



MA/PGDip PROFESSIONAL VOICE PRACTICE – AUDITION GUIDANCE

Auditioning/interviewing in person at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (Acting)

Thank you for submitting your application for the above course at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire for the MA/PGDip Professional Voice Practice course.

We recognise that you will inevitably be nervous about your audition and interview; much rides upon the outcome. We work hard to ensure that your audition and interview are positive experiences. Members of both academic and admissions staff will be available to answer questions at all stages.

If you wish us to take dyslexia or dyspraxia into account at your audition and interview you must bring with you a copy of your assessment/report confirming the condition and hand it to the Admissions Officer.

PUNCTUALITY

You should make sure you arrive in plenty of time for your audition; if for any reason you will be late please let us know. Punctuality is essential during the course, as it is when working in the profession. We are aware that sometimes transport is delayed – however, we will expect you to have arranged your travel to arrive on time even if there is a reasonable delay.

Please note: Street shoes and stilettos are not allowed in any of our studios, but jazz and character shoes are.

PREPARED MATERIAL AND FEEDBACK

You will be asked to present a prepared programme to a panel of staff, which will include the Course Director and/or another member of the Voice team. You have up to ten minutes in which to present your prepared programme and this will be followed by a discussion with the panel who will provide verbal feedback on what you present, discuss your choice of material and your motives for applying to the MA/PGDip Professional Voice Practice programme.

You must prepare and present:

- a speech in verse from an Elizabethan/Jacobean play **OR** a musical theatre song (with accompaniment)
- a Shakespeare sonnet
- a piece of modern or contemporary verse

Your programme should last at least five minutes.

Please note: If you plan to perform a song as part of your audition, you must email Admissions to let us know by emailing Admissions at acting.admissions@bcu.ac.uk when you accept your invitation to audition so that we can arrange an accompanist.

You should have read the whole of the play from which any speech is taken or, if your choice is a song, you should be familiar with the work from which it is taken and the context in which the song takes place. You may be asked

questions about the play and the section of text (or song) you chose. It is not advised that you attempt an accent unless you are entirely confident of its accuracy and only if it is appropriate to the material.

Any performance choices you make should be justifiable within the text. The performance should reveal an understanding of the scene and character and/or the demands of the text. Try to make sure that any vocal and physical interpretation you do is strictly relevant.

Although candidates may not be from an acting or performance background, you need to be able to demonstrate some sensitivity to and awareness of the demands of speaking text in a performance context.

THE SONG

Should you choose to perform a song, your song should be a published work with piano accompaniment. We will provide a pianist but you must provide sheet music in a suitable format for the pianist to use.

We are interested to see how you interpret a song and its content. We appreciate that some candidates are not experienced singers but we do not believe that this stops anyone from expressing the style and content of a song. It is important that you choose a song suitable for your voice, gender and age.

Your Interview and Audition

You will be attending a 1 hour workshop within a small group and then have a 15 minute individual audition which will also include being interviewed by the Course Director or his/her representative to gain a better understanding of you and your motives for wishing to pursue the MA/PGDip Professional Voice programme. As well as discussing your audition choices and your reasons for wishing to become a voice practitioner, you can expect to be asked about any previous experience you may have within the voice field and what your research interests may be. These do not, by any means, have to be fully formed ideas but there is a research element to the course so it is important to consider at this stage what area of voice practice you might wish to explore in greater depth.

If you wish to be considered for the PGDip Professional Voice Practice course you do not need to concern yourself with the research element.

Online Audition Recording Criteria (for EU and Overseas applicants only)

If you live outside the UK/EU you can submit an online audition recording. This can be done through YouTube, Dropbox, Google Drive or any other online service that you can use to send us video links. Please make sure you check the links are working before you send them to us. You should present your speeches (and song, if included) in English in front of a camera and perform them as you would in a live audition, using the guidelines international students [HERE](#) .

Please ensure that we can see the whole of your body – it is not necessary to provide close-ups or produce an edited piece of television, but you should ensure that the sound quality is sufficient for us to make an accurate assessment of your voice. You should supply the title, author and, if relevant, translator details with your speeches.

You may also make a short statement of no more than three minutes about the pieces – a brief résumé of the plays, characters and chosen texts/song.

You may also include a brief statement in support of your application.

What happens next?

DECISION ON AUDITION

The staff on the panel – guided by the Course Director – make the decision whether to offer a place. Within 10 working days of your Audition you should receive confirmation by email of the result. If you have not heard within 21 days please contact acting.admissions@bcu.ac.uk. Decisions for international students applying via an online audition recording may take longer, but you should hear within 30 days of our receipt of your audition.

OFFER OF A PLACE

Following an audition and/or interview, one of the following outcomes is possible:

- **You are offered an unconditional place**
This means that you have a place on the course for which you applied. This offer is only for the year in which you apply.
- **You are offered a conditional place**
This means that you will have a place on the course for which you applied if you attain the required academic qualifications. This offer is only for the year in which you apply.
- **You are unsuccessful.** You are not offered a place on the course

You cannot re-apply for a place on the same course in the same academic year.

Directions to Millennium Point

Please click the following link for directions to Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Acting School
<https://www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/about-us/parking-and-directions/acting-directions>

Car Parking at Millennium Point

There is a multi-storey car park owned and managed by Birmingham City Council situated adjacent to Millennium Point. The car park can be accessed via Jennens Road and Millennium Point is clearly signposted from all main routes into the city – simply follow the brown tourist signs. If you are using a sat nav please use the postcode **B4 7AP**.

Please see the link below for the car park charges:-

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/directory_record/6674/millennium_point_multi-storey_car_park

[Please note the main new Royal Birmingham Conservatoire building houses the music elements only, and if you arrive there, you will find Millennium Point, where the MA/PGDip Acting course is based, is the building opposite the back entrance of the Conservatoire.

Other directions, including directions from buses etc., are available on the [Millennium Point Website](#).