



BHASVIC Applying to Conservatoires 2023-24

<https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires>

BHASVIC contact

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Deadlines for applications

For courses starting in 2024, your application should be with us by one of these dates to ensure consideration by the conservatoires:

1 October 2023, 18:00 – for music courses

31 January 2024, 18:00 – for most undergraduate dance, drama or musical theatre courses

However, there are some exceptions, particularly for certain audition locations, international applicants or postgraduate courses, so check the conservatoire websites for full details.

If you miss the deadline for your course, you **must** ask the conservatoires whether they have vacancies before applying – we'll still process your application either way, but it will be deemed 'late' and some conservatoires might not consider you.

In 2022 nearly 11,000 students applied to study at a UK conservatoire via UCAS Conservatoires. This toolkit includes information and resources to help you support students applying to conservatoires.

An introduction to conservatoires

Conservatoires provide performance-based higher education, including music, drama, screen and production courses – both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

UCAS offers an application route to nine UK conservatoires – each has its own strengths and specialisms, so its important students do their research to find the right fit for them. The conservatoires in the UCAS Conservatoires scheme are:

- [Royal Birmingham Conservatoire](#)
- [Bristol Old Vic Theatre School](#)
- [Leeds Conservatoire](#)
- [Royal Academy of Music](#)
- [Royal College of Music](#)
- [Royal Conservatoire of Scotland](#)
- [Royal Northern College of Music](#)

- [Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama](#)
- [Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance](#)

Five differences between studying at a conservatoire versus university or college

1. **Facilities** - Conservatoires tend to be smaller institutions which are focused on specific areas of study; such as music, dance and drama. They will, therefore, have specialist teaching and facilities dedicated to these areas.
2. **Specialist focus** - Universities tend to be much larger and will often offer a broad range of courses which could include anything from maths and engineering to art, history and music.
3. **Practical study is the main focus** - both conservatoires and universities offer degree-level qualifications, however at a university practical study is typically an element of the course, whereas at a conservatoire it is the main focus, and heart of what students do.
4. **Course structures** - the year is broken down into a block of academic weeks, followed by a block of performance weeks. Performances and workshops are mostly held in the evenings and at weekends meaning graduates from conservatoires will be accustomed to the ways of working, hours, and expectations of the industry they are going to work in, as they will have practised this throughout their course.
5. **Teaching staff are working professionals** - professional musicians teach at conservatoires as part of their portfolios, and many teach at more than one conservatoire. There is a strong emphasis on one-to-one tuition, alongside group work and performances.

Applying to a conservatoire

Competition for places at conservatoires can be very high, and students can apply for up to six courses at once.

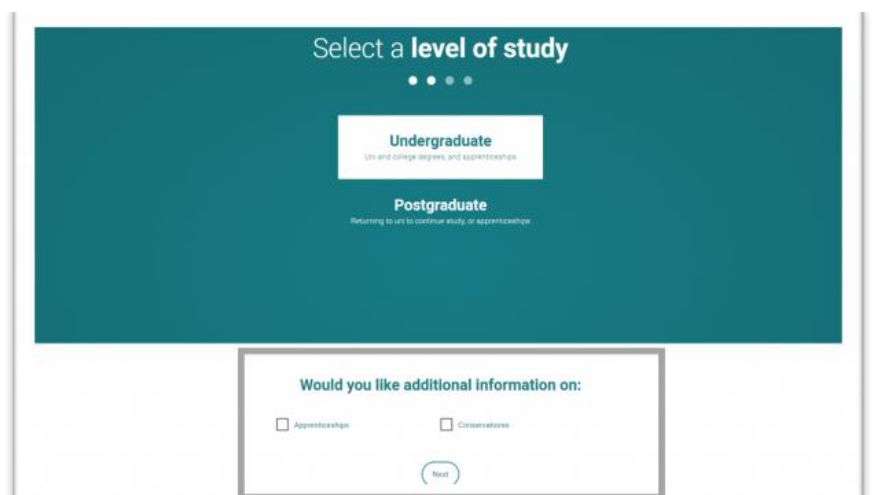
1: Register with the UCAS Hub

Firstly, students need to register for the [UCAS Hub](#) – this is where they'll be able to research their options and start an application.

During registration they must indicate they're interested in a conservatoire by clicking the 'Conservatoire' option – this will ensure they see relevant information including deadline alerts.

2: Use the UCAS search tool

Conservatoire courses are listed in the [UCAS Search tool](#). To search purely for conservatoire courses, students should add the 'conservatoire' filter:

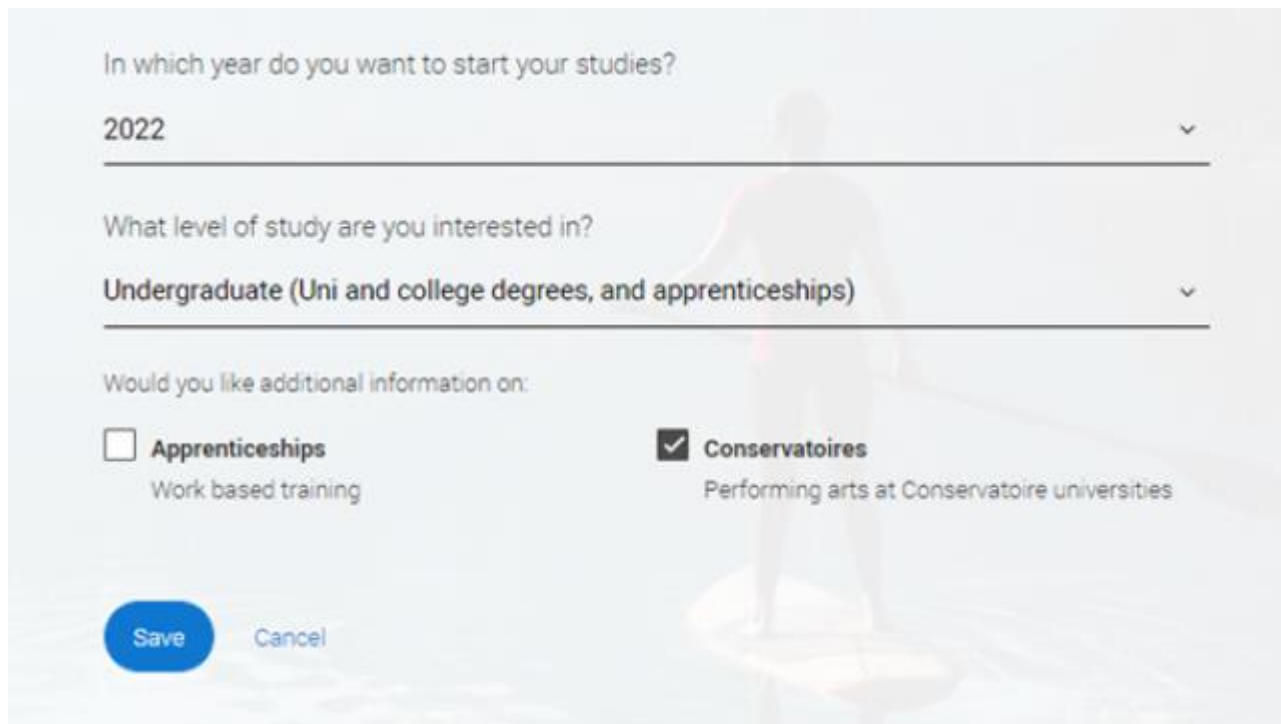


As long as you are logged in to your UCAS Hub account you'll be able to favourite courses to create shortlist of courses they're interested in.

3: Apply directly from the Hub

From 15 July 2021 students who have told UCAS they're interested in conservatoire courses starting in 2022 will see a tile called 'Your application'. All you need to do is click 'Start' and follow on the on screen steps.

If you can't see the option to start an application, you should update their preferences and make sure you've selected they're interested in 2022 entry and ticked the conservatoire box – see below:

A screenshot of a web form for selecting study preferences. The form has a light blue background with a faint image of a person on a surfboard. It contains three sections: 1. A dropdown menu for 'In which year do you want to start your studies?' with '2022' selected. 2. A dropdown menu for 'What level of study are you interested in?' with 'Undergraduate (Uni and college degrees, and apprenticeships)' selected. 3. A section titled 'Would you like additional information on:' with two options: 'Apprenticeships' (unselected) and 'Conservatoires' (selected with a checkmark). Below the 'Conservatoires' option is the text 'Performing arts at Conservatoire universities'. At the bottom left are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Differences to the undergraduate application:

- Students can make up to six choices
- There isn't a 'Employment' section
- For most courses students will need to attend an audition or interview or send a recording or portfolio to each conservatoire. There's usually a fee for this which we'll collect during the application. However, in some cases students will need to pay the conservatoire directly.

Similarities with the undergraduate application

- Centralised registration and login – use UCAS Hub credentials for entire UCAS application.
- Application fee – the application for 2022 entry applications will be £26.50.

4: Preparing for auditions and assessments

Auditions and assessments are a key part of the admissions process. Where possible auditions are in-person, however during 2021 many were online due to coronavirus restrictions.

Check out UCAS guidance on [how auditions and assessments work and what to expect](#).

Resources

- [Conservatoires UK guide to studying at a conservatoire](#) – a guide created by Conservatoires UK.
 - [Guide to conservatoire assessments](#) – a short guide to help students understand what to expect
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Quick links

- ucas.com/conservatoires – a dedicated page from which you can find our content for students looking to apply to conservatoires
- [Discovery Days](#) – at UCAS/Discovery students can explore all kinds of possibilities including conservatoire study.
- [Virtual open days](#) – we've created a centralised listing for upcoming uni virtual open days, and a [handy video](#) giving students tips on how to make the most out of them.

A step-by-step guide to applying to a conservatoire

When you've [found a course](#) you want to apply to, there are a few key points to note before you start your application:

- You can only apply once in a cycle – don't apply more than once as you won't receive a refund for further applications.
 - Check the application deadlines before you apply – [check UCAS search tool](#) to find the date for your courses.
 - If you've applied in previous cycles and want to apply again, you'll have to submit a new application.
 - There's quite a bit to fill in, but you don't need do it all at once – you can save your application and sign back in at anytime.
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1. Register with UCAS

Register in the [UCAS Hub](#) and complete the registration questions – confirming you want to start your studies in 2022 and are interested in 'conservatoires'.

You'll then be taken to your UCAS Hub dashboard where, from 15 July, you'll see a tile called 'Your application'. Simply click 'Start' to begin your application.

2. Complete your profile

There are some key points to note:

1. **You must complete all mandatory questions and you can't skip any sections.** These must all be complete before your application can be sent. But you don't have to do it all at once – sign in and save your progress at any time.

2. **Make sure your email address is always up-to-date** – so you don't miss important updates on your application.
 3. **We'll ask for your residency status** – if you're from outside the UK and need clarification on this, [visit the UKCISA website](#) for detailed information.
 4. **We ask how you plan to fund your studies** – but we do not manage student finance applications. [Find out more about funding and finance](#).
 5. **You can give a parent, guardian, or adviser nominated access** – if you'd like them to be able to speak to us on your behalf. We'll be able to discuss your application with them, but for security reasons, we can't share your login details (for example, if you need to change your password).
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3. Add your previous education

Enter details of up to five schools, colleges and universities you have most recently attended or are still attending.

Please include any conservatoire junior departments or academies you've attended too.

4. Add your previous qualifications

Enter all your qualifications – whether you have the result (even any that were ungraded) or you're still awaiting exams and results. Upcoming – June 22 – results will be pending.

5. Select your course choices

You can choose up to **six courses** – in no preference order.

- Conservatoires will be able to see where else you've applied, but your choices are listed in no preference order.
- There are 'study type' options for music courses, but for other subjects this will just state 'Main specialism'.
- Then you can choose from one of the audition locations.

There's usually no need to apply for more than one course at any particular conservatoire.

Studying music?

If you're applying for music courses, you might be able to select two instruments if you'd like to.

- Main specialism is just one instrument.
- Joint main specialism is two instruments studied equally.
- Secondary specialism is two instruments – one as your main and one as your secondary.
- Alternative main specialism is giving two options, either of which you'd be happy to study as one main instrument.

Thinking about several courses for the same instrument or discipline?

- If you want to apply for several courses for the same instrument or discipline at the same conservatoire, just mention one of them on your UCAS Conservatoires application.
- Then contact the conservatoire directly to mention your interest in other courses (stating your name and the Personal ID we'll email you after you've submitted your application to us).

Not sure which courses you're qualified for?

1. Firstly, you'll know whether you're at undergraduate or postgraduate level – depending whether you've previously completed further education or graduated from an undergraduate degree.
 2. Then you can choose a type of course at that level. They have different entry requirements, so it's a good idea to contact the conservatoire to check which course they think you should apply for.
 3. If there's uncertainty over which will be the most suitable, just apply for the highest level course you're interested in, then the conservatoire will be able to make a final decision at the audition or interview stage.
- For example, if you'll be studying at undergraduate level and you're not sure if you'll be qualified for a diploma or a BMus degree, only apply for the BMus degree.
 - If you'll be studying at postgraduate level and not sure whether to apply for a postgraduate diploma or a master's degree, only apply for the master's degree.
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6. Write a personal statement

This is your chance to show conservatoires why you want to study the course and why you'd make a great student. It might take a while until you're happy with it and you've checked it through with teachers, advisers or family, so it's a good idea to start early.

[Tips on how to write a personal statement](#)

7. Get two references

- You'll need an academic reference and a practical reference. One of these will be your BHASVIC academic reference.

For Conservatoires ONLY (NOT your UCAS application) please put the referee details as Nikki Fabry, Guidance Manager n.fabry@bhasvic.ac.uk

Please email n.fabry@bhasvic.ac.uk to let her know that she will be expecting a reference request.

- If you are unable to get your references in time, you can proceed without a reference by selecting the relevant tick box in the reference section of your application. You will need to

print or download the reference forms and email them to your referees – and they need to send the references to the conservatoires you're applying to.

- This must be completed by the end of October for music courses, or as soon as possible for courses with other deadlines – check conservatoire websites for specific dates.

[More about arranging your references](#)

8. Read the declaration

Once you've marked all previous sections as complete you'll be able to read and agree to the declaration – which allows us to process your info and send it to your conservatoires.

9. Pay application and assessment fees

There's an application fee of £26 if you're applying to study in 2021, and £26.50 if you're applying to study in 2022.

For most courses you'll need to attend an audition or interview, or send a recording or portfolio to each conservatoire.

- There's usually a fee for these auditions and assessments – we collect most of these fees at this stage, but in some cases you'll need to pay the conservatoire directly.
- When you're ready to send it, your application will tell you how much each fee is, and whether you need to pay now or send the fee direct to the conservatoire.

Useful links

<https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires>

<https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires/how-apply-through-ucas-conservatoires/ucas-conservatoires-apply-and-track>

For more information,  please see the [Conservatoires UK guide to studying at a conservatoire](#) (10.4 MB).

You can download the reference forms here:

 [UCAS Conservatoires academic reference form](#) (124 KB)

 [UCAS Conservatoires practical reference form](#) (125 KB)