

Royal Scottish Academy  
*of Music and Drama*

**School of Music**

**Guide For Applicants**

**Courses beginning in  
September 2010**

**Bachelor of Arts (Scottish Music)  
Bachelor of Arts (Scottish Music – Piping)**

## **GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS - 2010 Entry**

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## Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the Academy. If you require any further information regarding the application and selection process generally or, more specifically, about your own application please do not hesitate to contact Admissions within Academic Administration and Support in the first instance. Contact details are:

Tel: 0141 332 4101  
email: musicadmissions@rsamd.ac.uk  
website: <http://www.rsamd.ac.uk>

This Guide contains important information regarding the completion of your application form, the nature of the BA (Honours) Scottish Music/Piping course and the selection process. Please read this document carefully before submitting your application and retain it for reference throughout the selection process. For information on the Bachelor of Music (Honours) and BEd (Music) course, please refer to the relevant guide on our website.

## Closing Date

Closing date for all on-time undergraduate applications is **1 October 2009**.

## Audition Period

The main Audition Period for all undergraduate courses (with the exception of the BEd Music course) is **9 - 13 November 2009**.

## Application Procedure

The RSAMD, together with six other UK Conservatoires, has created an online admissions service. Applications for all undergraduate courses offered by the School of Music (except Research study and Continuing Education) must be made online through the **Conservatoires UK Admissions Service (CUKAS)** website at [www.cukas.ac.uk](http://www.cukas.ac.uk). The RSAMD institution code is R58. You will find details of the admissions process on that website and you can call CUKAS on 0870 112 2208 should you need advice or assistance.

## Application Fee and Submission of Application Form

There is a CUKAS application fee of £15. In addition to that application fee, each Conservatoire charges an audition fee. For the Academy, the audition fee is £35 per course applied for. Fees are not refundable. The fees are paid via the CUKAS website and not directly to the Academy. Please note that if a late application is submitted (after 1<sup>st</sup> of October), an additional late fee of £15 is required.

## Scholarships

The Academy is able to offer a number of entrance scholarships which are awarded as part of the audition/selection process on the basis of merit.

## **Students with Disabilities**

The Academy welcomes applications from all applicants and has substantial experience in supporting disabled students. Currently, over 15% of students at the Academy have declared a disability or medical condition. Applicants who have a disability or special need and would like further information about facilities and support are invited to contact Jane Balmforth, the Academy Counsellor and Disability Adviser. Jane contacts all applicants who declare a disability or medical condition on their application form, and will provide information about studying at the Academy. If support is required for audition or interview, we would encourage you to help us to make the necessary arrangements by contacting by telephone, in writing or by email either Jane Balmforth (email: [j.balmforth@rsamd.ac.uk](mailto:j.balmforth@rsamd.ac.uk) phone: 0141 270 8282) or Registry (email: [registry@rsamd.ac.uk](mailto:registry@rsamd.ac.uk)). The Academy Counsellor and Disability Adviser is also available to meet you when you come for audition/interview to discuss your particular requirements, sources of further information and any special funding e.g Disabled Students' Allowance. For more information, you can require a copy of the Academy's booklet 'Information for Disabled Students and Applicants', or download this from the following website – <http://www.rsamd.ac.uk/academy/study>.

## **Equal Opportunities Policy and Statement**

**The RSAMD operates an Equal Opportunities Policy.** Within the constraints of available resources and in accordance with current legislation, the Academy endeavors to grant equality of opportunity to all applicants, staff and students regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, disability, marital status or religious belief, and not to discriminate against them through the application of any unjustifiable factor.

The information you give in response to any questions regarding Equal Opportunities is required only for statistical purposes, eg for monitoring application and admission rates to courses and will not be available to course selectors and will have no bearing on the admission decision.

## **BA (Scottish Music) Honours / BA (Scottish Music – Piping) Honours**

Full-time course of 4 years' duration

The BA (Scottish Music)/ BA (Scottish Music – Piping) with Honours is a unique course which offers performers of Scottish traditional music the opportunity to explore the national cultural heritage as well as furthering their skills on their first study instrument for which they receive individual weekly lessons. Students also pursue a second performance study and are expected to take part in singing and group work. Regular workshops are led by a rich diversity of visiting artists from Scotland and beyond and students gain performing experience both in and outside the Academy. The BA (Scottish Music – Piping) is taught in conjunction with the National Piping Centre, Glasgow. All students have placement experience around Scotland and study a range of academic units related to their development as performers.

The main aims of the course are to:

- promote and enhance the practices of the traditional music of Scotland and the scholarship supporting the study of it, nationally and internationally
- nurture and develop performance abilities in the field of traditional music to a high level, with a view to the pursuit of a professional performing career
- extend knowledge and practical experience of traditional repertoire and performing styles of the past and present
- develop a range of practical skills, solo and group, both live and studio recorded.

### **General Entrance Requirements**

#### **Minimum General Entrance Requirement**

The minimum general entrance requirement for Academy undergraduate courses is

- passes in 3 subjects at Higher Level or
- passes in 2 subjects at Advanced Higher or
- an appropriate Scottish Group award at Higher Level or
- passes in 2 subjects at GCE Advanced Level (where appropriate, AS level performance will be taken into account to the advantage of the applicant) or recognised equivalences.

#### **Subjects recommended**

- Music at Higher, Advanced Higher or Advanced Level or equivalent
- English at Higher, Advanced Higher or Advanced Level or equivalent

The study of Gaelic and/or another European language at least to Standard Grade/GCSE Level is desirable.

#### **Non Standard Entry**

In exceptional cases, applicants may be admitted to courses whose qualifications do not match (in terms of equivalence) or fall short of the normal entrance requirements described below, but who clearly satisfy the selection procedures and indicate that they have the capacity to pursue the proposed course of study.

## **Mature Students**

Applications from mature students, ie over the age of 21 at entry to the course, are welcomed. Whilst the selection procedures will still be applied, consideration will be given to musical and other experience not normally expected in school-leavers, which is deemed to compensate for any lack of traditional entrance qualifications. Successful mature applicants, as all other applicants, must convince auditioning panels that they have the ability and potential to cope with the demands of the course they wish to pursue. Their progress, especially in the early stages of the course, will be closely monitored and appropriate advice and help given.

**International Applicants** whose first language is not English will normally be required to give evidence of proficiency in English. Level 6.0 of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) will be required of applicants to the School of Music. If applicants can provide evidence of Level 5.5 then they may still be admitted onto the course, subject to attending a 4 week pre-sessional English course.

## **Other standards**

A strong indication of performing potential is sought at the entrance audition for this course. Musical literacy is desirable at the time of selection and must be developed before applicants commence the course of study. Minimum age at entry is 17.

## **Selection Process**

All those who have applied on time (by the 1<sup>st</sup> of October) for admission to the BA (Scottish Music) and BA (Scottish Music – Piping) courses are invited to the Academy to undertake an entrance examination consisting of the following:

- an audition in principal and second study
- a sight reading test on principal study
- an aural test on principal study
- an interview with the examiners exploring the applicant's understanding of the demands of the course and the academic demands of the course.

The Audition Panel will normally consist of the course leader and a specialist tutor of the applicant's principal study.

## **Recordings**

International applicants who are unable to attend an entrance audition in person must supply an authenticated and referenced recording of performance of two contrasted works on the principal instrument or voice. The recording should be of professional quality, ideally on DVD. Recordings submitted on tape cassette or standard magnetic tape will not be accepted. Applicants who are offered a place at the Academy following submission of a recording will be required to undertake a supplementary audition when they arrive to start their course of study. This is to confirm the authenticity of their recording. This audition may affect their placing on the course. **Please note recordings cannot be returned.**

## The Audition

Applicants will be invited to audition and interview via letter approximately three weeks before the audition date. All auditions and interviews will take place at the RSAMD in Glasgow.

Please note that the audition date allocated to you cannot be altered. If you cannot attend due to illness, then a doctor's note must be provided, in which case an alternative date can be arranged. The Academy has a specific period allocated to auditions and all on-time applications will have a decision before Christmas. If an audition is delayed, there is a risk that places will already have been taken.

Before your audition, you will have 15 minutes to warm-up on your instrument and review the reading material.

- **Performance** of a programme of approximately 15 minutes on the principal study. The programme should demonstrate your present level of achievement and your musical potential, and be performed unaccompanied, unless self-accompanied for one or two items (e.g. clarsach player accompanying own singing, or singers accompanying themselves on another instrument). Applicants are asked to give brief spoken introductions to each item performed and their own compositions may be included. Suggested repertoire is detailed below.
- **Performance** of one item on a second study. Second studies offered may be any principal study instrument or any other on which the applicant performs traditional music. (NB Highland pipers may not offer bellows-blown pipes as a second study.)
- **Sight reading.** The examiners will be assessing applicants' ability to recreate a song or tune in a traditional style. Those who are poor music readers but otherwise suitable will be offered a place conditional on their improving their music literacy before starting the course. While support will be given in developing these skills during Year 1, it would be beneficial for students to have a working knowledge of at least single line reading on entry to the course.
- **Aural Test.** Applicants will be asked to reproduce on their principal study a short melody sung or played to them by the examiners.

Please note that the Audition Panel reserves the right to halt a performance when it has heard sufficient to form a judgement.

## Principal Study Repertoire

### Highland Bagpipe

Three contrasting sets that should include a March, Strathspey and Reel and one Piobaireachd (ground and 1st variation only).

**Guitar/Piano/Clarsach/Fiddle/Accordion** (piano or button key: chromatic or diatonic)/  
Flute/Violoncello

A contrasting programme featuring the Applicant's own choice of tunes: air, march, strathspey, reel, Scots measure, jig, hornpipe, self-accompaniment of singing if appropriate.

### **Scots Song**

Varied programme of contrasting moods and tempi: featuring the broad range of Scots song, eg classic ballad, bothy ballad, Burns or other 'art' song, lullaby, contemporary Scots song, nonsense, bawdy or children's song, dance song or diddling.

### **Gaelic Song**

Varied programme of contrasting moods and tempi: puirt a beul, orain luaidh, orain basaidh, oran mor, contemporary Gaelic song, lullaby, lament.

### **Percussion**

A variety of pieces and exercises demonstrating skills on snare drum, and any other percussion such as bodhran.

## **Following Your Audition**

All decisions will be posted on Cukas following your audition. Cukas will notify you by email to check track (<http://www.cukas.ac.uk/students/track>) as soon as the status of your application has changed.

Please see below for an explanation of Cukas codes –

### **Guaranteed Unconditional (GU)**

The RSAMD is satisfied from the information you have given, that you have already met the conditions for entry. Unless your application and/or qualification are subsequently shown to be fraudulent, a guaranteed unconditional offer is binding.

### **Guaranteed Conditional (GC)**

The RSAMD has made the offer subject to you meeting certain conditions such as examination results. Unless your application and/or qualifications are subsequently shown to be fraudulent, the offer is binding if you accept the offer and meet the conditions. You must meet the conditions of the offer by 31 August 2010, unless an earlier date is specified.

### **Reserve Unconditional (VU)**

The RSAMD is satisfied from the information you have given, that you have already met the conditions for entry and have offered a place on our reserve list. See below for further information on reserve offers.

### **Reserve Conditional (VC)**

The RSAMD has offered a place on its reserve list subject to you meeting certain conditions such as examination results. See below for further information on reserve offers.

### **Unsuccessful (R)**

The RSAMD does not wish to offer you any type of a place.

### **Reserve Offers Explained**

A reserve (VC or VU) offer does not mean a place has been 'reserved' for you. Until such time as you receive (and accept) a guaranteed offer (GU or GC) from the RSAMD, you have not been accepted to study at the RSAMD.

If you have received a reserve offer, it means that the RSAMD is not able to offer you a guaranteed place at the time it makes the offer. A reserve offer merely indicates that the RSAMD would like the opportunity to review its offer to you in the light of acceptances/declines to its guaranteed offers. You will become part of a 'pool' of reserve candidates and the RSAMD may choose to make you a guaranteed offer if a suitable place becomes available. If the RSAMD chooses not to make you a guaranteed offer, you will not be eligible to start at the Academy.

If you have been given a reserve offer, in order to be considered for a guaranteed place (should one become available) you will need to accept the offer (and meet any conditions if applicable).

If you are holding a reserve offer, the RSAMD can elect to make you a guaranteed offer at any time during the application cycle. Reserve offers remain active until after the A level results have been issued in August so you could have a reserve offer until the end of August. The decision to wait and see whether a guaranteed place becomes available, or to accept an offer at another conservatoire is entirely at your discretion.

### **Replying to offers**

If you have one or more offers and Cukas has received decisions from all your conservatoires, they will send you a letter asking you to reply to your offers by a given date. You must reply online via Cukas Track (<http://www.cukas.ac.uk/students/track>). Your reply date is also shown on Track. If you do not reply by the date given, your offers will be declined automatically. The reply date is your individual reply date so it may be different to other peoples. This is because it is based on when you received the last decision from your conservatoires.

### **2010 Entry Reply Dates**

Last decision by	Your reply date is
5 January 2010	31 January 2010
5 March 2010	31 March 2010
15 July 2010	30 July 2010
9 August 2010	25 August 2010
After 9 August 2010	30 September 2010

If you make an application through Cukas, UCAS or GTTR, you cannot hold more than one confirmed place. A confirmed place in Cukas is a guaranteed unconditional offer as your first choice (GU1) and in UCAS and GTTR it is an unconditional firm (UF) place. If you receive more than one confirmed place, UCAS will ask you to accept one offer and withdraw from any others.

### **Feedback to Applicants**

Subject to the provisions of the Academy's Data Protection Policy, feedback will not be provided to applicants regarding the reasons for non-admittance.

### **Appeals Procedure**

If an applicant considers that the Academy has failed to meet its high standards in the consideration of her/his application s/he should write to the Academy's Director of Finance and Administration who will investigate the matter and respond to the applicant in writing. Disagreement with the academic judgement of programme selectors in reaching their decision based on the aspects of the applicant's profile does not constitute grounds for a complaint by an applicant. Complaints will only be considered in relation to non-adherence to approved policy and procedure. If it is found that the outcome of an application was affected by either non-adherence to a policy or defective procedure, the applicant concerned will be offered a re-audition.