Music
Undergraduate study
Courses

Single Honours
BA Music
three years W300
MArts Music with Innovation
four years W304

Joint Honours
BA Music and French
four years WR31
BA Music and German
four years WR32
BA Music and Italian
four years WR33

Why study music at Bristol?

Studying music at Bristol offers you the chance to become serious about what for most people is a pastime or passion. It’s not just about honing the musical skills you already have, but discovering a range of approaches to music and pursuing them at a high level.

We offer our students an exciting breadth in syllabus, including opportunities to perform with groups ranging from symphony orchestra to our unique Laptop Orchestra, from Baroque Society to jazz ensembles and Schola Cantorum. You will learn how to discuss and analyse music at a high level, how to perform music professionally, to arrange, to conduct and to compose. You will learn the grammar of different styles of music from medieval chant to 21st century music and hip-hop. You will explore music history, first in broad outlines and then in seminars taking you to the cutting-edge of research in fields from Madrigal to film musical, from Turkish music to Wagner.

‘Pretty much any genre of music that you would want to engage in, somebody is doing it here at Bristol and they are probably doing it really well!’ – Emma Hornby, Reader in Music.

One of the most valued features of life as a music student in Bristol is that all our musical activities take place in the palatial, 19th-century Victoria Rooms building. The Victoria Rooms comprises a theatre/concert hall, a recital room, electronic music/recording studios, a study and resource centre as well as a range of versatile teaching and practice spaces.

Become an arts student at Bristol and you will be joining a diverse group of staff, students and subjects united by a fascination in exploring how humans express their experiences. From 2018 we are offering you even greater opportunities to explore subjects beyond your core studies and an average of ten or more contact hours per week. Through our innovative curriculum we ensure you develop the key skills and attributes employers seek while receiving a first-class education.
What will you study?

Our current BA syllabus maximises integration of our research work into our teaching, bringing the latest expertise of our internationally recognised staff directly into the classroom. Performance is at the very heart of what we do and we encourage you get involved as much as you can.

The first year of the course provides a broad foundation, with units in music theory, performance, acoustic and studio composition, and music history. During your second and third years you can focus increasingly on those areas of music you are particularly interested in, and choose from a range of options covering different aspects of performance, composition, theory, history, analysis and aesthetics.

Examples of options in previous years include:

- Writing for Orchestra
- Transcription and Editing
- Music in Soviet Russia
- African-American Music in the 20th Century
- Music, Technology and Cultural Change, 1900 – Now
- Music and the Holocaust
- Studio project
- Medieval Music
- The Film Musical.

Music making
Opportunities for participation in ensembles include both auditioned and non-auditioned options, ranging from the University Singers to Symphony Orchestra, from Barbershop Singers to the New Music Ensemble or the Operatic Society. Whatever your instrument, voice or level there is something to suit your taste, instrument and ability.

Instrumental and vocal lessons
If you are taking a performance unit you receive a fortnightly lesson on your first instrument or voice paid for by the department. You will take additional lessons if you take a 40-credit performance project in your final year.

Year abroad
Students studying music and a modern language (Joint Honours) will spend their third year abroad on an approved course of study or a work placement in a French-/German-/Italian-speaking country. University of Bristol also offers one-semester exchanges for Single Honours, including at the University of California, University of Rochester and McGill University in North America.

Teaching and assessment
Teaching consists of a mixture of lectures, small group seminars and tutorials, with supporting group work to enable the practice of oral presentational skills and practical work at all stages of the course.

Each student will benefit from a personal tutor to oversee progress and instrument and voice lessons. All units within the course will be either 20 credit points or (final year only) 40 credit points. There are normally 20 contact teaching hours for a 20-credit unit or equivalent pro-rata.

Assessment can include coursework essays, written exams, assessed homework, dissertations, editions, workshops, recitals and composition portfolios. Final-year dissertations, individually supervised by subject specialists, offer an opportunity to write extended studies on particular issues, be it composers, repertoires, genres, reception of music, analytical studies, or trends and influences across musical periods. In the current syllabus there are specialist group tutorials devoted to the craft of dissertation writing.

Scholarships
Organ scholarships are available at Bristol Cathedral, St. Mary Redcliffe and the Church of St. Paul’s in Clifton. There are also a number of choral scholarships such as at Bristol Cathedral and other local churches. Further details are available from the departmental administrator, the Student Funding Office and online: bristol.ac.uk/music/scholarships.

‘I would describe the University as an energetic, fun and exciting place to be. You are constantly involved with productions and concerts. Providing you make yourself available, there are endless opportunities to participate.’

Ping (BA Music 2017)
A music degree from Bristol provides experience of a wide variety of practical activities, leading to a range of options upon graduation. The training you receive during your music degree will give you a strong base from which to develop your professional career in whichever direction you choose. Our graduates go into a wide variety of jobs including teaching, research, arts administration, retail management, finance, performing, librarianship, conducting or composing. Many graduates plan a career in music as teachers, performers, librarians or administrators and many undertake postgraduate study or training to enable this.

The variety of different elements and challenges in our BA course means that you will develop a generous portfolio of transferable skills. The Bristol Skills Framework enables students to recognise their development in areas such as academic writing, problem solving, group work and individual and group presenting. We equip you with the tools to market your skills, your achievement and your potential in whatever career path you choose to pursue.

Employers are drawn to our graduates for their accurate comprehension of tasks and their ability to work independently and within a team. At Bristol, you will learn how to present your work in recitals, scores recordings, presentations, essays and dissertations. To do all of this, you will learn how to plan projects, manage your time and become a confident communicator.

Last year Bristol Music graduates went on to work with some exciting employers including:
- Royal College of Music
- BBC Music Magazine
- Britten Sinfonia
- London Sinfonietta
- Sony Music
- Wells Cathedral School.

Recent examples of occupations of graduates include music producer/songwriter, concert hall manager, web designer, choral scholar, freelance musician and orchestra assistant.

Careers and graduate destinations

Typical offer for BA Music*
Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug18-music for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

A-levels ABB (contextual BBC†) including B in Music.

IB Diploma 32 points overall (contextual 29†) to include 16 points at Higher Level (contextual 14†) with 5 in Higher Level in Music.

English Language Profile B††

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-apply/#typical-contextual-offers.

††For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS or Common Application. We may interview mature applicants and applicants with non-standard qualifications.

Deferred entry Welcomed.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2017), however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

Joe (BA Music)

Making your application

All candidates are judged according to the following categories:
- academic potential;
- enthusiasm for and commitment to the subject;
- self-motivation and management;
- communication skills;
- responses to challenges faced.

You should list your academic and practical achievements as clearly and as concisely as possible under section 5a of the UCAS application. Please include the most recent practical exams that you have taken on any instrument(s) or in any vocal or theory examinations. When inputting achieved and impending qualifications on your UCAS application, please remember to list any ABRSM or Trinity College Music qualifications. Although these do not form part of our entry qualifications, a grade 7 is a good reflection of our standard for the performance aspects of our programme. A grade 8 ‘Music Theory’ qualification from ABRSM may be also used as a substitute for an A-level in Music.

Overall, we are looking for well-rounded musicians who will contribute to the life of our department with real enthusiasm and initiative.

Further information
Find out more about the Department of Music: bristol.ac.uk/music.
Contact us

Enquiries Team
Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649
Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

Accommodation Office
Tel +44 (0)117 954 6640
Email accom-office@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/accommodation

Disability Services
Tel +44 (0)117 331 0444
Email disability-services@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/disability-services

Student Funding Office
Tel +44 (0)117 331 7972
Email student-funding@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding

University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

If you need all or part of this publication in an alternative format please contact
Student Marketing:
Tel +44 (0)117 394 1573
Email ug-publications@bristol.ac.uk

Photography
Liz Eve (Fotohaus), Patrick Metcalfe, Dan Rowley, Nick Smith
© University of Bristol