

# 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

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2019. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2018). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study), for the latest updates.

## 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. We are not just concerned with 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 exciting breadth in our syllabus, including opportunities to perform with groups ranging from the University of Bristol Symphony Orchestra to our unique Laptop Orchestra, and from the Baroque Society to jazz ensembles and the Schola Cantorum. You will learn how to discuss and analyse music at a high level, how to perform music professionally, and how to arrange, conduct and 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 the madrigal to the 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, Professor of 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 comprise a theatre/concert hall, a recital room, electronic music/recording studios, and a study and resource centre, as well as a range of versatile teaching and practice spaces.

*'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)

# 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 to 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-Present
- Music and the Holocaust
- Studio Project
- Opera and Politics
- Composers as Film Figures.

## Music making

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

## Instrumental and vocal lessons

If you are taking a performance unit in the first year, you receive a free fortnightly lesson on your first instrument or voice. You will take additional lessons if you take performance units in the second and third years.

## Year abroad

Joint honours students studying music and a modern language spend their third year abroad on an approved course of study or a work placement in a French-, German- or Italian-speaking country. The University of Bristol also offers one-semester exchanges for single honours students, including at the University of California, University of Rochester and McGill University.

## Teaching and assessment

Teaching consists of a mixture of lectures, small group seminars and tutorials, with supporting group work in oral presentation skills and practical work at all stages of the course.

All students benefit from a personal tutor who oversees your progress. All units within the course carry 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 includes coursework essays, written exams, presentations, dissertations, editions, workshops, recitals and composition portfolios. Final-year dissertations, individually supervised by subject specialists, offer an opportunity to write extended studies on a particular issue, 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 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](http://bristol.ac.uk/music/scholarships).



## Careers and graduate destinations

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, publishing, events management, finance, performing, librarianship, conducting and composing. Many graduates plan a career in music as teachers, performers, librarians or administrators and many undertake postgraduate study or training for this reason.

The different elements and challenges of our BA course enable you to 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 communicate orally and in writing as a researcher, performer or composer. You will also learn how to plan projects, manage your time and become a confident communicator.

Last year our graduates went on to work with some exciting employers including:

- the Royal College of Music
- *BBC Music Magazine*
- the Britten Sinfonia
- the London Sinfonietta
- Sony Music
- Wells Cathedral School.

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

**'The music department is so fantastic because of the staff. The musicology professors are all experts in their field of research and are always enthusiastic about sharing their knowledge, the instrumental teachers are equally enthusiastic about performance, and the composition tutors are unfailingly on hand to discuss ideas and compositional techniques.'**

Joe (BA Music)



## Making your application

### Typical offer for BA Music\*

Visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug19-music](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug19-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 at Higher Level in Music.

**English Language profile** B††

**GCSEs** No specific subjects required.

†For information on contextual offers, visit [bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers](http://bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers).

††For details of English language profiles, visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements).

**Selection** UCAS or Common Application.

\*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 2018); however, we recommend you check the University's website for the most up-to-date information: [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study).

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 5 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 adding achieved and impending qualifications to your UCAS application, please list any ABRSM or Trinity College music qualifications. Although these do not form part of our entry requirements, 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](http://bristol.ac.uk/music).

# Contact us

## Enquiries Team

Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649

Email [choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk](mailto: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](mailto:accom-office@bristol.ac.uk)

[bristol.ac.uk/accommodation](http://bristol.ac.uk/accommodation)

## Disability Services

Tel +44 (0)117 331 0444

Email [disability-services@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:disability-services@bristol.ac.uk)

[bristol.ac.uk/disability-services](http://bristol.ac.uk/disability-services)

University guide to the city of Bristol

[bristol.ac.uk/citybristol](http://bristol.ac.uk/citybristol)

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## Photography

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