

# Audition Information 2021 Entry

The audition process enables the Conservatorium of Music to gather significant information before admitting applicants to undertake music pathways at UWA. Equally important, the process provides an opportunity for applicants to learn more about the Music courses offered at UWA and Conservatorium staff.

As part of applying to study Music at UWA, there are a number of processes and information collection points. While all of these are essential, the most important – and the only one that must be undertaken – is the audition.

## What will happen in the audition

Prior to the audition, you will be asked to prepare two contrasting pieces – please also remember to bring a copy of your music for the members of the audition panel. Upon entering the audition room, the members of the audition panel will ask you to tell them the titles of the prepared works, as well as asking you to select which piece you would like to play first. Given the time constraints for each audition, it is likely that you will only have the opportunity play a portion of each piece. With this in mind, therefore, **you might decide to start at a point before the part you want the panel to hear.** If the members of the audition panel ask you to stop playing at a certain point, this does not mean that the performance is going badly. Being asked to stop while playing is not an indication of anything except a lack of time in the audition process.

Following, the panel may want to hear all or part of the second piece. Again, please be prepared for the fact that the members of the audition panel will probably ask you to stop playing somewhere during the performance.

After the performance component of the audition, you will undertake a very short aural quiz, followed by a brief discussion with the panel. During your audition, one of the panel members will also look at your prepared academic portfolio.

The whole audition process may take as little as ten minutes. The length of the audition, however, is no indication of its success. Our staff members have considerable experience when it comes to listening to students and, more importantly, hearing the potential of a student. Therefore, they do not need a long time to reach a fair decision.

## Do I need an accompanist?

The decision is entirely up to you. We have found that for most players, the provision of an accompanist makes little difference to the decision of the committee. Due to the special nature of vocal auditions, we provide an accompanist for the voice auditions. However, you are free to use your own accompanist if you wish. Note that the first audition dates will align roughly with ATAR practical exams. Some accompanists will be unavailable for these dates, and we are very comfortable for performers to audition without accompaniment.

### **What is the academic portfolio and what do you do with it?**

In addition to performing as part of the audition, students are asked to bring a portfolio containing samples of their current work. For instance, audition panel members would like to see examples of academic writing, musical exercises and/or compositions, music certificates and other supporting documentation. A member of the audition panel will look at the documents during the audition process. As part of the portfolio, we would like to see whatever you have done during the course of your studies. However, if you do not have any such examples, we can make a decision without them.

### **What about aural?**

There are two aural components

- The first will occur during your audition timeslot - you will be required to clap an eight-bar melody at sight and sing two intervals. [Sample test here](#).
- The second is a written aural test which can be completed either before or after your audition. This will take around 15-20 minutes. [Sample test here](#)

Aural tests are for in-house diagnostic purposes only to assist Conservatorium staff with streaming the aural component of our Music Language units.

### **I was really nervous. Can I audition again?**

Everyone who auditions is nervous. As experienced musicians, however, the panel members are used to seeing nervous students audition. Even if you are nervous, be assured the panel will probably have an accurate view of your musical ability. However, if due to nerves you believe the audition does not provide the panel members with an accurate indication of your musical ability, there may be some remediation. Contact the Conservatorium of Music for more information.

### **Application for Composition Students**

In addition to auditioning on your chosen instrument or voice, composition applicants should submit a portfolio of compositions (in advance of the audition if possible). The folio can be a collection of up to three works that you think best show us what you can do. If you have the option, include pieces written that show a diversity of styles and instrumentation. Try not to include arrangements of existing pieces. Composers should also submit recordings if possible. These can be live recordings of your school ensemble or MIDI realizations. On the day, you will have an informal interview to chat about your folio and discuss the course with our team.

### **Application for Creative Music Technology Students**

Where possible, Creative Music Tech applicants should audition in person, performing a single chosen work that you think best showcases your talent (this should be performed on your main instrument). If, for example, you sing in a band, you can submit a recording of you performing instead of doing a live audition on the day.

In addition, you should submit a portfolio of your works (in advance of the audition if possible). The folio can be comprised of compositions, tracks and works you have produced that you think best show us what you can do. On the day, you will have an informal interview with our team to chat about your folio and discuss the course in more detail. You will also be given a short music theory diagnostic to do before your interview.

### **Application for Percussion Students**

For percussionists, the audition is a little different. Please be prepared to play 3 different pieces on Snare, drumkit, 2 mallets, 4 mallets, or timpani. Usually these should include something on both a “non-pitched” and a “pitched” instrument.

### **I’m an international applicant – how do I audition?**

You will need to provide a recorded audition either via Dropbox, USB, Youtube or DVD. You should perform two contrasting pieces on your instrument or voice in a single take (do not edit the recording afterwards). You’ll also need to provide a certified letter stating the authenticity and date of the recording. Once you arrive at UWA, you may be asked to do a separate informal audition. If you are interested in composition, also provide a portfolio.

### **Can I defer my place in music?**

If you are planning a gap year or will not be taking up your place within six months of your audition, you will need to successfully re-audition before being offered a place. It is up to applicants to ensure they retain a high standard of performance until entry into the Conservatorium of Music.