



Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland

Recruitment – Audition/Interview Preparation Courses

Transitions the Practice Supports

This practice supports the transition from application to UG study to the audition/interview process.

Abstract

This case study focuses on the development of the provision of audition/interview preparation courses at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Our suite of audition/interview courses allow potential students to develop their knowledge and understanding of the selection process, providing advice and guidance and mentoring to those aspiring to audition and gain entry. The courses are very beneficial in dissolving the mystery which often surrounds the audition process, and is useful in alleviating nerves, fears and misunderstanding. The key aims of the audition/interview preparation courses are to provide students with the opportunity to develop their understanding of what is really expected and required at audition/interview, whether in further education, higher education or conservatoire. Students are provided with individual feedback and guidance, and the courses are extremely beneficial in building confidence and providing an opportunity to ask questions.

Description

At the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, we currently offer a range of audition/interview preparation courses for people who are interested in applying for further or higher education study. During 2015-2016, we have delivered a range of audition/interview programmes across several disciplines and degrees, including:-

- Acting
- Musical Theatre
- Production Arts and Design
- Production Technology Management

- Performance in BSL and English.
- Screen
- BMus
- B.Ed

Our audition/interview programmes are designed with the purpose of providing interested participants with a detailed understanding of the selection process, as well as the opportunity to prepare for this process and to gain relevant and individual feedback.

In terms of the performance-based disciplines, students develop their understanding of how to select appropriate material for audition. They learn how to identify texts, materials and repertoire which are suited to their strengths as a performer, as well as considering the selection of original and contrasting material. Participants develop their performance skills in preparation for audition, taking part in a series of specialist workshops. Throughout the course, there is the opportunity for students to closely examine and analyse their own performance and to gain a deep understanding of the materials they are working with. In addition to refining their audition skills and building confidence, students are given advice on how to cope with audition anxiety and how to prepare for each stage of the audition process, including answering interview questions. At the end of the course, students take part in a mock audition and receive individual feedback. In some cases, students also have the opportunity to watch an audition (usually by a current student), and they are able to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of this audition.

For Production courses, students are introduced to various areas of design and production arts for performance. They are offered advice on developing existing personal art portfolios in order to best represent their abilities at interview. Over three days, students are introduced to various areas of design and the production arts for performance and get practical advice and professional guidance in relation to building their own personal portfolio. Areas such as developing a concept, what to show and what to leave out, research, and creative development are featured alongside individual preparation for a mock interview on the final day of the course.

The courses are very varied in terms of the requirements of each discipline. For Acting and Musical Theatre, the Audition Preparation programme is delivered twice throughout the year and in different formats, once as a week-long intensive summer school and then as a series of 4 intensive weekends throughout the year. The majority of the audition/interview preparation courses (Screen, Production and Technology Management, BMus, B.Ed) are one day weekend courses. For Production Arts and Design, students are involved in three separate days of study, and they are expected to complete portfolio preparation work prior to each stage of the course.

Student feedback clearly demonstrates that the audition/interview preparation courses have been extremely beneficial in their development prior to audition, as can be seen in the student feedback below:-

“Extremely helpful. I felt completely comfortable despite the pressure I felt beforehand. Everyone was so friendly and the teacher was extremely supportive and informative. Will recommend to anyone that shows an interest in music teaching in the future.”

“The advice is invaluable, the course tutors are genuine, helpful and care and the experience you get of working at RCS is inspiring!”

“This course is intensive and in-depth. It has the potential to be very challenging, but the support of the tutors and other attendees makes the whole experience very enjoyable and enlightening. The knowledge gained is indispensable in consideration of the audition process.”

“The course was very good and allowed me to think about how to fully prepare for auditions in the future. It was very beneficial not only to perform my own pieces but to see how other people work and to consider this from different points of view.”

“The course is very informative, with lots of room to ask questions to learn more. By the end of the two days, you will have invaluable knowledge about the application.”

“If you are planning to audition for the BMus course at the RCS, this course is extremely helpful. Not only did I leave feeling relaxed and calm about my audition as I now know exactly what to expect; I also received an in depth masterclass from one of the experienced string teachers on one of my audition pieces, which I feel has helped hugely in my audition preparation.”

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