is an integral part of communicating with other musicians and is something that we require all our music students to engage with. As part of your audition, we will ask you multiple choice questions to gauge your understanding of intervals, key signatures, time signatures, chords, scales and modes.

Tips for taking part in your online audition

- You will need a good internet connection and access to Zoom, which is the video conferencing platform we will be using.
- Your device will need to have a screen, microphone and a webcam. If you have any concerns about your equipment for taking part in the online audition, please contact international@lipa.ac.uk
- Please ensure you are in a quiet room, where you will not be disturbed during the audition event.
- Please ensure you are in a well-lit space so you can be clearly seen and heard during your online audition.

- Test your camera and microphone before your online audition and clean the camera lens.
- Make sure your device is fully charged and/or is plugged into a power source.
- Position your camera so we can see you performing on your instrument.
- Make a note of any questions you want to ask about what it's like to study here.
- Please read these guidelines thoroughly.

Other Useful Information

When will you hear from us after the audition?
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 aim to communicate our decision to you within ten days of your audition. Unfortunately, it can take longer than this sometimes – please do not assume that you have been unsuccessful if you have not heard from us – it may be that we are still making decisions.

If you have any concerns about the status of your application, please do not hesitate to contact our admissions team at admissions@lipa.ac.uk

When we audition you, we may consider you for other Music programmes (including our Foundation Certificate course), so it's possible we might make you an offer for an alternative course to the one that you originally applied for.

Any questions?
If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of the audition, please email
UK applicants: admissions@lipa.ac.uk
Applicants from outside the UK: international@lipa.ac.uk

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 or reasonable adjustment for your audition, please contact our Student Wellbeing and Disability Team, at
wellbeing.disability@lipa.ac.uk

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

LIPA Music Team