



## Contact us

- [@BristolUni](#)
- [bristoluniversity](#)
- [UniversityofBristol](#)
- [UniversityofBristol](#)

### 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 student life at Bristol, please contact the Enquiries Team.

### Photography

Dan Rowley

© University of Bristol

If you need all or part of this publication in an alternative format please contact us:

**Tel** +44 (0)117 394 1649

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

## Music



# Courses

## Single Honours

### **BA Music**

three years W300

### **MArts Music with Innovation**

four years W304

## Joint Honours

### **BA Music and Czech**

four years WR3V

### **BA Music and French**

four years WR31

### **BA Music and German**

four years WR32

### **BA Music and Italian**

four years WR33

### **BA Music and Portuguese**

four years WR35

### **BA Music and Russian**

four years WR37

### **BA Music and Spanish**

four years WR34

## 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 will also help you to discover a range of approaches to music and pursue 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 Loudspeaker 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 and from Turkish music to Shostakovich.

*'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 – 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 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. In addition to these subjects, you will take an open unit from a different department to supplement your studies. 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, and 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.

## Performance units

In the first year you will either receive a free fortnightly lesson on your first instrument or voice, or attend seminars in writing music criticism. If you take the optional performance units in the second and third years, you will receive further lessons.

## Year abroad

For joint honours students studying music and a modern language, you will spend your third year abroad on an approved course of study or a work placement in a country where your chosen language is spoken. The University of Bristol also offers one-semester exchanges for single honours students, including at the University of California, the 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.

You will 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).

The Department of Music is based in the Victoria Rooms, home to a variety of teaching spaces, practice rooms, recording studios, recital rooms and our 530-seat auditorium.



*'I have been able to study so many aspects of music, and I have met some inspirational lecturers who have had a monumental impact on my artistic voice.'*

May (BA Music)

# 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 undertake postgraduate study or training for this reason.

The different elements and challenges of our BA courses 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.

**'The musicology professors are all experts 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)



**Graduate employers**  
Royal College of Music  
*BBC Music Magazine*  
Britten Sinfonia  
London Sinfonietta  
Sony Music



**Career destinations**  
Concert Hall Manager  
Music Producer  
Web Designer  
Orchestra Assistant  
Marketing Manager

Sources: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey, 2016/17 and previous years.  
Find out more at [bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired](http://bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired).

# Making your application

Visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-music](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-music) for more information about our courses.

## Typical offer for BA Music

**A-levels** AAB (contextual BBB) including Music. Merit in Grade 8 Theory or Practical (ABRSM or Trinity) can be accepted in place of A-level Music.

**IB Diploma** 34 points overall (contextual 31) with 17 at Higher Level (contextual 15), including 5 at Higher Level in Music. Merit in Grade 8 Theory or Practical (ABRSM or Trinity) can be accepted in place of Higher Level Music.

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at [bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers](http://bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers).

**GCSEs** No specific subjects required.

## Selection process UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-music](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-music).

## Application advice for music courses

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

Please list your academic and practical achievements as clearly as possible in your UCAS application, including your most recent ABRSM/Trinity practical or theory qualifications. Although not a requirement for entry, Grade 7 is a good reflection of the standard of the performance aspects of our programme.

## Further information

Find out more about the Department of Music: [bristol.ac.uk/music](http://bristol.ac.uk/music).

This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-music](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-music).



Read more about how we support you when you are here:

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