Why Music, Why Bristol?

Studying music at Bristol offers you the opportunity to:

1. Find your niche
2. Learn to think differently
3. Become more creative

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1. Find your niche

The flexibility of our degree courses gives you the chance to find your niche.

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Our BA in Music offers:

- **A broad foundation**
  - First years take units in performance (optional), composition, technical studies and music history

- **Opportunity to specialise**
  - An open unit in another department in your first, second and third years
  - A rich variety of optional units in music in your second and third years.
BA in Music Year 1

First years take 120 credits made up of:

- Two music history units (20 credits + 20 credits):
  - Music and Society: Music and People
  - Music and Society: Music and Place

- Practical Studies (20 credits):
  - Performance on your first study instrument or
  - Critical review writing (if you don’t want to do assessed performance)

- Technical Studies: Harmony and Analysis (20 credits)

- Composition (20 credits):
  - Including some or all of: acoustic, studio, orchestration

- Open unit of your choice in another department (20 credits)

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BA in Music Year 2

Second years take 120 credits made up of:

- Two music history units (20 credits + 20 credits)
  - Recent topics have included: Music and Politics, Music in the 1930s, Music and the Past.

- Four optional units (20 credits x 4) chosen from a list of:
  - Historical units covering topics from the medieval era to the present day
  - Technical units in harmony and analysis
  - Composition units, including some or all of acoustic, studio, electro-acoustic
  - Performance on your first study instrument
  - Open units in other departments
BA in Music **Year 3**

Third years take 120 credits made up of:

- One or two extended projects (40 or 80 credits):
  - Composition portfolio
  - Performance
  - Dissertation

- Two or four optional units (40 or 80 credits)
Joint Honours courses

Joint Honours students take 120 credits each year.

- In your first year this is divided evenly between the two subjects. In Music, you will take:
  - 1 music history unit (20 credits)
  - 1 Technical Studies unit (20 credits)
  - 1 out of: Performance (20 credits), Composition (20 credits) or another Music History unit (20 credits)
- In your second and third years you can choose a 60:60 split or an 80:40 split.

For more details, please see our programme catalogue.

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Besides offering a flexible degree course, we help all of our undergraduates to find their niche by allocating them a Personal Academic Tutor.

In your first year you will meet in a small group with your tutor every week. They will be pleased to offer you support in all aspects of your academic work. They can also support you in getting help for any pastoral issues that might arise as you settle in.
Study abroad opportunities

Every year some of our undergraduates choose to study abroad.

- As a music undergraduate you could spend half of your second year studying in one of the American, Australian or European universities with whom we have links.

- If you travel to Europe, you can apply for an ERASMUS grant to help with the cost. If you want to go farther afield, bursaries, scholarships and grants are available.

- We will support you in making accommodation arrangements in Bristol and at your host institution.

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2: Learn to think differently

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Bristol Hornstars play “Brighter Day” (summer 2019)
Studying music teaches you about so much more than just music.
Learn to think differently.

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Optional units: music history

Our music history units give you the chance to explore how music has been a force for social, cultural and political change. In recent years optional historical units have included:

- Hip-hop Music and Culture
- Music, Technology and Cultural Change – from the gramophone to the mobile phone
- The Film Musical
- Music of Asia: Turkey
- Music and Sex
- Inside Medieval Music
- Russian Opera

Browse our unit options via the [programme catalogue](http://bristol.ac.uk)
Our practical and technical units will challenge the limits of your own creativity.

In recent years these have included:
- Compositional Strategy
- Writing for Orchestra
- Transcription and Editing
- Music Recording and Production

Browse our unit options via the [programme catalogue](mailto:programme.catalougue@bristol.ac.uk)
3. Become more creative
Based in a city with a vibrant music scene and with more than 30 ensembles running in our department, our students have an array of opportunities to become more creative.
University ensembles: instrumental

Our instrumental ensembles include:

- Symphony Orchestra (staff led)
- New Music Ensemble (staff led)
- BULO (Bristol University Loudspeaker Orchestra) (staff led)
- Chamber Orchestra, String Orchestra, Wind Orchestra, Symphonic Winds
- Brass Band
- Jazz Orchestra and Hornstars

Read more about Department of Music ensemble opportunities

bristol.ac.uk
University ensembles: vocal

Our vocal ensembles include:

- Symphony Chorus (staff led)
- University Singers (staff led)
- Schola cantorum (female) (staff led)
- Chamber Choir
- Madrigal Ensemble
- A Cappella Society: Bristol Suspensions, Pitch Fight (female), Academy (male)

Read more about Department of Music ensemble opportunities

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University ensembles: combined

Our combined ensembles include:

- University Baroque Ensemble
- Music Theatre Bristol
- BOps (Operatic Society & Chorus)
- BUMS Composition, Arranging and Orchestration Society

Read more about Department of Music ensemble opportunities

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Music Making in Bristol

Bristol is home to a large number of cultural venues, staging all kinds of music. Current student favourites include:

- The Colston Hall
- St George’s
- The Hippodrome
- The Watershed
- The Arnolfini
- Churches
- Bristol Cathedral
- Mr. Wolfs
- Trinity Centre
Music Making in Bristol

Being part of a city with such a rich musical heritage, our department often has the opportunity to collaborate with other musical organizations. Recent collaborations have included:

- Bristol Ensemble
- Bristol New Music Festival
- CoMA Bristol
- New Music South West
- Bristol Plays Music
- The Bristol Music Club
- Schools
- Bournemouth Symphony
- BBC Singers
- English National Opera
- Welsh National Opera

Our students benefit directly from these collaborations, gaining access to cheap or free tickets, as well as opportunities for work experience or internships.
Study Music at Bristol

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bristol.ac.uk/music
More questions?

Please get in touch.

While, sadly, we can’t offer you an in-person tour of the department at the current time, we’d love to talk through any questions that you have.

Please email us music-info@bristol.ac.uk and we’ll be in touch.
Find us online

Find out more about who we are and what it’s like to study with us on the Department of Music website.

We’re also on:

Twitter @brisunimusic
Facebook @VicRoomsBristol

bristol.ac.uk/music
Frequently Asked Questions

bristol.ac.uk/music
Performance-related FAQs

How many hours of one-to-one instrumental lessons will the department pay for?
Provided that you are taking an assessed unit in performance, the department will pay for: 14 hours in your first year; 16 hours in your second year; 20 hours in your third year.

Can I study more than one instrument?
Not officially, no. This is because we expect a high standard of performance in our recitals so, to support you achieving this, we limit the number of instruments you can study to one.

Can you help me find a private tutor for a second-study instrument?
Yes! While we can’t pay for lessons on a second study instrument, we can put you in touch with local teachers on our database.