UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

13O BACHELOR OF MUSIC
F2W DIPLOMA OF MUSIC

HERE’S A QUICK RUNDOWN OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING YOUR AUDITION:

• The combined audition and interview is around thirty minutes in duration.
• Because music’s all about timing, we recommended you plan to arrive at least 30 minutes before your scheduled audition time.
• If you’re a performer, we’ll ask you to play a prepared repertoire of 15 minutes. This is your time to shine. We may also ask you to undertake a short piece of sight-reading.
• If you’re a composer, music technology, or songwriter applicant, we’ll ask you to discuss your folio of work.
• Your audition will also include a brief interview with the audition panel.
• If you require an accompanist, you’ll need to bring your own.
CLASSICAL (PERFORMANCE)

Your audition will consist of a performance of three contrasting pieces (eg. a Baroque, Romantic and Modern piece). These works or movements don’t have to be from any specific syllabus, but we recommend they be of at least 7th Grade AMEB standard or equivalent (visit ameb.edu.au for information on AMEB grading).

After playing your pieces, you may be asked to do some sight-reading. Your audition will end with a short, informal interview including the opportunity for you to find out more about studying with us.

INSTRUMENTS WITH SPECIFIC AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

STRINGS

Please prepare a repertoire that best represents your level of ability and stylistic strengths. Sections of larger works, such as an exposition of a Romantic concerto, are acceptable if this helps to facilitate a balanced and varied program within the time frame.

WOODWIND, PERCUSSION, GUITAR

Please prepare three contrasting pieces from at least two periods. For example, a single fast movement of a concerto; one unaccompanied work; and one movement from a sonata.

BRASS

Please prepare two contrasting pieces, for example the first movement from a major sonata or concerto, and a solo.

VOICE (CLASSICAL AND/OR MUSICAL THEATRE)

Please prepare three songs, contrasting in period, composer, and tempo, with at least two centuries represented (Classical). Songs should be performed in their original language. Make sure you choose from the area in which you wish to focus your vocal training (Classical and/or Musical Theatre).

PIANO

Please prepare three pieces, contrasting in period, composer, and tempo, with at least two centuries represented. You may be required to demonstrate technical work such as scales in your audition. A sample audition program might include:
1. A contrapuntal piece (e.g. a prelude and fugue by Bach or Shostakovich)
2. A fast movement from a classical sonata
3. A piece of your choice, from the 19th, 20th, or 21st centuries.
JAZZ AND POPULAR MUSIC (PERFORMANCE)

In this audition, you'll be asked to perform three contrasting pieces (for example: one ballad, one up-tempo number, and a jazz tune). However, while versatility is important, this stream embraces all sorts of musical performers – so don’t feel you have to play a particular, unfamiliar style of music at your audition.

Likewise, we don’t expect your pieces to be fully-improvised. While demonstrating some improvisational skill is desirable, it’s by no means essential for the purposes of your audition.

After you’ve played your three pieces, the panel will ask you a few questions, and answer any questions you have about the course.

CLASSICAL COMPOSITION

If you want to learn how to compose orchestral and chamber music, this is the place to start.

Your audition will take place as an interview based on your portfolio – which should include at least three pieces of notated music, with recordings if available. Ideally, your folio will represent a diverse cross-section of work, with each piece showing off your creativity and distinctive style.

Our panel will ask you a few questions about your composition, what you love about music, and why you’re excited about studying at the University.
COMMERCIAL MUSIC CREATION

Commercial Music Creation is focused on your individual development across any number of styles, and modes of creation and implementation. We’re looking for a blend of personal expression and an interest in music that serves a greater vision, whether this be orchestral scores for films, jazz scores for big bands, hip-hop with horns, or dream pop for internet advertising – anything is possible.

Your audition will be an interview based on your portfolio, which should feature three recent works in any genre. These works can be presented in any format including MP3 files, DAW session files, or scores. Please bring these with you on a USB drive on the day. We’ll listen to you works and ask you how the work was created and the techniques and/or technology that was involved. Feel free to bring in your laptop and show off the inner working of your process.
SONGWRITER

A songwriting audition is your chance to showcase three pieces that demonstrate your depth of thinking, personal expression, and musicality.

If you’d like to do this by portfolio, it must be submitted to the Conservatorium Office at least seven days prior to the audition date.

If you’d like to do this by playing live, make sure you bring any portable instruments you need (the University provides a piano, amplifiers, drum kit, and PA).

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Because Music Tech is a mix of science and music, we look for applicants that are passionate about both fields.

This audition will take place as an interview based on your portfolio – which you should bring to the audition on a USB drive. Your portfolio should feature three recent pieces (in any genre) that you’ve recorded, written, or produced.

The panel will listen to your submissions and ask you some questions about how the work was created, and the technology and techniques involved.

You’re also welcome to bring along your laptop to show off the inner workings of your submitted pieces.

While technique and basic knowledge of music theory is important, they’re not a deal breaker. Instead, we’re on the look-out for inventive uses of music production tools/techniques and – above all – musicality.
DUAL PRACTICE

The Dual Practice stream allows students to major in two areas of music study. These might be Classical (Performance) or Jazz and Popular Music (Performance), Music Technology, Composition, Commercial Music Creation or Songwriter.

Your audition should showcase your two intended study areas which may be in any stream. Please prepare a 15-minute performance of three contrasting pieces for a performance major, and/or a portfolio for Composition, Songwriting, Music Technology, or Commercial Music Creation.
CLASSICAL COMPOSITION, MUSIC TECHNOLOGY, SONGWRITER, COMMERCIAL MUSIC CREATION

If you’re studying any of these streams, your audition will take place as an interview based on your portfolio, which should include a cross-section of your best work, showing off your creativity and distinctive style.

The panel will ask you about your creative practice, your career aspirations, and why you want to study at the Conservatorium.

MUSICOCOLOGY

Essay of 2,000 words on any aspect of music to be delivered to the Conservatorium at least seven days prior to the audition date.
CLASSICAL (PERFORMANCE)

If performing classical music is your calling, your audition will consist of a performance of three contrasting pieces (eg. a Baroque, Romantic, and Modern piece).

INSTRUMENTS WITH SPECIFIC AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

STRINGS, WOODWIND, PERCUSSION, GUITAR

Please prepare three contrasting pieces from at least two periods, for example: a single fast movement of a concerto; one unaccompanied work; and one movement from a sonata.

BRASS

Please prepare two contrasting pieces, for example: the first movement from a major sonata or concerto. Some examples for trumpet would be a Haydn concerto and either Honegger Intrada or Enesco Legend. Or two excerpts such as Bach, Cantata no. 51, first movement and Bizet, Carmen: opening low excerpt.

VOICE (CLASSICAL AND/OR MUSICAL THEATRE)

Please prepare three songs, contrasting in period, composer, and tempo, with at least two centuries represented (Classical). Songs must be performed in their original language. Make sure you choose from the area in which you wish to focus your vocal training (Classical and/or Musical Theatre).

PIANO

You should prepare three pieces, contrasting in period, composer, and tempo, with at least two centuries represented. Please bring a list of repertoire studied in the past three years. A sample audition program might include:

1. A contrapuntal piece (e.g. a prelude and fugue by Bach or Shostakovich)
2. A fast movement from a classical sonata
3. A piece of your choice, from the 19th, 20th, or 21st century.

JAZZ AND POPULAR MUSIC (PERFORMANCE)

You’ll be asked to perform three pieces that demonstrate different aspects of what you can do.

Your performance should include idiom-specific requirements. For example, if you are a jazz player, we look forward to hearing you improvise. If you are a rock/pop musician, feel free to perform within your own style of music.

After you’ve played your three pieces, the panel will ask you a few questions, and answer any questions you have about the course. There’ll also be a brief aural test.
CONTACT

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