ROYAL
BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE



Apply your passion

Open Day programme

Thursday 3 December 2026
10am - 4.30pm

Birmingham City University

Welcome



I'm delighted to welcome you to Royal Birmingham Conservatoire for our Open Day. We've designed today like a tasting menu, aimed at providing you with a real sense of what it's like to be a student with us, whatever course you're interested in.

At RBC we make the most not only of our own specialist facilities, but also our location in such a young, exciting, diverse and culturally rich city. Our provision across a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses is designed to provide you with all the skills you will need in the modern profession.

We put employability and entrepreneurship centre stage, and provide a platform from which successful and sustainable careers can be launched. We're passionate about empowering you to reach your full potential, regardless of background or previous experience. Indeed, we are very proud of our nurturing, supportive approach: we get to know every one of our students as individuals, and help guide you to discover, develop and pursue your own personal strengths and enthusiasms.
I hope that, aside from all the facts you learn today, you will go away with a very real sense of our RBC 'family', and want to become part of it. RBC has a long history, and generations of musicians, actors and theatre professionals have studied here and gone on to forge highly successful careers across all branches of these industries. Today we hope to give you a flavour of how you can follow in their footsteps, and also have an enjoyable and fulfilling time here while you are studying.

Stephen Maddock OBE
Principal,
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire



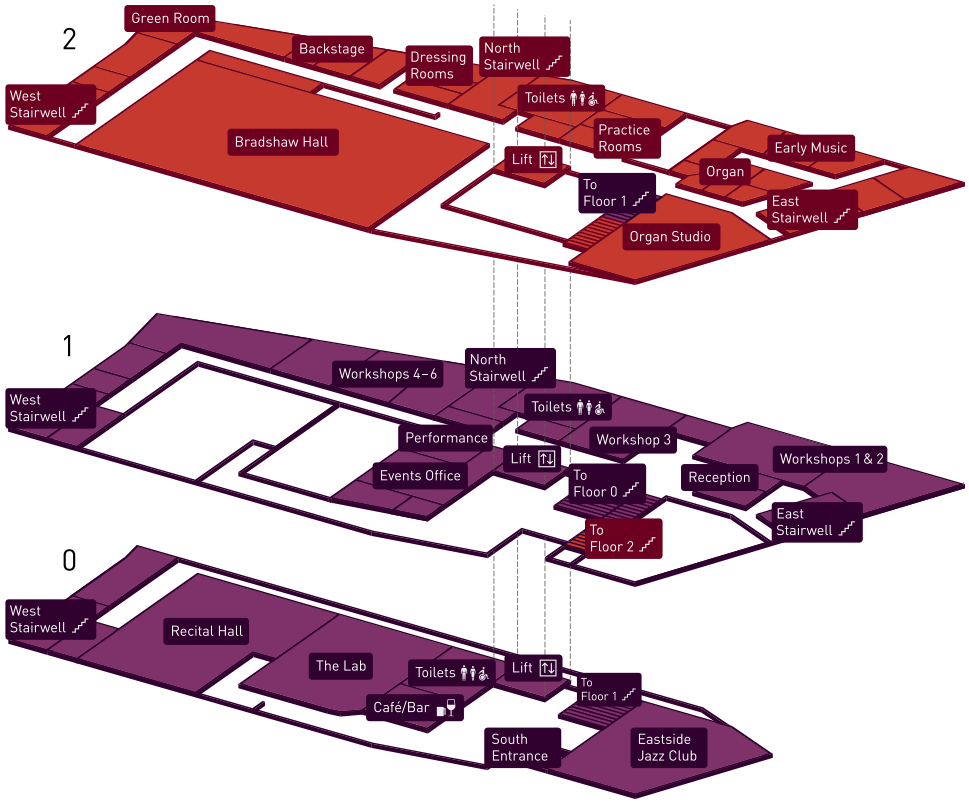
Folk Ensemble and Welcome Talk

Receive a warm welcome from the Conservatoire Principal Stephen Maddock and Vice Principals Professor Shirley Thompson (Music) and Professor Stephen Simms (Acting).

10.30 - 11.15am
Bradshaw Hall, Level 2

Floor plans

A floor plan of the ground, first and second floors can be found below. This should help you to navigate your way to the relevant course talks and sessions.



Open Day highlights

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire offers a full calendar of performances and events all year round. This provides performance opportunities for our students, and the opportunity to enjoy a variety of concerts and events for free.



Live foyer performances

10.10 - 10.30am
Harp

11.10 - 11.30am
Brass

11.50am -12.10pm
Saxophone

12.30 - 12.50pm
Percussion

1.10 - 1.30pm
Historical Performance and Recorder

1.50 - 2.10pm
Woodwind

2.30 - 2.50pm
Vocal

3.10 - 3.30pm
Acting

3.50 - 4.10pm
Jazz

Performances taking place this evening.

Jazz: Small bands

Three RBC Jazz senior students present their bands, showcasing the latest emerging talent from the Birmingham scene.

Location: Eastside Jazz Club, Level 0
Time: 6.30 - 9pm

Twelfth Night

Location:
Crescent Theatre, Sheepcote Street, B16 8AE
Time: 7.15pm

For free admission, use code: **BCUOpen**

See our full event schedule by scanning the QR code or visiting:
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/events-calendar

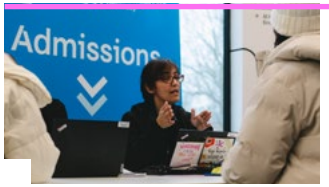
Meet our support services



Accommodation

Ask about accommodation options, how to apply, payments and life in student halls.

Workshop 5, Level 1



Admissions

Ask us about entry requirements, qualifications, offers, scholarships and the application process.

Gallery, Level 2



Careers and Student Opportunities

Ask us about the benefits of a degree, work placements and graduate jobs.

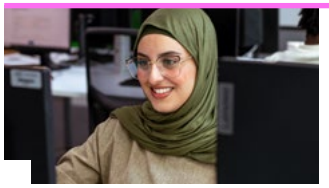
Gallery, Level 2



Fees and Funding

Find out more about all the funding opportunities that are available to you, as well as guidance on fees, student loans, scholarships and studentships.

Gallery, Level 2



Student Services

We offer advice on enablement, mental health and wellbeing, and any other aspects including University procedures.

Gallery, Level 2



Students' Union

Ask us about student life, societies and how we support our students throughout their time here.

Gallery, Level 2

Tours



Acting tours of the City Centre Campus

Take a tour of the City Centre Campus to see our specialist facilities, including our film, TV and radio studios.

All tours need to be pre-booked and slots are allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

Workshop 4, Level 1



Music facilities tours

Take a tour of the Conservatoire to see our specialist facilities, teaching areas and performance spaces.

All tours need to be pre-booked and slots are allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

Workshop 4, Level 1

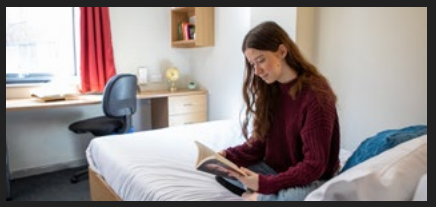
Accommodation tours



University Locks open house

University Locks will be open to visitors for self-guided tours between 11am and 5pm. Staff and students will be on hand to answer any questions.

University Locks, 50 Curzon Street, B4 7XJ



Lakeside tours

Tours will be running throughout the day between 11am and 4pm. All tours need to be pre-booked and slots are allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

Workshop 5, Level 1



Library tours

Book a tour of the Curzon library and speak to staff about the resources and support available to our students. All tours need to be pre-booked and slots are allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

Gallery, Level 2

Acting and Theatre

Meet our staff and students: 12.30 - 4pm, Gallery, Level 2

Don't miss the Folk Ensemble and Welcome Talk

10.30 - 11.15am
Bradshaw Hall, Level 2



Course talks

Subject	Time	Location
BA Acting	11.20am - 12.20pm	Bradshaw Hall, Level 2
BA Stage Management (Followed by visit to Unit 3B, Heneage Street)	11.40am - 12.10pm (12.10 - 1.20pm)	The Lab, Level 0
Postgraduate taught courses	11.30am - 12.30pm	Workshop 1, Level 1
BA Applied Theatre	12.30 - 1.30pm	The Lab, Level 0
Foundation in Acting	12.30 - 1.30pm	Workshop 3, Level 1

Acting workshops

Locations:
The Lab, Level 0
Workshop 3, Level 1

Time: 1.50 - 2.50pm

Please note, the two workshops will take place simultaneously



ARRAN – MANAGING PRODUCTIONS

Arran always knew he wanted to work in theatre, but it was the organisation, problem-solving and teamwork behind the scenes that ended up appealing to him most. He chose to study Stage Management at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire because of its practical, industry-focused approach and the opportunity to learn in a working conservatoire environment.

"I chose Stage Management because it felt like a natural combination of the skills I enjoy most. I wanted training that would prepare me for the realities of the industry, rather than being entirely classroom-based. Being surrounded by performers, creatives and technicians meant the experience felt connected to the profession from the beginning.

"Today, I work as a freelance company manager across major commercial theatre productions in the UK and internationally. My recent credits include Operation Mincemeat, The Book of Mormon, & Juliet, Dreamgirls and The Last Ship. My role involves coordinating travel, accommodation, schedules and contracts, while also supporting the wellbeing of the company.

"My degree gave me a strong practical foundation that I still rely on every day. It taught me how to communicate clearly, manage multiple projects and stay calm when plans change. I'm proud of the career I've built, but I'm equally proud that my work allows me to support other people. The values of preparation, collaboration and professionalism that I developed during my training continue to shape the kind of company manager I want to be."

Scan the QR code to find out more about Arran's story



Music

Meet our staff and students
12.30 - 4pm, Gallery, Level 2

Course talks (for Jazz, see below)

Subject	Time	Location
BMus: Performance, Music Technology or Composition*	11.30am - 12.30pm	Recital Hall, Level 0
BA Music Business course talk and tour*	11.30am - 12.30pm	Workshop 7, Level 5 Meeting point: Check-in desk, Level 1
Postgraduate Taught Courses	11.40am - 12.40pm	Workshop 2, Level 1

*While the BMus at RBC is a conservatoire degree centred on developing high-level musical performance, composition, and musicianship skills, the BA (Hons) Music Business course, based within Birmingham City University's Department of English and Media, focuses on the entrepreneurial, innovative and commercial business side of the music industry, including music promotion and marketing, live event production, music media content production and data analysis.

Jazz

Subject	Time	Location
Course talk and department presentation, including student performances	12.30 - 1.50pm	Eastside Jazz Club, Level 0
Open Big Band and Jam session (Bring your own instrument)	2.30 - 4pm	Eastside Jazz Club, Level 0

Don't miss the Folk Ensemble and Welcome Talk

10.30 - 11.15am
Bradshaw Hall, Level 2



General talks

Subject	Time	Location
Health, Wellbeing and Performing with Confidence for Musicians	3 - 3.40pm	Workshop 1, Level 1
Pedagogy and Outreach	3.40 - 4.20pm	Workshop 2, Level 1

Department talks

Departments	Time	Location
Brass	12.30 - 1.30pm	Bradshaw Hall, Level 2
Classical Guitar	1.10 - 1.40pm	Organ Studio, Level 2
Composition	3 - 4pm	The Lab, Level 0
Harp	12.30 - 1pm	Organ Studio, Level 2
Historical Performance and Recorder	3.10 - 4.10pm	Organ Studio, Level 2
Music Technology (Followed by studio tour)	2.20 - 3pm	Workshop 2, Level 1
Organ	1.50 - 2.50pm	Organ Studio, Level 2
Percussion	1.10 - 2.10pm	Percussion Suite, Level 5
Piano	1.50 - 2.50pm	Recital Hall, Level 0
Saxophone	1.50 - 2.50pm	Workshop 1, Level 1
Strings	12.40 - 1.40pm	Workshop 1, Level 1
Vocal	3 - 4pm	Recital Hall, Level 0
Woodwind	12.40 - 1.40pm	Recital Hall, Level 0
Symphony Orchestra side-by-side Bring your own instrument to join the rehearsal with current students.	2.30 - 4pm	Bradshaw Hall, Level 2

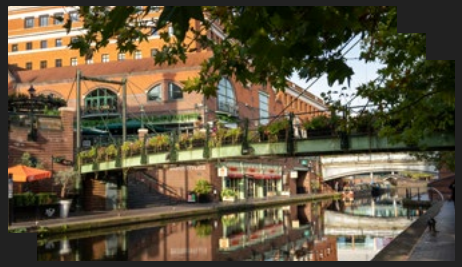
Did you know that Birmingham is home to...





A thriving arts scene

Birmingham is home to a range of arts organisations and venues, many of which partner with the RBC. These include Symphony Hall (one of Europe's best concert halls and home of the CBSO), Town Hall, Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham REP Theatre, and the Alexandra Theatre, plus many other smaller venues. The RSC is also just a short train ride away in Stratford -Upon-Avon.



Canals and green spaces

Birmingham has over 100 miles of canal networks. The city is also considered one of the greenest in the UK with plenty of parks, gardens and open spaces, such as Cannon Hill Park, Lickey Hills Country Park and Birmingham Botanical Gardens - which students get free access to all year round! So, take a step off the pavement and onto the towpath to explore more canals than Venice, or the many beautiful green spaces.



Independent hotspots

You've probably heard of the famous Bullring shopping centre, but did you know that Birmingham is home to over 100 unique independent retailers? Our independent scene extends beyond the city centre and Creative Quarter in Digbeth to popular neighbourhoods including Stirchley, Kings Heath and Bournville, so you can experience the independent scene where you are in Birmingham.



Photo by: Neville-Williams

Pretty much everything!

From Ozzy Osbourne to Peaky Blinders to UB40, there have been plenty of great things to come out of Birmingham. It is a thriving city that celebrates a range of festivals including Moseley Folk and Arts Festival, Birmingham Film Festival, Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival and Soul Festival - to name a few. It's safe to say that Birmingham is a city with lots of opportunities that cater to everyone.

Our campuses







We've invested over £500 million to help revitalise the UK's second city and create modern learning facilities for our students - find out more about our campuses and where you could be studying below.



Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

The £57 million Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is a unique contemporary building, incorporating five public performance spaces including a 500-seat concert hall for orchestral training and performance, a flexible black-box studio, private rehearsal and practice rooms, and teaching spaces.

Ruskin Hall

Based in the leafy area of Bournville, Ruskin Hall is the base for Acting students. This location has a variety of classrooms and rehearsal spaces and is just a short journey from City Centre Campus.

RBC Digbeth

Located in the creative and independent neighbourhood of Digbeth, this building has four dedicated studio spaces for Acting and Applied Theatre students to carry out rehearsals and teaching in the heart of the city.

Heneage Street

Our Stage Management students are primarily based at Unit 3B, Heneage Street, close to city centre campus. Students have specialist spaces here to create stage materials and productions ready for theatres and performances.

Curzon and Parkside Building

Located at the City Centre Campus, the Parkside and Curzon Buildings accommodate industry-standard TV studios, a drama studio and the library, as well as central services such as the Careers and Student Opportunities team and student employment agency, all intended to support you during your time studying with us.

> **Many of our Acting and Theatre courses are also taught at local theatres including The Crescent and Old Rep.**



Front cover image:
Lily Donovan and Violet Wetherall, Acting students in 1972: The Future of Sex
Image: Katja Ogrin

Back cover image:
Music student, Joseph Jacob
Image: Greg Milner

Images used throughout:
Kirkpatrick Photography, Greg Milner and Katja Ogrin

Contact us

www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire
+44 (0)121 331 5901
conservatoire@bcu.ac.uk

Sign up to our newsletter

RoyalBirmCons
@royalbirmcons
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire