GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 2020-21
INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC’S GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Choosing where to study can be a life-changing decision – especially if it involves moving a long way from home. We understand this, and will do everything we can to support you.

The Academy is proud of its history, but it is also one of the most progressive conservatoires in the world. In this guide you will learn about the wonderful opportunities on offer here, and the many benefits of studying in London.

One of the biggest influences on your development as a musician will be your teacher, and at the Academy you will find the very best. In addition to artistic creativity and inspiration, our outstanding staff bring with them first-hand knowledge of how to succeed in today’s musical world. You will also work regularly with esteemed visiting professors and guests in performances and masterclasses that you will remember for the rest of your life.

Preparing students for a career in music is our main objective. As well as providing you with intensive, high-level artistic training, we will teach you how to make the most of your talent in a demanding industry. The many collaborative opportunities available to you will prepare you for the variety of life as a musician.

If you feel that the Academy is the right place for you, get in touch with the representative in your country for more information about how to apply. We look forward to hearing from you.
‘I was raised in Tokyo, Sydney, New York and London and, as a result, always struggled to find a place I could call home. But the moment I stepped into the Academy, it felt like home’

Hiroki Kasai, violin

Since its foundation in 1822, the Academy has always been focused on musical excellence. Students perform and learn with our close-knit family of outstanding teaching staff and renowned visiting professors and benefit from our exceptional educational and industry partnerships.

Our students come from a wide range of backgrounds and over 50 countries. They go on to make important artistic waves throughout the profession, in every musical discipline, all over the world.

But, while all of these things are vital to our success, they are not what makes us unique – we are not, after all, the only conservatoire full of great talent.

What really sets us apart can’t be represented in a graph or summarised in a table. It’s the nearly 200 years of history. It’s the combination of tradition and innovation. It’s the friendly atmosphere. It’s the dedication, drive and discipline. It’s the unshakeable belief that what our students do here will make a difference. Yes, you’ll be following in the footsteps of great musicians – but you’ll also learn how to forge your own path in an ever-changing creative world.

All of these things – and more – combine to create an energy that just can’t be replicated anywhere else.
GRADUATE FROM THE ACADEMY WITH THE ARTISTIC VISION AND PRACTICAL SKILLS YOU’LL NEED TO SUCCEED

We want our students to leave the Academy knowing how to convert their talents and skills into a sustainable career, so Artist Development will be an integral part of your degree course. We cover practical topics including the creation of promotional material, establishing your web presence, how to practise, starting and running ensembles, the audition process and how to work with promoters.

Our commitment to preparing students for careers at the top of the music profession is why, according to the Higher Education Statistics Agency’s most recent survey, 97.6% of Academy graduates who responded went on to further study or work within six months of graduating in 2017.

It’s why our students and graduates win contracts with major international labels including Deutsche Grammophon (Max Richter, Sir Karl Jenkins, Daniel Hope), Decca (Jacob Collier, Benjamin Grosvenor, Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason, Miloš Karadagić, Martynas Levickis), Sony Music UK (Ashley Henry) and Classic FM (Ji Liu).

And it’s why established names such as Sir Simon Rattle, Edward Gardner, Xuefei Yang, Ning Feng, Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Lesley Garrett, Dame Evelyn Glennie, Dame Felicity Lott, Sir Elton John, Michael Nyman and Annie Lennox continue to fill the world’s concert halls, opera houses and recording studios.
WE’RE HERE TO HELP

WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT YOU GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR TIME WITH US

Before you arrive at the Academy, you can contact the Admissions Team with any questions you have. All new students are welcomed in the Enrolment Week before the start of term, when you can meet your department administrator and senior members of the academic staff, including programme tutors.

LANGUAGE SUPPORT

Our specialist English Language Support Tutors can help all international students to improve their communication skills. Some students will be invited to attend an English Language Welcome Week before the start of the academic year, during which you will practise speaking English, learn important music vocabulary and revise your grammar skills. You’ll also make lots of new friends, find your feet in London and start to feel at home at the Academy.

We also provide weekly language classes for students who need regular assistance, and a Help Desk for those who require language support for their written work.

SPECIAL SUPPORT

When you are here, it’s important to know where to go if things get difficult. You might choose to speak to your professor or programme tutor, but there are also trained counsellors (male and female) whose doors are always open to talk about any aspect of your life, help you to adjust to life in a new city and deal with any problems, including those arising from cultural differences.

If you need advice on visas and immigration, our Registry Department can help – email them at registry@ram.ac.uk or call +44 (0)20 7873 7393 with your questions.

‘I moved from Korea to London to study here. At first it was a bit of a culture shock, but the Academy really helped me to adapt. I was invited to English Language Welcome Week, where we learnt all about life here – how to get the most out of our student experience, where to get advice, and other essentials that made the transition smoother’

Sung Kyu Choi, opera

‘The Academy makes it easy to adjust to life here by offering practical help with everything from setting up a bank account and finding great coffee to exploring performance opportunities and organising social events’

Bridget O’Donnell, violin
Living in such an open and diverse city has allowed me to discover new areas of music and meet so many fantastic musicians.

Amiran Zenaishvili, piano

London is a cultural hub and a great place to make connections with people from all over the world.

Rachel Spence, viola
POSTGRADUATE STUDY IS A VITAL PART OF THE ACADEMY’S CULTURE – WE HAVE THE LARGEST BODY OF POSTGRADUATE MUSICIANS IN THE UK

The Academy offers a broad selection of degrees, diplomas and professional development courses, as well as a thriving research culture. We provide individual tutorial supervision for all students, which is unique in the sector, and plenty of scope for networking. Our aim is to ensure that you will have significant opportunities to work under the direction of world-class musicians.

Whether you want to focus solely on performance, study a specialism or incorporate research into your studies, we offer a variety of highly flexible study programmes to suit your individual interests and career ambitions.

We offer a broad range of principal study tuition – find out more at ram.ac.uk/departments. For further details about postgraduate study, contact postgrad@ram.ac.uk or visit ram.ac.uk/postgraduate-programmes.

‘The Academy was my first choice for my postgraduate studies. I was drawn to its history and prestige as well as its location’
Thomas Mathias, violin

UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

TAILOR YOUR STUDIES TO SUIT YOUR MUSICAL INTERESTS WITH OUR FOUR-YEAR BACHELOR OF MUSIC (BMUS)

The BMus Programme combines focused study in performance, composition or jazz with academic studies. It is designed to help you realise your full potential and prepare you for a career in music. BMus programme tutors are available to discuss all aspects of your course and work closely with your Head of Department, lecturers and professors to monitor your overall progress.

BMus students’ programmes can be diverse, but they all share three core elements: principal study, academic study and professional study. We offer a broad range of principal study tuition – find out more at ram.ac.uk/departments.

Our emphasis on one-to-one lessons and small-group teaching and our tailored approach to artist development result in a consistently high employability record.

For more information about our BMus Programme, visit ram.ac.uk/undergraduate-programmes.

ONE-YEAR PROGRAMMES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

We also offer several one-year programmes that enable you to study at the Academy as a fully enrolled member of the student body, with access to the Academy’s resources, without taking a course that leads to a degree.

Exchange The Academy has exchange agreements with conservatoires across the world. Exchanges are normally for a full academic year, although shorter placements may be possible.

Study abroad This allows non-UK students studying for a music degree elsewhere to benefit from a conservatoire education in the UK as part of their degree studies. The standard placement length is one academic year, but shorter periods are possible (minimum one academic term).

Find out more at ram.ac.uk/one-year.

‘I have not, for a single moment, regretted my decision to come here for my undergraduate education. I love the friendly atmosphere, and the teachers are all so helpful and kind’
Yayi Tian, piano
From my first audition, the atmosphere at the Academy drew me in. It was so inspiring, warm and welcoming. I got such a wonderful feeling, I just knew I wanted to study here.’

Leila Zanette, opera

I was attracted by the diversity of the Academy, and by the focus on introducing students to the professional music world.’

Ye Jin Choi, cello

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Ye Jin Choi, cello

“Auditions help us to discover talent and spot potential. Here’s what you need to know.

The audition process is important for detecting talent. It’s not so much about what you already know as what we think you’re capable of achieving – and whether we can help you on that journey. We are looking for potential Academy students who can demonstrate individuality, determination and personality.

Auditions for 2020 entry will take place in autumn 2019. Find out more at ram.ac.uk/international-auditions. We recommend that international candidates audition in London, but some principal studies can be auditioned at audition centres in North America and in Beijing, Hong Kong, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei and Tokyo. Entrance Scholarships are merit based and are awarded following audition. There is no separate application for scholarships.

You can find the audition requirements for your principal study on our website at ram.ac.uk/departments.

We’re sorry, but the following principal studies and courses are only auditioned in London: Opera, Jazz, Conducting, Choral Conducting, Repetiteur, Composition and Research degrees. Musical Theatre auditions are only available in London and the USA.

If you are a composer applying to join BMus year 1, MMus, MA or Professional Diploma and are unable to travel to London, you can ask to have your interview through a video link.

You can also audition by video for the Musical Theatre MA degree. The deadline for your application and recording is 1 November 2019 – find out more about the audition requirements at ram.ac.uk/MTaudition.

You’re interested in studying at the Royal Academy of Music. What should you do next?

• Wherever you are in the world, you can take virtual tours of Academy spaces at ram.ac.uk/about-us/facilities.

• Contact our Registry at registry@ram.ac.uk or +44 (0)20 7873 7393, or your Principal Study Department via ram.ac.uk/departments with any questions.

• Choose the best course for you using our form at ram.ac.uk/study/programmes.

• Submit your application by 6pm (BST) on 1 October 2019 for entry in September 2020. You can apply for most programmes through UCAS, the UK’s application system for universities and conservatoires, at ucas.com/ucas-conservatoires-apply-and-track.

Requirements for International Students

For information about the entry requirements for undergraduate and postgraduate study at the Academy, see ram.ac.uk/entry-requirements.

If English is not your first language, you will need to demonstrate your language proficiency to be admitted to the Academy. You can read details of the Academy’s English Language entry requirements at ram.ac.uk/english-language-requirements.

You will normally need Tier 4 Adult (General) Student Entry Clearance to study in the UK. Further information can be found at ram.ac.uk/immigration-advice.

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TUITION FEES*

THE FEES FOR INTERNATIONAL (NON-EU) STUDENTS IN 2019-20 WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- BMus ................................................................. GBP 23,000
- MA and PGCert (one year) ................................... GBP 25,850
- MA and PGCert (two years) ................................. GBP 23,850
- MA and PGCert (Musical Theatre) ....................... GBP 19,280
- MMus (one year) ................................................ GBP 28,850
- MMus (two years) ................................................ GBP 26,850
- Professional Diploma ......................................... GBP 21,500
- Professional Diploma (Musical Direction and Coaching) GBP 21,700
- Advanced Diploma (Performance) ....................... GBP 21,500
- Advanced Diploma (Opera) ............................... GBP 17,000
- Continuing Professional Development Diploma ...... GBP 21,500
- MPhil/PhD .......................................................... GBP 14,550
- Study Abroad (incoming) ................................. GBP 22,600

*These figures relate to 2019-20 and are included as guidance only.
Once confirmed, tuition fees for 2020-21 will be listed on our website at ram.ac.uk/fees.

CONTACT DETAILS

THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC WHO CAN ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE, SO PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!

Main switchboard .................................................. +44 (0)20 7873 7373
Registry ................................................................. registry@ram.ac.uk

PRINCIPAL STUDY DEPARTMENTS

Accordion ........................................................... accordion@ram.ac.uk
Brass ................................................................. brass@ram.ac.uk
Choral Conducting .............................................. choralconducting@ram.ac.uk
Composition and Contemporary Music .................. composition@ram.ac.uk
Conducting ............................................................ conducting@ram.ac.uk
Guitar ................................................................. guitar@ram.ac.uk
Harp ..................................................................... harp@ram.ac.uk
Historical Performance ........................................ historical@ram.ac.uk
Jazz ..................................................................... jazz@ram.ac.uk
Musical Theatre .................................................... opera@ram.ac.uk
Organ ................................................................. organ@ram.ac.uk
Piano ................................................................. piano@ram.ac.uk
Strings ............................................................... strings@ram.ac.uk
Timpani and Percussion ........................................ percussion@ram.ac.uk
Vocal Studies ....................................................... voice@ram.ac.uk
Woodwind .......................................................... woodwind@ram.ac.uk
Making sure you get the most out of your experience as a student at the Academy is our priority.

We’re committed to creating and sustaining an environment that provides equal opportunity, celebrates diversity and promotes inclusion.

TWELVE REASONS TO STUDY AT THE ACADEMY

Learn from the masters
Experience inspiring one-to-one tuition with the world’s finest teachers

Hone your performance skills
Our students take part in around 500 events every year

Work with your musical heroes
We have an illustrious roster of visiting professors

Live in the heart of London, one of the most vibrant creative cities in the world

Raise your musical game
by working alongside outstanding peers from over 50 countries

Earn an internationally respected degree
awarded by the Academy and the University of London

Showcase your talent
with cutting-edge technology and in our world-class performance spaces

Be inspired by different genres – classical, jazz, opera, musical theatre and all forms of new music

Prepare physically and mentally
for a career at the top of an ever-expanding music profession

Develop professional skills
that will help you thrive in today’s musical world and build your audience

Make lifelong friends and professional contacts from around the world

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