



ICMP

The Institute  
of Contemporary  
Music Performance

# **Audition Guidance** BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance Applicants

[icmp.ac.uk](http://icmp.ac.uk)



## BMus Auditions

### On the Day...

Please ensure that you are on time for your arranged audition, we recommend arriving at least fifteen minutes before your scheduled appointment.

Please be aware, if you have not already, you will need to complete your application before we can make you any formal offers, regardless of your audition outcome.

### UCAS Details

#### **BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance**

Institution Code: i25

Course Code: W315

If you are using any CDs, MP3s, USBs, or any Soundcloud / YouTube links, we recommend you test them prior to arriving to ensure they work.



## BMus Auditions

### What to prepare...

You should discuss your experience, interests and goals with the admissions team to find out which audition route and which programme of study is most suitable. In the audition, you will follow the 'audition route' for that programme. If you are still unsure of which programme you wish to study, you should prepare for both audition routes. The initial interview section will then help inform which route is best to follow on the day.

### How the audition will run and what you need to prepare

#### Section A: Interview

This part is the same for which ever programme of study you have shown interest in. It is an opportunity to discuss your experience and aspirations in detail with the tutor who may also be able to give you further advice about which course(s) may be most suitable for you.

To prepare, and as examples, the tutor may ask you to discuss:

- Previous study and experience
- Reasons for choosing this programme of study and ICMP
- Understanding structure and content of courses
- Aspirations for study and career

#### Section B: Performance

- Prepare two performances on your chosen instrument discipline. The two pieces chosen should be of contrasting styles to demonstrate versatility.
- As a guideline, each performance should be between 2–4 mins long
- Technique, stylistic range and performance craft will each be assessed



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### How the audition will run and what you need to prepare (cont.)

#### Section C: Applied Musicianship

You will be given 20 minutes to prepare an unseen excerpt from a piece of popular music repertoire (benchmarked against Rockschool Grade 5 performance exercises).

To aid in this, you'll be given access to notated charts, lyrics and a customisable backing track.

After this time, you will perform the piece and be asked questions by your auditioning tutor about the piece. These questions will be related to:

- technique
- stylistic awareness
- music theory

You are not expected to be able to play the piece in its entirety or perfectly. This part of the audition is designed to help identify your development needs and which programme would be best to help you address these.

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### What you need to bring

For section B, you are likely to need to play audio. It is best to bring this on your phone, table, laptop or an MP3 player. Download/upload it beforehand so you do not have to rely on phone reception to stream the data on the day. We can plug this into our speaker systems with an aux cable to play at full volume if needed for accompaniment of your performance.

### Other equipment you may need:



**Drummers** – sticks only (please let us know ahead of time if you require a left handed set-up or a double pedal. Your audition will be on a standard 5-piece house kit)



**Guitarists & Bass players**  
– guitar only, amps will be available to use in the audition room



**Singers** – no equipment needed



A keyboard is also available on request and will likely be used in vocal auditions.



**Headphones / In Ear Monitors (IEMs) and Ear plugs** (if you have them)  
– auditions can be loud, we encourage students to protect their hearing at all times.

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### Final note

Prepare as best you can for this, but remember, this is not just about an opportunity to celebrate what you can already do. More important, is to identify where any developments may lie.

The point of this audition is not to make decisions about whether you are good enough to study at ICMP. Instead, it's an opportunity for us to identify what we can do for you.

The activities in the audition will support our recommendation of what we consider to be the most suitable programme of study for you. This will be made clear through detailed written feedback which you will receive.

**Undergraduate auditions are generally 45-minutes in length**

### Any questions?

If you have any questions on the above, please contact the ICMP Admissions team on: 020 7328 0222 or via email [enquiries@icmp.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@icmp.ac.uk)

**We look forward to meeting you on your audition day.**