



creating your future



INTERVIEW GUIDE



access to music
the creative college



We're looking forward to seeing you for your interview.
Please use this guide to help you prepare.



What you will do at your interview

Your interview is your chance to come and meet us so we can both get to know more about each other. You will find out more about our courses and the centre of your choice, and we will find out what creative skills you have, to place you on the best course to suit your needs.

Although you might feel a bit nervous, please try not to worry too much about it. We're here to help you on your learning journey, not to judge you like on *The X Factor*.

Please allow around an hour for your visit to include a 30-45 minute interview. This will include a short audition, demonstration or presentation as well as a discussion. You will also have the chance to ask questions.

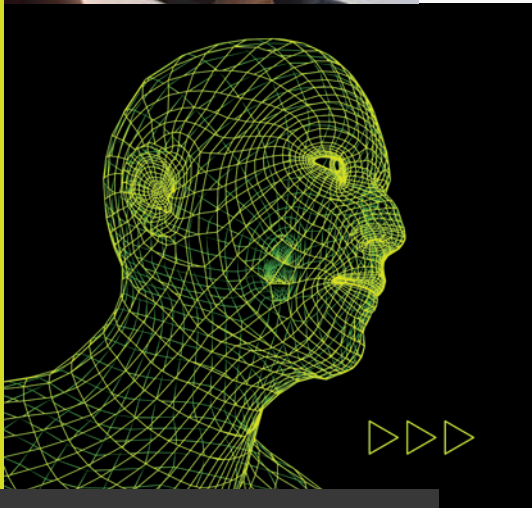
AUDITION/PRESENTATION/DEMONSTRATION

This is your opportunity to showcase your creative skills, whether that's playing the keyboard, mixing sound, presenting games or design ideas, or talking about events you have organised. The following are some guidelines to help you prepare.

MUSIC COURSES

- **Music Performance and Vocal Artist (Levels 2 and 3)**
A short performance (around 3-6 minutes) of two contrasting pieces on an instrument and/or a vocal performance. You may wish to do this to a backing track (please remember to bring this with you, or supply a link). Please bring your instrument with you (e.g. guitar). We have amplifiers, drum kits, keyboards and PA systems available for you to use.
- **Music Technology (Level 2) and Music Technology: Production (Level 3)**
A demonstration of how you created a piece of music using digital software (around 5 minutes). Please bring the track with you, ideally as a software file (e.g. Garageband, FL Studio, Logic) and/or as an MP3, or similar audio file or link to a Soundcloud file. You may also undertake a short task based around using a digital audio workstation (around 5 minutes).
- **Music Technology: Sound Engineering (Level 3)**
A demonstration of your skills in using a mixing desk and/or a discussion of your skills and experience to date in either live and/or studio sound.
- **Songwriting (Level 3)**
A demonstration of two contrasting pieces of music which you have written. These can be in a physical format (e.g. CD), or an online link, or on a USB stick. You may bring further portfolio work (e.g. further tracks, lyrics etc.).





- **Music Management (Level 3)**

A discussion of your skills and experience to date and/or future ideas about music enterprise projects or any other business ventures you have done. Please feel free to show a physical, or online, portfolio of your business work.

- **Level 1 Music**

We will invite you in for an informal chat about your interests and what you want to do in the future, to see how our Level 1 course can best meet your needs.

- **Artist Development**

Solo artists, producers and bands should prepare:

- Two or three original tracks, either for live audition, or for playback and discussion. Please feel free to bring other supporting material such as video, or provide links to online content (e.g. Soundcloud).
- A rationale of your music and how you see it developing.
- Any supporting material representing you as an artist, for example links to a website or social media channels, artwork, posters etc., with an appreciation of the brand/image you are trying to create.
- Ideas for your business strategy as an artist. This could be around the development of your fanbase and potential partnerships with music industry players (e.g. managers, agents, labels etc.). In the case of bands, members will need to identify individual roles within the business strategy.

GAMES COURSES

- **Games Design (Levels 2 and 3)**

A presentation of work you have undertaken in creating characters or ideas for computer games. This may include links to online examples of your work, or a portfolio of games design work (e.g. illustrations of games characters). You may also undertake a short task based around using games design software (Unreal Engine).

MEDIA COURSES

- **Digital Media (Levels 2 and 3)**

A presentation of a physical, or online, portfolio of any graphics/ illustration, web design, animation, video and photography and journalism work you have produced. This could include examples of your work on sites such as Instagram or YouTube. You may also undertake a short task based around using digital media software (Adobe Creative Cloud).

THEATRE COURSES

- **Acting (Level 3)**

Preparation and presentation of a two minute monologue from a play of your choice. You will need to have memorised this without referring to a script.

- **Performing Arts (Level 3)**

One of the following:

- Preparation and presentation of a monologue as described for Acting.
- Two short contrasting dance performances demonstrating different techniques (around 5 minutes in total). It is recommended you use a backing track (please remember to bring this with you, or supply a link). We have PAs for playback.
- Two short contrasting song performances from a musical of your choice. It is recommended you use a backing track (please remember to bring this with you, or supply a link). We have mics and PA systems for you to use.

- **Technical Theatre (Level 3)**

A demonstration of your skills in using sound or lighting equipment and/or a presentation of a portfolio (physical or online) of any theatre shows you have worked on (e.g. set designs, recordings, video etc.).





MORE ABOUT YOUR INTERVIEW

We will want to see your ability and passion for your course area, plus your dedication to gaining skills. You will also need to demonstrate that you are able to work at your chosen level. For school leavers, we require evidence of predicted and actual grades, backed up by a school reference.

Preparation

Please take time to prepare fully for your interview. Please come ready to talk about why you have chosen your course, what skills you want to learn and about your interests and passions. There are more tips on the opposite page.

Make sure you rehearse your performance or presentation fully before your interview. Please remember to bring all the equipment you need - you can find out what you should be bringing in the audition section. Remember, if you are an instrumentalist to also bring peripherals like leads, effects pedals, drum sticks etc.



SCHOOL REFERENCE

If you are joining us from year 11, then you will need to supply a reference from your school outlining your predicted or actual grades and any other information about your learning journey. If you can't source this in advance, we will ask for it afterwards.



Access to Music is committed to meeting the needs of individuals with learning difficulties and disabilities. Please let us know beforehand if you require any additional support at your interview. You can contact us to discuss this in confidence: see page 8 for contact details.



TIPS & HINTS FOR YOUR INTERVIEW

Tell us about your career goals

It is important that you have a clear idea about what skills you want to learn and what you want to do after you have finished the course. This might mean studying another course with Access to Music, going into the creative industries, or it might mean going on to further study at university.

Ask some questions

Think of any questions you'd like to ask or areas where you require further clarification. This shows the interviewer that you have thought about what you want to do. Be sure to ask questions that relate specifically to your interests and to what you want to know about the course and Access to Music. If you have any queries about equipment for the interview, please contact us directly before the interview day.

Make a good impression

Try to avoid giving one-word answers – tell us as much as you can. Don't forget to bring a pen and paper (or an alternative device) in case you need to take notes. Double check the time and date of your interview. Make sure you arrive in plenty of time and plan ahead to ensure you are not delayed.

Useful documents to bring with you

If the course you are being interviewed for is right for you, we'd like to offer you a place on it as soon as possible. To do this we will need to see some documents, so it will help if you can bring the following with you:

- A passport OR birth certificate (OR if you are not a permanent EU/EEA resident or have lived in the EU/EEA for less than three years, please bring an ID card, Visa or Home Office document)
- Any qualification certificates or results slips for any examinations you have already taken.
- If you are still at school, please bring a reference including your actual/predicted grades.

Don't worry if you can't find these documents, or don't have them, as we can always sort this out later on.



NEXT STEPS

1. Course Offer

At interview you will receive one of the following:

- **An unconditional offer** - we are offering you a place there and then.
- **A conditional offer** - we are offering you a place based on you supplying additional information. This may be a school reference or other information.
- **Not offered** - we are unable to offer you a place at the moment.

All options will be confirmed on an interview record document that you will take away with you and we will also write to further confirm the decision.

If you are offered a place, it is important that you respond quickly to secure it. Demand for places is high, so please email or call us to accept: admissions@accesstomusic.ac.uk or call/text **0800 28 18 42**.

2. Enrolment

Once you have accepted your place, we will then contact you with your enrolment information. Early enrolment usually takes place from May and if you enrol before 11th August 2017 you will be entered into a prize draw to win an iPad Air, a Canon EOS camera and other great prizes.



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CONTACT US

To contact us about your interview, please:

- **Call 0800 28 18 42 (free from landline and mobiles)**
- **Email admissions@accesstomusic.ac.uk**