

Your audition at the Academy

www.ram.ac.uk/study www.ram.ac.uk/departments
www.ram.ac.uk/study/audition
www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on/travelling-to-the-academy



Introduction

For some people an audition can seem like a daunting prospect; to help put you at your ease, we hope you find this information useful. It is intended to give you an insight into the audition process and how you need to prepare.

If your first audition is at the Academy in December, the whole audition process is normally completed within the same day (though there are later recall dates for Opera).

We endeavour to avoid the audition times offered by other colleges, but it is impossible to avoid every clash. However, if you have to ask us for a different date, if it is possible to make changes, we will – provided that it is for a good reason. Any request should be made by email to the Admissions Team, through admissions@ram.ac.uk with full details of why the original time is not possible, and any other commitments or auditions you have during our audition period.

If you do have an audition at another conservatoire on the same day, or have made travel arrangements, and have limited time available at the Academy, please tell your panel steward when you arrive, and they will help to ensure your audition process is completed with minimum delay.

Preparation

- You can find information about the repertoire you should prepare (and, for some principal studies, specific pieces and/or technical exercises) through www.ram.ac.uk/departments.
- Remember to check the website for the latest information.
- Give yourself plenty of time to learn the repertoire so that you are confident when playing to the audition panel.
- Candidates for undergraduate harp auditions will be asked to perform a prepared study which will be emailed to them 7 days in advance.
- If you have any doubts or questions, please contact the Admissions Team, or the relevant Department Administrator whose contact details are published in www.ram.ac.uk/departments.

When you arrive

You will receive an email from the Admissions Team asking you to book in your audition slot on Calendly, or this will be booked in for you. Once booked in, you will receive a confirmation email from Calendly.

<http://journeyplanner.tfl.gov.uk> may be helpful if you need advice on how to reach the Academy (the nearest tube station is Baker Street, our postcode is NW1 5HT).

You will normally have a practice time immediately before the audition, unless your audition is for organ (see below). This warm-up will usually be for 15 to 20 minutes (a longer warmup is scheduled for Guitar, Accordion, Ensemble Piano, Harp, and Timpani & Percussion candidates).

Overall, you should expect to be in the Academy for up to 3 hours, to allow for extra assessments. Please do not leave the building until you have received a message on Acceptd to say it's okay to do so.

POSTGRADUATE CANDIDATES (for MA, MMus, PGCert, Postgraduate Diploma, Professional Diploma, Advanced Diploma Performance and Advanced Diploma Opera)

Please aim to arrive at least 40 minutes in advance of your audition time (60 minutes for Harpists and Percussionists). Please contact admissions@ram.ac.uk if you anticipate any difficulty with these suggested times.

UNDERGRADUATE CANDIDATES (for BMus, Gap Year)

We recommend that you should aim to arrive at least 40 minutes before the audition time (50 minutes before the audition for Harpists and Percussionists). Please contact admissions@ram.ac.uk if you anticipate any difficulty with these suggested times.

ORGAN CANDIDATES

Your rehearsal on the Rieger organ is at a specific time which is given as the earlier time in your audition notification. This is usually in the morning, with the audition itself taking place in the afternoon. Undergraduate candidates have 45 minutes to rehearse, postgraduate candidates have 1 hour. Please tell the Admissions Manager if you will need the Academy to provide a page-turner: admissions@ram.ac.uk.

ENSEMBLE PIANO CANDIDATES

Please see the information on <https://www.ram.ac.uk/study/departments/ensemble-piano/audition-requirements> about soloists for your audition.

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer additional practice facilities before the allocated warm-up time, because the building is in full use by current students (during term time) or by other audition candidates (during the audition session). However, there are a number of commercial providers of practice facilities in London.

See <https://www.ram.ac.uk/study/audition>

Arriving

- When you arrive at the Academy, please report to the welcome desk in the Patrons' Room on the right-hand side of the main entrance hall. A steward will greet you and will tell you what to do next.
- Please do not bring family members and other friends (other than an accompanist) because the Academy does get very crowded at times and there is limited waiting space - we see up to 1700 candidates within a ten-day period. There are plenty of cafes, shops, restaurants, and pubs that your guests can wait in on Marylebone High St and Baker St.
- You (the candidate) will be most welcome to enjoy drinks and food in the "Sound Bites" canteen (basement floor) and wander around to get a feel of the place.
- Keep your mobile phone with you so we can contact you through Acceptd, but please remember to switch it to 'silent' mode during your audition!
- **There is no dress code.**

The Audition Itself

The length of your audition may vary, depending on the programme you are applying for. The audition itself may include an opportunity for you to speak to the audition panel. There will usually be two or three examiners on the audition panel, and they are eager that you perform well and in as relaxed an atmosphere as possible. They will be welcoming and will have no preconceptions about how you might perform to them on the day. They would like you to think of your audition as a performance. Please be aware, however, that auditions tend to vary

according to the individual and you should not be concerned if your performances are cut short before you reach the end of a piece.

If the audition requirements for your principal study say that you should be prepared to perform scales and arpeggios, these will normally be ABRSM Grade 8 standard www.abrsm.org unless otherwise specified.

Composers, whose portfolios will already have been assessed, will have an interview to discuss their own music and other musical interests.

Vocal Department or Opera candidates should bring a list of their audition repertoire to give to the panel.

Please note:

- Our audition/interview process is a diagnostic one, we are therefore unable to provide detailed feedback to applicants. Entry to our courses is highly competitive and feedback may simply state the fact that other applicants were stronger or that the course is not, in our opinion, suitable for them.
- Panels and stewards will not be able to comment on the number of students being accepted in any particular discipline, this will ultimately be decided by the Admissions Meeting when the auditions are over.

Extra assessments

In the majority of cases candidates will only have one audition. However, sometimes a candidate may be asked to perform (or be interviewed) again. These are as follows:

1. Opera audition: All opera candidates will sing to a preliminary panel in the Theatre and may be invited for a recall audition in the Theatre, to take place in the final days of our audition period.
2. Second audition: In some cases, candidates may be asked to perform again before the Principal or the Deputy Principal/s. Please note, however, that this does not guarantee a place. Places available within particular departments may be limited, application numbers may be high, and the quality of candidates may be uniformly impressive. Composition, Jazz, and Opera candidates do not need a second audition.

Jazz Written Assessment

All Jazz candidates take a short jazz theory paper directly after their audition.

Postgraduate Written Requirements

Candidates for the Master of Music, Professional Diploma and Advanced Diploma programmes must bring written work as explained here:

<https://www.ram.ac.uk/study/entry-requirements> The work will be discussed if you are called for interview (see below). If you are an MMus candidate, this will help us to decide between offering an MMus place or an MA place; if you do not upload the work into your Accepted profile, we can only consider you for MA entry.

Advanced Diploma (Performance) candidates who have expressed interest in the Professional Diploma course should upload appropriate written work to their Accepted profile in case they are asked to have an academic interview.

Programme Assessment

Candidates who reach a certain level of achievement in their principal-study audition will be called to an academic interview (Programme Assessment) on the same day. The interviewer, usually a member of the academic studies or tutorial team, will use this opportunity to find out more about you, for example you may be asked a few questions about your motivation for

wishing to study the course and how you propose to fund your studies.

You will be contacted by the Admissions team through Acceptd if the panel has recommended this. If you are unclear, please ask.

The Academy regrets that places cannot be offered to students who do not attend their interview if they have been emailed an invitation to attend a Programme Assessment.

Undergraduate candidates except Jazz:

To help us stream you into the most appropriate classes you may be asked some questions about a short extract of music, and be asked to take some aural skills assessments consisting of a sight-singing test and some of the following:

- singing the middle notes in a chord
- identification of intervals
- sight reading of rhythms
- sight reading of two simultaneous different rhythms, to be sung and clapped.

Sorry, we cannot issue specimen tests.

Jazz undergraduate candidates are interviewed during their practical audition.

Accompanists

You may choose to bring your own accompanist to your audition. Alternatively, the Academy has a pool of accompanists for auditions in London.

If you wish to use an Academy accompanist, there is no charge for this, and you only need to tell your panel steward when you arrive for your audition. You will be allocated a short rehearsal with them in your warm-up time immediately before your audition. Academy accompanists will always do their utmost to provide you with a satisfactory accompaniment to your chosen programme, although rehearsal time is necessarily limited.

Please note that very difficult or technically challenging accompaniments can be difficult to master in the warm-up slot that will precede your audition, so if you intend to perform such a piece you are strongly advised to bring your own accompanist. We do not require advance notice of your programme.

N.B. We regret that we are unable to allocate accompanists in advance, to receive music in advance, to arrange additional rehearsal time before the audition or to lend you music from our Library.

Programme information

You may find it useful to look at the department handbooks and academic programme handbooks which are available on www.ram.ac.uk/academy-handbooks.

Accommodation

If you need to find accommodation when you visit London for your audition, this website may be useful: <http://www.bedandbreakfasts.co.uk/royal-academy-of-music/>

Results

Results of auditions assessed in November and December will be notified online through UCAS Conservatoires Hub before Christmas. However, we regret we cannot give any results over the telephone, and we cannot send you a result if you have any unpaid fees in your UCAS Conservatoires application.

If you were unhappy about your audition procedure, please let us know (no later than 10 working days after receiving the result notification through UCAS Conservatoires Hub) by writing to the Academic Registrar, Catherine Jury, through admissions@ram.ac.uk. Please note, however, that it is not possible to appeal against the judgement of the assessment panel.