LIPA
THE LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMING ARTS

2012 entry

Overseas audition guidelines

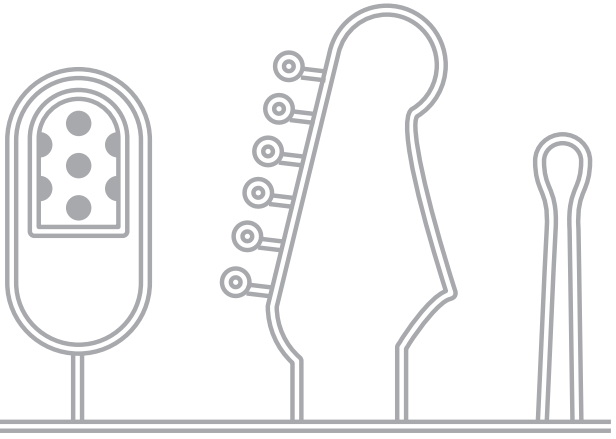
BA (Honours) Music
Foundation Certificate in Performing Arts (Singing)
Foundation Certificate in Popular Music and Sound Technology

Congratulations on getting through to the audition stage at LIPA. We understand how nerve-wracking the prospect of attending an audition can be, so please read through these guidelines carefully. Remember we're interested in finding out about you as an individual, so please try to relax, be yourself and enjoy yourself on the day.

We want to achieve equality and diversity. We want to be accessible to everyone and we will make reasonable adjustments if you are disabled. If you have any questions about this, please contact Rob Hughes, our Student Support Manager, on r.hughes@lipa.ac.uk or +44151 330 3013.

This information can be made available in other formats – please let us know about any specific needs you have.

The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts,
Mount Street, Liverpool, L1 9HF
www.lipa.ac.uk



What the audition entails

The BA (Hons) Music degree is unique and requires a strong commitment to working in an interdisciplinary manner with high levels of initiative and self-motivation. The audition is a two way process, aiming to offer you the opportunity to discover if the course is right for you, whilst we try to determine whether you have the experience and qualities to benefit from what we have to offer. We hope you enjoy your time with us. We will endeavour to ensure that the whole process is as positive and relaxed as possible. If at any time during the audition you want clarification on a point or other information, please ask.

Introduction to Music at LIPA

This introductory session to LIPA includes an outline of the Music course and provides you with the opportunity to ask us questions about the course.

Workshop

This is a practical workshop. Prior preparation is not necessary. Please just be prepared to engage with this workshop as fully as possible.

Music Theory Test

Candidates will be given a music theory examination to determine their current ability in this field. The test roughly equates to the Grade 7 LCM Popular Music Theory qualification standard. Please note that even if you have never studied music theory you may still be offered a place at LIPA. If this is the case, LIPA will guide you on developing your theoretical knowledge prior to commencement of your studies at LIPA.

Solo audition and interview (15 to 20 minutes)

We ask you to perform two pre-prepared pieces of your choice.

During your solo audition, we may ask you questions about your pieces or questions relevant to studying at LIPA. We may ask you to complete short musical exercises or short aural tests.

Tips for preparing your pieces:

- Please prepare **two contrasting** pieces of music.
- These should be from **contemporary genres** such as Pop, Rock, Jazz, etc.
- Avoid classical repertoire and musical theatre songs.
- These pieces should show off what you do best and reflect your abilities and personality.

If you have your own songwriting or composition experience, please make sure that at least one of the pieces is your own composition. Both pieces of music should be performed on one instrument (we count voice as an instrument). If we offer you a place at LIPA, we will offer you one-to-one tuition on the instrument that you have chosen to demonstrate to us at your audition.

In some instances, it may be possible for you to perform accompanied by friends/band members. Other musicians will be required to set up quickly and professionally. Please contact the International Team in advance of your audition if you wish to do this, tel: +44151 330 3118, email: international@lipa.ac.uk, textphone: +44151 330 3055.

Piano accompaniment
Piano accompanists can be provided for vocalists or other musicians, but you need to let the International Team know in advance if you require this (+44151 330 3118, international@lipa.ac.uk).

If you are using one of our piano accompanists, please bring your sheet music with you, fully written out in the key you wish to sing. The accompanist will not transpose at sight. You can usually find sheet music in your local library or go to www.sheetmusicdirect.com

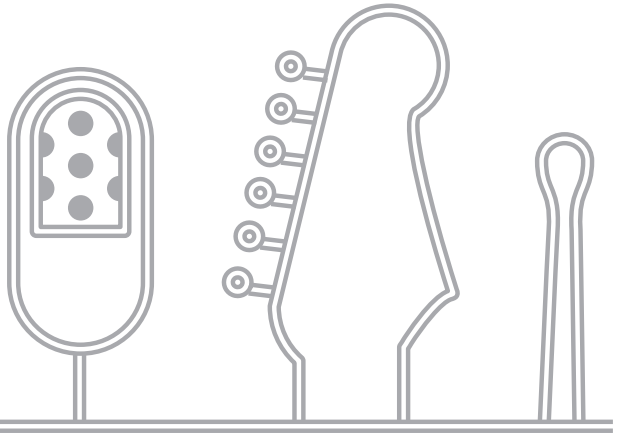
Before the audition, find someone who will play the song through for you on piano and record it so that you can keep working on it on your own. If you just buy the music of a record you have been singing along to without hearing it played, you are likely to find this part of the audition really difficult. This is because most sheet music is not written in the same key as the record. Many auditions require you to sing with a piano accompanist, so it is a challenge you will face throughout your working life, so it is useful to gain experience of preparing for them at this stage.

What to bring to the audition

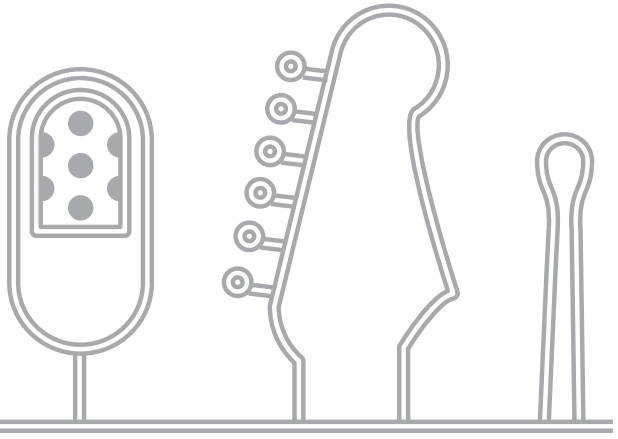
Don't forget to bring your instrument. A keyboard and a drum kit are provided. If you want to perform your two pieces with a backing track, please make sure you bring this cued up. We would recommend bringing water with you as well and something to read as there are likely to be periods when you will be waiting around.

When you will hear from us after the audition

We need time to reflect on the candidates we've seen, so we do not normally tell you the outcome of your audition on the day itself. Typically, we will communicate the decision within three working weeks.



Any questions

We wish you the best of luck and hope you enjoy your time with us. In the meantime, if you have any concerns about any aspect of the interview please contact the International Team, tel: +44151 330 3118, email: international@lipa.ac.uk, textphone:+44151 330 3055.

LIPA aims for continual improvement in the applicant experience and would welcome any comments or suggestions you have about our audition process. After the audition, we'll therefore email you to ask you to complete an anonymous online survey about your experience with us.