

Apply Through: UCAS Conservatoires
Institution Code: R59
Course Code: 310F
Application Fee: £24
Audition Fee (one instrument): £63
Applications Open for Entry 2019: 18 July 2018
Applications Close for Entry 2019: 1 October 2018

This course overview provides a detailed summary of the BMus (Hons) Jazz programme as offered from September 2018. Please note that whilst the information reflects the programme offered to date, it may be subject to amendment and change in future years. Students are always consulted on such change and details are made available to applicants holding offers. Each year of the course is worth 120 credits. In order to progress through each year students will *normally* have to pass all modules.

Year One 120 credits (Level 4)

Jazz Repertoire & Style I

Core Module
40 Credits

The foundations of instrumental technique and style will be established principally through 1:1 lessons and broadened through Repertoire & Style ensemble classes, technical skills classes and rehearsals. Formative assessment will be delivered in Performance Classes where students will receive verbal feedback and engage in peer to peer review.

Ensemble classes will focus on specific genres such as The American Songbook, The Blues and Modal Jazz. Students will be encouraged to gain as much interactive performance experience as possible, for example within special departmental projects, the regular JazzTime programme and large ensembles such as choir and big band.

Jazz Composition Through Performance

Core Module
20 Credits

This module presents a practically-based introduction to composing for jazz. The starting point is the art of instantaneous composition and the creation of ideas through improvisation. Ensemble classes will explore how to harness ideas and create effective musical development. Supporting classes enable the student to efficiently use music notation software to appropriately present their work. Workshops will allow the student to practise presenting their work for read-through and rehearsal.

Enhancing Performance

Core Module
20 Credits

The module teaches you to make the most of your educational and professional potential. You will be introduced to a wide range of issues relating to physical and psychological health, along with technological and aesthetic matters fundamental to success as a performer or creative musician. Areas covered will include strategies for effective practice, physical fitness for the musician, applications of technology, the physicality of performance, aspects of style and interpretation, and

nutrition for the musician. After a series of awareness-raising presentations and workshops, you will be encouraged to establish and maintain effective personal practise regimes.

Approaches to Jazz History & Analysis

Core Module

20 Credits

This module seeks both to develop an awareness of the diversity inherent within musicological enquiry, and to provide students with the necessary skills to pursue the study of jazz in an informed manner. Initially, it will trace the roots and diverse trends associated with the development of Jazz during the first decades of the 20th century. The module will proceed to consider how jazz developed as a result of parallel movements in artistic, technological, cultural and social forces throughout the 20th century and into the 21st. A number of important case-study works will be discussed from both historical and analytical perspectives. Students will be required to adopt a critical response to the aesthetic of jazz and be encouraged to form a subjective notion about the music and their performance within it.

Jazz Harmony & Aural

Core Module

20 Credits

The module will firstly look at conventional theoretical and notational concepts. Students will then study the fundamental principles of harmonic progression employed in many jazz standards. The development of simple forms will provide the basis for understanding internal harmonisation and substitution. Analysis of existing compositions/improvisations presented in linear form will demonstrate melody/chord relationship. Listening and responding exercises are designed to help improve recognition of basic melodic shapes, chord-types, extended harmony and rhythmic cells. A range of recordings will be listened to as the first steps towards transcription and the practical application of aural perception. Departmental activity such as choir rehearsals will reinforce the students' aural skills.

Year Two 120 credits (Level 5)

In Year Two, you will study one core module worth 40 credits, three core modules each worth 20 credits, plus one optional 20 credit module.

Jazz Repertoire & Style II

Core Module

40 Credits

The development of instrumental/vocal technique and style will be continued principally through 1:1 lessons and broadened through Repertoire & Style ensemble classes, technical skills classes and rehearsals. Formative assessment will be delivered in Performance Classes where students will receive verbal feedback and engage in peer to peer review.

Ensemble classes will focus on specific genres such as Bebop, World Music and Bossa Nova. Students will be encouraged to gain as much interactive performance experience as possible, for example within special departmental projects, the regular JazzTime programme, outreach performances and large ensembles such as choir and big band.

The Session Musician

Core Module

20 Credits

Classes will focus on two main areas. There will be regular ensemble sight-reading classes that encompass a range of musical forms. Preparing for studio performance workshops will demonstrate the range of approaches required for this type of work, such as responding to material presented without notation, providing arrangement through performance. Other college activities will support the work of this module, e.g. RWCMD Big Band, RWCMD Jazz Choir, MAMT Production, collaboration with Drama in productions including The Puppetry Project and outreach performance projects including Winter Jazz.

Jazz Transcription & Analysis

Core Module
20 Credits

Initial classes will discuss the relevance of transcription on the student's own performance, guiding the selection of material chosen for individual study. Following classes will comprise of a range of aural training exercises, (including focus on form, orchestration, rhythm, melody and harmony). Examination of case studies will develop the process of analysis that the student may apply to their own work and enhance the ability to accurately notate complex material.

Advanced Jazz Harmony & Composition

Core Module
20 Credits

A series of ensemble classes will focus on key theoretical and stylistic developments in jazz, through the exploration of major artists'/composers' work that use specific harmonic/melodic/rhythmic devices and have led to the creation of dominant styles in the evolution of the music. Developmental tutorials will support the student in the application of these elements to their own composition.

Optional Modules (Years 2 & 3 Level 5)

Sound Recording

Optional Module
20 Credits

Theoretical and practical sessions will focus on recording a wide variety of material in a range of settings. Subjects covered will include mastering, post-production, editing and surround sound recording.

Alexander Technique

Optional Module
20 Credits

Alexander Technique is concerned primarily with economy of effort. In order to achieve economy of effort, you need to develop two distinct but interrelated levels of understanding - that of the anatomical structures and processes which are underlying movement and that of the mental/physical processes involved in preparing for, executing and monitoring moment by moment activity. This module introduces and develops these two areas in an integrated way which enables them to inform and support one another.

Biology for Musicians

Optional Module
20 Credits

This module will provide you with an appreciation of the biological principles underlying performance. To explain the origin of performance-related injury and strategies to avoid this. To provide an understanding of the mechanism of hearing, the origin of noise induced deafness and how sound exposure is measured and controlled in the musical workplace. To give an appreciation of the sources of stress in the context of a career in music, and how this can be managed.

Composing and Arranging

Optional Module
20 Credits

Workshops will include an investigation of the basic components of compositional technique and approaches to arranging through discussion of general principles and illustrations from existing works. You will be encouraged to develop a critical approach to your own work through discussion of your own pieces. A broader consideration of the aesthetic implications of compositional/arrangement choices will grow from these initial explorations of technical matters.

Music For Theatre

Optional Module

20 Credits

In this module you will examine the role(s) of music in theatre and its impact on dramatic forms. You will work with a theatre director and a composer with the aim of creating music/sound for an extract of a new production of a well-known text. You will be required to provide artistic/musical concepts, cue sheets and score (where applicable) of your work and be prepared to direct a rehearsed reading of text and music/sound.

International Exchange (Shared with Bmus)

Optional Module

20 Credits

**** Year 3 only

Year Three 60 credits (Level 5) 60 credits (Level 6)

In Year Three, you will study one core module worth 40 credits (Level 6), two core modules each worth 20 credits (Level 5), plus one optional 20 credit module (Level 5) and one core module worth 20 credits (Level 6).

Jazz Repertoire & Style III

Core Module

40 Credits (Level 6)

The development of instrumental/vocal technique and style will be continued principally through 1:1 lessons and broadened through Repertoire & Style ensemble classes, technical skills classes and rehearsals. Formative assessment will be delivered in Performance Classes where students will receive verbal feedback and engage in peer to peer review.

Ensemble classes will focus on specific genres such as: European Contemporary Jazz, Linear Improvisation and Jazz Crossover Styles. Students will be encouraged to gain as much interactive performance experience as possible, for example within special departmental projects, the regular JazzTime programme, outreach performances and large ensembles such as choir and big band.

Jazz Teaching Skills *a DBS Check will need to be undertaken for this module

Core Module

20 Credits

Seminars on current guidelines for working with young people and the national curriculum will underpin studies in this area and cover a range of topics. Practical group classes and workshops will apply the research from these early sessions to the development of individual instrumental/vocal teaching styles, the approaches to teaching of theory and notation, approaches to jazz training and workshop planning, (with particular emphasis on linking the work to particular age ranges/key stages). Students will work individually on certain practices, (e.g. teaching an instrument to a beginner) and in small groups, (facilitating workshops). Each student will work towards delivering workshops in schools. The workshops will essentially be student led, with tutor supervision. Following the teaching/facilitating practice, students are required to reflect on their experience as part of a portfolio.

Arranging for Jazz **a DBS Check will need to be undertaken for this module

Core Module

20 Credits

Initial workshops will introduce students to the fundamental processes of arranging music for a range of instrumental and vocal jazz ensembles. Following this, tutorials will offer more targeted guidance on student work towards a final performance outcome for which they will be required to produce their own arrangement(s) and to rehearse it appropriately.

Performance Planning

Core Module

20 Credits (Level 6)

In this module, the student will be required to establish a working band, starting from the musical/artistic concept and working towards the practical issues surrounding promotion, touring, recording etc. and leading the band as a player/vocalist in live and/or recording situations. Consideration will be given to musical performance/programming, budgeting, visual content of publicity/branding and the use of digital technology, including social media. Practical ensemble workshops will study the heightened musical communication needed to lead a band in rehearsal and from the stage.

Year Four (Level 6) 120 credits

In the final year students are able to build on their strengths and may select either 3 or 4 modules from a range of (Level 6) modules to reflect their main areas of vocational interest and creative development. There are three modes of study available at this level:

Mode 1	80 credits of performance and 40 credits of professional development
Mode 2	60 credits of performance and 60 credits of professional development
Mode 3	40 credits of performance and 80 credits of professional development

BMus (Hons) Jazz Year 4 Performance Options

Each student is required to perform one 40 minute set within a small ensemble in one of the following categories:

The Jazz Repertoire

40 Credits

A coherent programme that focuses on a period of jazz history, a genre or artist. The repertoire may be interpreted to reflect contemporary trends.

OR

Jazz for the 21st Century

40 Credits

A coherent programme that includes contemporary repertoire, including students' original material.

When a student elects a second performance module they may choose from the following options:

Big Band Performance, World Jazz Performance, Solo Jazz Performance, Free Improvisation, Collaborative Performance, The Jazz Repertoire, Jazz for the 21st Century, The Researched Performance.

BMus (Hons) Jazz Year 4 Professional Development Options

Major Portfolio of Transcriptions (Jazz)

40 Credits

This module will further develop your transcription skills and you will produce a portfolio of works with accompanying recordings. You will need to produce a portfolio which consists of two major works and three smaller transcriptions. You will also be guided in the production of a written critique focussing on an evaluation of your creative processes and outcomes.

Portfolio of Transcriptions (Jazz)

20 Credits

Similarly, this module will further develop your transcription skills and you will produce a portfolio of work with accompanying recordings. You will need to produce a portfolio which consists of one major work and two smaller transcriptions. You will also be guided in the production of a written critique focussing on an evaluation of your creative processes and outcomes.

Major Portfolio of Arrangements (Jazz)

40 Credits

This module gives you an opportunity to develop further your skills in arrangement and produce a portfolio of works with accompanying recordings. With this module you will need to produce a portfolio consisting of two large ensemble works and three arrangements for smaller ensembles. You will also be guided in the production of a written critique focussing on an evaluation of your creative processes and outcomes.

Portfolio of Arrangements (Jazz)

20 Credits

Similarly, this module gives you an opportunity to develop further your skills in arrangement and produce a portfolio of work with accompanying recordings. With this module you will need to produce a portfolio consisting of one large ensemble work and two arrangements for smaller ensembles. You will also be guided in the production of a written critique focussing on an evaluation of your creative processes and outcomes.

Major Portfolio of Compositions (Jazz)

40 Credits

Within this module you will further develop your composition skills and produce a portfolio of work with accompanying recordings. The work may form the basis of the programme for 'Performing Original Jazz.' Typically, the portfolio will consist of two large-scale works and three smaller-scale pieces. Conceptual work may be included. You will be guided in the production of a written critique focusing on an evaluation of their creative processes and outcomes.

Portfolio of Compositions (Jazz)

20 Credits

Similarly, this module you will further develop your composition skills and you will produce a portfolio of work with accompanying recordings. Typically, the portfolio will consist of one large-scale work and two smaller-scale pieces. You will be guided in the production of a written critique focusing on an evaluation of their creative processes and outcomes.

Major Vocational Project

40 Credits

The Vocational Project is an opportunity to undertake a self-directed project/placement which will be a minimum of ten full working days (or equivalent) and will normally take place within a single term. Following an initial negotiation with the Module Leader, you will be required to devise and develop a vocational project. Once approved, you will be proactive in negotiating with the provider and ensuring a smooth interface between the project schedule and other College commitments. The precise nature of the project, its requirements, assessment procedures and specific learning outcomes will be established on an individual case basis in advance.

Vocational Project

20 Credits

Typically, a project involves five full working days (or equivalent) and will take place within a single term. Following an initial negotiation with the Module Leader, you will be required to devise and develop a vocational project. You will be proactive in negotiating with the provider and ensuring a smooth interface between the placement schedule and other College commitments. The precise nature of the placement, its requirements, assessment procedures and specific learning outcomes will be established on an individual case basis in advance.

Research Project

40 Credits

The research project provides you with an opportunity to examine more intensively a subject previously addressed or suggested within the course, or to apply skills, knowledge and approaches developed to a less familiar area.

Extended Essay

20 Credits

The extended essay gives you an opportunity to intensively examine a subject previously addressed during the course, or to apply some of the skills, knowledge and approaches you have developed to a less familiar area.

Erasmus +

The College participates actively in the Erasmus + framework for student and staff mobility, with partnerships with over 30 European institutions. The College believes this is an exceptional opportunity for students to develop their musical and personal skills in a new environment, allowing for focused periods of study with particular principal study teachers, and enabling students to incorporate new styles and approaches into their learning. It is possible for students to undertake an exchange of at least 3 months as part of their BMus (in Year 3 or 4) or MMus course (in Year 2), receiving full academic credit for the experience.

Despite uncertainty generated by Brexit, the College remains committed to staying part of the student and staff exchange mechanism. To support this aim, the College is a member of the Association of European Conservatoires, whose website contains useful information about the Erasmus scheme: <https://www.aec-music.eu/services/students/faqs/erasmus>

In order to go on an Erasmus exchange, College students need to make an application in the year before they want to go (application completed by 1st March). The application process includes submission of video recordings and an application form to the potential host institution, with which the College should already have a partnership (you can apply to up to 3 places), and it is up to that institution to decide if it is able to offer the student a place for the following academic year. All students applying for the exchange experience must be recommended by their Head of Department, principal study teacher and Course Leader. Level of achievement and engagement with the course will be taken into account as part of the selection process. Detailed information about Erasmus can be found on the College's VLE, after registration.

The College has also recently joined the European Opera Academy, which offers a network of vocal/operatic opportunities for focused projects and period of study. These can also be supported by Erasmus student mobility grants. More information on the opportunities available in this network can be found here: <http://www.europeanopera.academy/>

The list of partner institutions is updated on a regular basis. Our current partners, for 18/19, are:

Country	City	Institution
Norway	Oslo	Norwegian Academy of Music
	Bergen	Grieg Academy
Finland	Helsinki	Sibelius Academy / University of the Arts
Denmark	Copenhagen	Royal Danish Academy of Music
Estonia	Tallinn	Estonian Academy of Music
Lithuania	Vilnius	Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre
Latvia	Riga	Latvian Academy of Music
Poland	Lodz	University of Music
	Krakow	Music Academy
Czech Republic	Brno	Janacek Academy of Music and Theatre
Hungary	Budapest	Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music
Netherlands	Utrecht	Music Department, University of the Arts
	Amsterdam	Conservatorium van Amsterdam
	Maastricht	Conservatorium Maastricht
Belgium	Brussels	Royal Flemish Conservatory
	Antwerp	Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp
Germany	Leipzig	Hochschule fur Musik und Theater "Mendelssohn-Bartholdy"
	Trossingen	Hochschule fur Musik
	Karlsruhe	Hochschule fur Musik
	Hannover	Hochschule fur Musik und Theater
	Weimar	Hochschule fur Musik
Switzerland	Zurich	Hochschule fur Musik
	Bern	Hochschule fur Musik
	Geneva	Conservatoire de Geneve
Portugal	Porto	Escola Superior de Musica e das Artes Spectaculares
Spain	Madrid	Real Conservatorio Superior de Musica de Madrid
	Barcelona	Escola Superior de Musica de Catalunya

	Barcelona	Conservatori del Liceu
	Gran Canaria / Tenerife	Conservatorio Superior de Musica de Canarias
Italy	Turin	Conservatorio "G Verdi"
	Verona	Conservatorio di Verona
	Florence	Conservatorio di Musica "Luigi Cherubini"
Austria	Graz	University of Music and Performing Arts Graz
	Vienna	University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna

Information for Incoming Erasmus students

Please note that, at present, incoming applications can only be submitted by Music students at partner institutions, not from any other discipline.

The College welcomes applications from music students of partner conservatoires (link to list) to undertake a period of study with us (mostly one term, although occasionally a complete year can be agreed). Places are granted through competitive recorded auditions, and you are required to submit the following materials via email to admissions@rwcmd.ac.uk by March 31st of the academic year before you wish to study at the College:

- Completed AEC application form including proposed Learning Agreement
- Letter/email of support from your own institution
- Video recording of 10-15 minutes of music (URL for links via YouTube or similar platform) / composition portfolio containing 3 contrasting works (scores and recording shared via Dropbox or similar file-sharing mechanism)

The College will endeavour to send you a response to your application by the middle of May. We make decisions based on our capacity to offer you a quality experience. Please note that we do not accept exchange applications on to the MA in Advanced Opera Performance (except through the European Opera Academy network), any PG Conducting pathway or the MA in Arts Management. The main element of your exchange is your principal study, and this will form the core part of your studies. However, depending on your specialism, you will be able to get involved in chamber music, larger ensemble work, career development seminars, academic modules, performance opportunities, etc. We work carefully with each incoming student to ensure that study and assessment needs are met. Please note that each ECTS is worth 2 UK Credits.