

Advanced Artist Diploma – Admissions policy

This document is based on the University of St Andrews document [Admissions Policy](#) and has been amended only where necessary to take account of Royal Conservatoire personnel, structures and the practice-based nature of the doctoral programmes offered by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

1 Procedures for application

Admission to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for the AdvArtDip programme is organised centrally by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's Academic Administration and Support (AAS) Office, on the recommendation of the Royal Conservatoire's Research Degrees Committee, and under the auspices of the Associate Provost Education at the University. There is only one start date for AdvArtDip students, which is the September of each year.

Prospective students should consult the Head of Programme concerning details of the AdvArtDip programme and for answers to any specific enquiries they may have. For general information on admissions, the email address is musicadmissions@rcs.ac.uk.

2 Principles of admission

Decisions regarding admission are based upon a recommendation by the Admissions Panel to the Research Degrees Committee. In considering applications with a view to admission, the Royal Conservatoire will seek to implement the following principles:

1. Admission procedures should be clear and consistently applied.
2. Admission decisions should involve the judgement of more than one member of the institution's staff (at least one of whom must be active in the relevant artistic field).
3. Staff with experience of the artistic area or with experience of postgraduate research supervision will be involved in the selection process of candidates for the AdvArtDip degree.
4. Auditions and interviews with candidates may be used as part of the admissions process (although other arrangements may be made to assess the suitability of candidates from abroad). Applicants should be clearly informed whether and when an interview and/or audition and/or some other form of assessment may be required.
5. Admission to the programme is normally on the basis of a masters degree in music or its overseas equivalent. However, where a prospective student lacks a suitable first degree, alternative mechanisms for assessing student qualifications and preparedness, reflecting professional or other work experience, may be used.
6. Confidential references and other information, such as the submission of relevant written work (where appropriate), should be used to assess the suitability of a candidate to undertake study on the programme.
7. All students whose first language is not English must satisfy both the UKVI's regulations for entry to the UK as an overseas student, and the Royal Conservatoire's English language proficiency requirements. Language development can be provided by

the University's International Education Institute and may be required by the Royal Conservatoire as a condition of admission.

8. Confidentiality must be maintained as appropriate throughout the admissions process.
9. All students applying for doctoral level programmes should be subject to a needs analysis with regard to skills and training that may need to be acquired in order to successfully pursue their studies. The result of this assessment may also influence admission decisions.
10. Students with special needs (particularly in relation to disabilities) should arrange for an assessment prior to taking up studies, although they may be assured that the implications of any disability will be considered only after a judgement has been made based upon academic merit. If the Royal Conservatoire has not been made fully aware of the requirements of a student with a disability prior to an offer of a place being made, it cannot guarantee that suitable resources will be available on the student's arrival in the Royal Conservatoire – although of course, every reasonable attempt shall be made.

3 Recommendation to admit

The recommendation to admit will take into account the applicant's:

- performance at audition/interview;
- commitment to the programme;
- potential to benefit from the programme;
- academic qualifications;
- English language level (where applicable);
- performance qualifications;
- performance/practical experience;
- references;
- contextualized data via UCAS:
 - priority postcode data
 - widening access programmes
 - care experienced
 - estranged
 - carer
 - refugee / asylum seeker
 - free school meals
 - armed forces personnel, veterans and armed forces families

The panel will also take into account:

- Whether the appropriate resources (for example, library, computing, practice, performance, recording facilities, technical assistance) will be available.
- Whether proper supervision can be maintained throughout the study period.