

BA (Hons) Music programmes

Audition Guidelines

2023 Entry

Congratulations on getting through to the audition stage. Our auditions take place between November and April.

If you live in the UK, we will have invited you to the first available in-person audition event in Liverpool. If you are unable to travel to Liverpool and you would prefer to attend an online audition, we may be able to offer you a remote audition. Please email admissions@lipa.ac.uk to request an alternative online audition.

If you live outside the UK, you will have been invited to an online audition. If you would prefer to travel to LIPA and attend an in-person audition, 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.

In-person audition guidelines-----

The Audition Day

You will be allocated an interview date. Each event will follow the same structure. Once registered, you will be allocated an individual slot for the 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

This is a short tour of our building and the Music facilities. It is usually provided 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 below for variations depending on the course. 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.

Tips for 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.

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 advise 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.

BA (Hons) Music

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 one instrument (we count voice as an instrument). If we offer you a place at LIPA, we will offer you one-to-one tuition on the instrument that you demonstrated at your audition.

BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting & Performance)

Perform two songs you have written yourself, without co-writing. Both songs should be performed on one instrument (we count voice as an instrument). If we offer you a place at LIPA, we will offer you one-to-one tuition on the instrument that you have chosen to demonstrate to us at your audition.

BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting & Production)

Perform or play back two songs 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. 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. The song you play back should have been only produced by you, involving no co-production.

What to bring to the audition

You will need to bring your own instruments with you (not drummers and pianists).

Please ensure you have any spares or accessories you may need such as:

- Electric Guitar/Bass Guitar - please bring a jack lead with you (1/4" to 1/4")
- Effects pedals and any connecting leads yourself.
- Strings (Guitars & string players)
- Drummers - please bring your sticks with you.
- 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 our own café on site which is usually open on audition days, although you are also welcome to bring your own packed lunch.

Online (remote) audition guidelines-----

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 playback if applying for BA Music Songwriting & Production) two pieces that you have prepared for us, which are relevant to the course you are auditioning for (see details for each course below).

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.

BA (Hons) Music - Audition

Please perform two contrasting pieces of your choice. Both pieces should be performed on your main instrument (we count voice as an instrument) although you may wish to accompany yourself on another instrument. If we offer you a place here, we will offer you one-to-one tuition on the main instrument that you have chosen to demonstrate to us at your audition.

BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting & Performance) - Audition

Please perform two songs (with lyrics) you have written yourself, without co-writing. Both songs should be performed on your main instrument (we count voice as an instrument) although you may wish to accompany yourself on another instrument. If we offer you a place here, we will offer you one-to-one tuition on the main instrument that you have chosen to demonstrate to us at your audition.

BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting & Production) - Audition

Please present two songs (with lyrics) at your audition you have written yourself. One song should be performed live on your main instrument (we count voice as an instrument) accompanied by either a backing track or another instrument. The second song should be played back from your choice of Digital Audio Workstation (e.g. Logic, ProTools, Ableton, etc.).

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.

Tips for 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 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 and MS Teams, which are the video conferencing platforms 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 admissions@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 three working weeks. 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.

Unfortunately, due to the high volume of applications we receive, if you are unsuccessful, we are unable to offer feedback.

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 for your audition, please contact our Student Disability Officer, at student.support@lipa.ac.uk

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