



# Royal Conservatoire *of* Scotland

**Arcadia University – The College of Global Studies  
Guide for Applicants: 2016/17**

**BA Acting  
Bachelor of Music (Hons)  
Bachelor of Music (Traditional Music) with Honours  
Bachelor of Music (Traditional Music – Piping) with Honours  
BA Contemporary Performance Practice (Hons)  
BA Production Technology and Management  
BA Production Arts and Design  
BA Digital Film and Television  
BA Musical Theatre  
BA Modern Ballet**

# **GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS**

*For Entry in 2016/17*

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## First Class Facilities

World-class talent and tuition demands nothing less than first-class facilities. We believe an excellent environment supports excellent performances. That's why our facilities are amongst the best in Europe.

## Performance

Performance is at the heart of what we do. The range and diversity of opportunities we provide to our students is one of the things which makes us distinctive. We stage around 500 performances in our own venues every year, issuing over 40,000 tickets, and our students also regularly appear in professional venues externally.

## Glasgow

Glasgow is known the world over for its friendliness, energy, and gritty humour. With 80,000 fellow students, you'll find a warm welcome, and a huge choice of bars, clubs, and restaurants to unwind in. All kinds of performance and creativity abound, and it's the film and TV capital of Scotland. The city's cultural offer is the most significant in the UK outside London (Myerscough Report 2011). Glasgow is a UNESCO creative city: it is the City of Music. In 2014 it hosted the Commonwealth Games.

Edinburgh, Scotland's capital, with the International Festival and Fringe, is just 40 minutes away by train. The rest of the UK is easily accessible, and five international airports offer European and worldwide connections. There are a number of budget airlines offering flights to the rest of the UK and Europe; London is an hour by air, four and a half hours by train and you can fly to Paris, Amsterdam, or Rome in an hour and a half.

## The Conservatoire

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is one of the worlds' leading Conservatoires and we are unique in Europe in offering such a rich range of programmes, which include dance, drama, music, production and screen. We recruit students from around 50 countries across the world and, which, of course, includes many from the United States of America.

We are delighted that you are interested in joining us at the Royal Conservatoire and we would be very happy to consider an application for a semester or for an entire year. We can guarantee you an experience of exceptional quality.

Our semester dates (or trimesters as we call them) for session 2016/17 are:

Trimester 1	Monday 19 September 2016	New Students (Welcome & Transitions Week)
	Monday 26 September 2016	Teaching Begins
	Monday 7 November 2016	Independent Learning Week*
	Monday 19 December 2016	Winter Break Begins
	Monday 9 January 2017	Teaching Resumes
	Friday 3 February 2017	Trimester 1 Ends

	Monday 6 February 2017	Bridge Week **
Trimester 2	Monday 13 February 2017	Trimester 2 Begins
	Monday 27 March 2017	Intensive Choice***
	Monday 3 April 2017	Spring Break Begins
	Tuesday 18 April 2017	Teaching Resumes
	Monday 12 June 2017	Transitions Week
	Friday 16 June 2017	Trimester 2 Ends

*\*The mid-point of Trimester One represents an opportunity for you to engage in self-directed independent learning. This may involve development of a module in progress; completion of an assessment task; reflection; preparation for an upcoming module*

*\*\*Bridge Week is an interdisciplinary, cross-conservatoire performance event where students are given free rein of RCS resources and facilities to devise original and creative work.*

*\*\*\*In order to facilitate staff-supervised collaborative projects within and between levels and programmes, this week is not scheduled in the usual way. It is envisaged that this week will facilitate an intensive practical process, with possible scheduled preparatory work in the period beforehand, and evaluative work afterwards. For students at Levels Two to Four who choose not to opt for an intensive Choice module, this week will be an Independent Learning Week, and her/his expected outcomes for that week will be articulated in the Student Contract.*

Full details of all our programmes are available on our website at [www.rcs.ac.uk](http://www.rcs.ac.uk) and if you require any further information, please contact our International and Student Experience Team at [international@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:international@rcs.ac.uk)

Please note that if our first trimester dates do not coincide with your own institution's calendar, it may be possible to tailor your programme to allow you to return home at the commencement of the Conservatoire's winter break.

## Application Process

Firstly you should check that Arcadia will accept an application from you. Various factors are taken into consideration including your GPA and your home institution. Applications should be made at <http://studyabroad.arcadia.edu/>

## Preparation for Audition

Recordings should be submitted alongside your application directly to Arcadia. The required content is different for each programme of study. Details are as follows:

### Bachelor of Music (Hons)

International applicants must supply an authenticated and referenced recording of performance of two contrasted works on the principal instrument or voice. The recording should be of professional quality. This can either be submitted by DVD, CD, email, YouTube link or Vimeo. If you are uploading your audition to a website, please ensure there is no expiry date on your video. Please check individual requirements for specific instruments in the following guide: <https://www.rcs.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/BMus-Guide-to-Applicants-2016-17.pdf>

## **Bachelor of Music (Traditional Music) with Honours and Bachelor of Music (Traditional Music - Piping) with Honours**

Please supply a recording of performance of two contrasted works on the principal instrument or voice. The recording should be of professional quality, ideally on DVD.

### **BA Acting**

BA Acting applicants must supply a recording. This can either be submitted by DVD, email, YouTube link or Vimeo. If you are uploading your audition to a website, please ensure there is no expiry date on your video. Please submit yourself performing two speeches in character. One should be from a play by William Shakespeare, preferably in verse, and the other a contemporary contrasting piece of your own choice. Each speech should be no less than one minute and no more than three minutes. Please also include a personal statement at the beginning (straight to camera). This should include a brief overview of your background and why you are interested in studying at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Please also include a variety of close, medium and long shots in your audition.

### **BA (Hons) Contemporary Performance Practice**

Please submit the following:

1. A DVD recording of a personal statement (straight to camera). This should include a brief overview of your background and why you are interested in studying at the Conservatoire.
2. A DVD of yourself performing a short performance piece (please email [dramaadmissions@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:dramaadmissions@rcs.ac.uk) to be sent the performance piece pictures)
3. A performance analysis
4. Following your DVD recording, you will be contacted for a Skype interview.

### **What is the Performance Piece?**

- You will be invited to prepare an original, devised performance piece using as a starting point your selection from a number of pictures which will be sent to you with your invitation to attend for audition. You may, if you wish, choose elements from any or all of the pictures. They are random pictures but you may see a 'theme' in them and wish to explore that.
- The piece must last no more than 3 minutes, so time yourself.
- It does not have to be naturalistic or 'tell a 'story'.
- The main thing to avoid is performing a 'talking head'. In other words don't just perform a spoken monologue in character without any of the ideas below. Try, as far as possible to turn your ideas into images.
- Try to give your piece a structure (even though it's only 3 minutes) for example, you may begin and end with the same 'moment' in time.

Your piece may include one, some or all of the following:

- Real objects: e.g. teapot, iron, hat, suitcase, clothing etc.
- Symbolic objects: e.g. cross, flower, mask, etc.
- Spoken word: e.g. text you've written yourself, text from a play, text from a poem, a newspaper article, a politician's speech etc.
- Action and movement: e.g. gestures, everyday activity, found activity (copying the way someone you see in the street walks, an air hostess giving emergency instructions, someone dancing in a club etc.), dance etc.

- Music: e.g. a song sung live, music and/or sound recorded onto MP3 or CD, music played by you on an instrument etc.

### **The Written Exercise – Performance Analysis**

You are invited to write about a live performance event you have seen recently, saying what you liked/disliked about it and why. You are asked to explain why this performance was an important experience for you. The written Performance Analysis will give us an indication of your ability to communicate your ideas about performance in good written English. You are advised to write about a live performance event which you feel strongly about. Your Performance Analysis should be no longer than 500 words and must be all your own work.

### **BA Production Technology and Management / BA Production Arts and Design**

You will be invited to a Skype or telephone interview.

You are invited to submit any evidence prior to the interview that you think will support your application. The interview panel will judge each applicant as an individual with a unique mix of qualities and in consequence you are encouraged to bring practical examples of your work to the interview which might take the form of at least some of the following, depending on your specialism:

- Art portfolios, sketches, models, photographs
- Samples of practical work such as props, costume, small pieces of woodwork etc.
- Prompt books, cue sheets and other production related documentation.
- Set and/or costume designs either as sketches, renderings or three-dimensional models.
- Examples of lighting and/or sound designs.
- Rigging plans or technical specifications sheets.
- Evidence of previous production experience such as press cuttings or programmes, whether at school, amateur level or professionally.

Prior to the interview you will be sent a predefined exercise, which is not intended to demonstrate your skills as a designer but rather to show your approach to a given task. You will be asked to bring your response to this exercise to the interview. The panel will invite you to discuss the process of your work with them and will also ask you to discuss a piece of theatre that you have seen recently. It is important to be well prepared for the interview as it is a short space of time for us to get to know you.

The interview panel will be assessing, amongst other things;

- The relevance and validity of your previous experiences, both academic and production-related.
- Your ability to analyse production requirements, make appropriate decisions and communicate and defend your conclusions.
- Your understanding of the Technical and Production Arts industry and the nature of the training programme have applied for.
- Your career aspirations and approach to achieving your goals.

## BA Digital Film and Television

You will be invited to a Skype or telephone interview.

As part of your application, we invite you to submit a programme idea and film summary (further details will be forwarded to you along with your interview date and time). You may also *choose* to submit up to three supplementary items, such as scripts, storyboards, sound tapes, visual designs, designs for new media, etc. These last items are not required, but are allowed in the case of those who do not feel that videotape is adequate for demonstrating either their work or their vision. Please submit any supplementary items prior to your interview. Panels will judge applications strictly on the criteria outlined below:

Applications will be scored in the following areas:

- Experience/knowledge (10%)
- Creativity/Imagination (40%)
- Communication Skills (20%)
- Evidence of ability to work independently (10%)
- Educational Attainment (20%)

In areas where two or more candidates score closely, the panel will consider another factor: (6) allied experience (such as writing, directing or acting).

## BA Musical Theatre

Please submit a DVD and clearly chapter each section and include a personal statement at the beginning (straight to camera). This should include a brief overview of your background and why you are interested in studying at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

### Dance / Movement

Please film yourself performing a short dance piece (1-3mins) which may be jazz, ballet or contemporary based. This can be self-choreographed or by a teacher. This should demonstrate turns, jumps and floor work.

### Singing

Please film yourself singing three songs accompanied by a pianist. These should show vocal range and the awareness and ability to use contrasting stylistic features common to Musical Theatre repertoire. The range should include three songs, one of which is not from a musical (this may be pop, rock, blues, gospel, jazz, folk etc).

### Acting

For this section you should film yourself performing:

- **1 Shakespeare monologue** and
- **1 contemporary monologue** to contrast.

Both should be no longer than 2 minutes in length.

## **BA Modern Ballet**

### **Application Form**

Applicants should give details of the highest level of external examination attained (if any), the date and the mark awarded. They should also state which Dance Society this was with (i.e. RAD, ISTD, etc.). It should be noted that this is **not** a prerequisite for audition and merely an indication of level. This should be noted under the personal statement.

### **Photographs**

Applicants should submit the following photographs alongside their Arcadia application:

- (i) Demi-plie en face, arms in bras bas
- (ii) Degage a la seconde, arms in 2<sup>nd</sup> position
- (iii) Arabesque en l'air, facing decote (side)
- (iv) Girls only – 2<sup>nd</sup> position en pointe, arms in 5<sup>th</sup> position

The photographs do not need to be professionally taken but should be against a plain background and of good quality. Applicants should be photographed in leotard and tights.

### **DVD Recording**

Please clearly chapter each section. The camera should be positioned so that the full range of movements is shown. Practice clothes and soft ballet shoes should be worn.

### **Barre Work** (Exercises should be performed on both sides)

Approximately 15 minutes, including:

- Plies
- Battements Tendus and Battements Glisses
- Ronds de Jambes and Battements Fondus
- Adage
- Grands Battements

### **Centre Practice and Allegro**

Approximately 20 minutes, including:

- Battements Tendus/Glisses/Grands Battements
- Adage
- Pirouettes – can be taken from 5<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> position, shown both en dehors and en dedans. Pirouettes should be performed on both the right and the left side
- Petit Allegro/Warm-up jump
- Allegro enchainement
- One grand allegro enchainement

### **Females**

In addition to the above, females should show a short example of pointe work.

## **Next Steps**

Once you have prepared your application and audition DVD Arcadia staff will submit this to the Conservatoire on your behalf. The Conservatoire will make a decision on your application based on your application and recording and respond to Arcadia within a two-week timeframe.

## **Equal Opportunities Policy and Statement**

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland welcomes a diverse population of staff and students. The Conservatoire is committed to promoting equality in its activities and it aims to provide a performing, learning, teaching, working and research environment free from unlawful discrimination against applicants, staff and students on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, actual or perceived religious or similar belief, sex and actual or perceived sexual orientation.

## **Criminal Convictions**

You should not be deterred from applying to the Conservatoire if you have criminal convictions – you will not necessarily be excluded from the selection process and you will certainly not be automatically excluded. We will though want to ask you about the nature of any conviction. As part of your application you will be required to declare where you have any relevant unspent criminal convictions.