

ICMP

The Institute
of Contemporary
Music Performance



Audition Guidance for BMus Applicants

icmp.co.uk



Performance

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The Institute is a supportive and inspirational environment. We always try to keep auditions as informal and fun as possible, while giving you constructive feedback and ensuring that the course that you are hoping to study will be right for you. If we are unable to offer you your original choice of course, there will always be a course that we can recommend to help you develop and achieve your goals.

You will need to prepare a piece of your choice to play from memory, of between 3 and 4 minutes in length. You can play/sing this solo or bring a backing track with you for your performance.

Drummers, please ensure that you bring headphones with you if you wish to use a backing track.

Our tutor will be looking for:

- Technique
- Creativity and flair
- Performance craft



Technical Skills

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We teach several different courses at the Institute. This part of the audition is the same for all students, regardless of which course you are applying for. It is designed to explore both your strengths and your areas for development.

Depending on the course that you are applying for, you may be expected to be able to perform the majority of these exercises or a smaller proportion:

Guitar:

Chords in different positions

Major, minor (melodic/harmonic), pentatonic, diminished scales in different positions

4 note arpeggios in different inversions and modes in different positions

Bass:

Notes and triads (major/minor/diminished/augmented) in different positions

Major, minor (melodic/harmonic) and pentatonic scales in different positions

4 note arpeggios in different inversions and modes in different positions

Vocals:

Singing consistent notes and intervals

Major, melodic minor, harmonic minor scale; ascending and descending

Chromatic scale and major and minor arpeggios

Drums:

Single and double stroke rolls, single and double paradiddle and press/buzz roll

8th and 16th note groove, 8th note upbeat groove and 4 way limb co-ordination

Alternating flams and drags, accented strokes and sticking combinations



Sight Reading

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You will be asked to perform sight reading tasks of progressing difficulty. This will include single line rhythms and melodic lines, except for drummers who will look at single line rhythms and full kit.

If you would like some additional material to help you prepare for the Sight Reading part of the audition then please contact your Admissions Advisor.



Musicianship

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In this section you will be asked to demonstrate your stylistic versatility. You will be marked in part on the stylistic authenticity of your performance.

Guitar: You will be shown chord charts in blues and funk styles to follow and embellish with improvisation.

Bass: You will be shown chord charts in blues and funk styles to follow and embellish with improvisation.

Drums: You will be asked to demonstrate grooves in different styles which could include Rock, Funk, Shuffle, Halftime Shuffle, 12/8 Blues, Jazz or Latin.

Vocals: You will be shown chord charts to improvise over and melody charts to harmonize over.

Aural Skills

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You will be asked to identify three intervals. You will hear each interval three times;

You only need to identify the type of interval, you do not have to identify the pitch.

You will be asked to identify three chords. You will hear chord three times;

You only need to identify the type of chord, you do not have to identify the pitch.

If you would like some additional material to help you prepare for the Aural Skills part of the audition then please contact your Admissions Advisor.



Harmony and Theory

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You will sit a short Harmony and Theory paper which will include questions on:

- Key signatures
- Intervals
- Chord inversions
- Chords in a major key
- 4 note chords
- Major and minor scales
- Time signatures and rests

If you would like some additional material to help you prepare for the Harmony and Theory part of the audition then please contact your Admissions Advisor.