# School of Music Programme Costs

Added programme/department costs for the School of Music are variable.

*\*more detail on some items are provided on the next page*

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| --- | --- |
| **BMus Traditional Music / Traditional Music – Piping** | * Stationery (notebooks, pens, manuscript) (from £20) * Metronome (smartphone apps are available) * Maintenance/purchase of a professional quality instrument (as appropriate) in keeping with the expectations of the industry * Instrument sundries * Membership of Musicians’ Union and PRS for Music (advised, not compulsory, approx. £120) * USB stick (approx. £15) * \*Computer with webcam (from £200) * \*Good quality headphones (from £50) * \*Recording device and/or USB microphone (from £85) * Pipers: Bb chanter, whistle (approx. £175) * Graduation Expenses (from £50), final year only |
| **BMus / MMus / MA / AdvPGDip / ArtDip** | * Stationery (notebooks, pens, manuscript) (from £20) * Metronome (smartphone apps are available) * Maintenance/purchase of a professional quality instrument (as appropriate) in keeping with the expectations of the industry * Instrument sundries * Double Reed Deposit (required for DR students - woodwind) * Membership of Musicians’ Union (advised for performers and composers, not compulsory) (approx. £20) * Membership of PRS for Music (advised for composers, not compulsory, available for £30) * New Music Scotland membership (advised for composers, £10 per year at student rate) * USB stick (approx. £15) * \*Computer with webcam (from £200) * \*Good quality headphones (from £50) * \*Recording device and/or USB microphone (from £85) * Graduation Expenses (from £50), final year only |
| **BEd** | * Books (approx. £200) – essential * Stationery (printer ink, paper, USB stick, etc.) (approx.   £250)   * Metronome (smartphone apps are available) * Maintenance/purchase of a professional quality instrument (as appropriate) * Travel costs to cover transport between term time address and RCS (we make up the difference if term address to placement school is more costly) * PVG Check (£59) * \*Recording device and/or USB microphone (from £85) * \*Computer with webcam (from £200) * \*Good quality headphones (from £50) * Graduation Expenses (from £50), final year only |

# Studying in the School of Music at RCS: Things you may need!

In order to take part in some modules, you may need access to some specialised software and/or hardware. While some of this will at times be available in the Conservatoire, it may not always be accessible to you. With this in mind, here are some recommendations on hardware and software.

Students without funds to purchase necessary equipment or software may be able to apply to one the Conservatoire’s hardship funds. More details will be available after matriculation.

## Computer

You will need either a desktop or laptop computer during your studies. The Conservatoire uses both [Zoom](https://zoom.us/) and [Microsoft Teams](https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/download-app) in its classes, lessons and events. Your computer should be capable of running this software, with a built-in microphone and webcam (the built-in ones are fine for conferencing). The computer should also be capable of running some basic Word Processing and audio editing software. (Note that certain modules or classes may have additional software requirements.)

Please note that once you have matriculated as a student of the Conservatoire you will have free access to both Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

## Headphones

During your course, you will likely spend time listening closely to recordings, whether they are of yourself or of others. You will also spend time in Zoom/Teams lessons, classes and meetings. With this in mind, for reasons of sound quality and for personal comfort, we recommend that you invest in a pair of high-quality headphones.

Whatever you choose, it is very important to have good headphones for listening. Whilst you might enjoy using headphones with a bass boost for listening at leisure, when working you will need headphones that accurately represent what you are listening to.

We recommend one of the following as good, reasonably priced headphones (prices are estimated as of April 2021):

Audio Technica ATH-M30x (£53) – [Amazon](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Audio-Technica-ATH-M30X-Professional-Headphones-Black/dp/B00HVLUQW8/ref%3Dasc_df_B00HVLUQW8/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=310807566199&hvpos&hvnetw=g&hvrand=14264422792998692405&hvpone&hvptwo&hvqmt&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl&hvlocint&hvlocphy=9046948&hvtargid=pla-361698941728&psc=1&th=1&psc=1) / [Scan.co.uk](https://www.scan.co.uk/products/audio-technica-ath-m30x-professional-headphones-black?gclid=Cj0KCQjwnqH7BRDdARIsACTSAdtSupeGK8EeGYS0srZJZ50xUprZUXtqxeDYMKQFREnUOcYvlDTy9i4aAtr4EALw_wcB) Audio Technica ATH-M40x (£78) – [Amazon](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Audio-Technica-ATH-M40X-Professional-Headphones-Black/dp/B00HVLUR54/ref%3Dpd_lpo_267_t_1/260-5576516-4555933?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=B00HVLUR54&pd_rd_r=bdc58bed-6cff-4065-9bf3-5732b96649f5&pd_rd_w=GYzNu&pd_rd_wg=VA9vF&pf_rd_p=7b8e3b03-1439-4489-abd4-4a138cf4eca6&pf_rd_r=YJY8WEW270DNTHVKJB8M&psc=1&refRID=YJY8WEW270DNTHVKJB8M) / [Scan.co.uk](https://www.scan.co.uk/products/audio-technica-ath-m40x-headphones) Beyerdynamic DT770 Pro (£115) – [Amazon](https://www.amazon.co.uk/beyerdynamic-770-PRO-Studio-Headphones/dp/B008POFOHM/ref%3Dsr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=beyerdynamic%2Bdt770%2Bpro%2B32&qid=1600679741&s=musical-instruments&sr=1-1) / [Scan.co.uk](https://www.scan.co.uk/products/beyerdynamic-dt-770-pro-32-ohm-for-mobile-applications)

## Written work

Essays, reflective journals, commentaries and other written work you may have to complete for your course may be submitted in two formats: Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) or PDF.

Note that some modules may have specific submission requirements involving other file formats, which will be outlined in the module documentation.

As a student at the Conservatoire, you will automatically have free and immediate access to the Microsoft Office suite for the duration of your study. This includes Word, Powerpoint, Excel, OneDrive and more. You will be able to download the apps to your machine or use them anywhere online by using your RCS login and password.

## Scoring & Notation Software (and alternatives)

For work that involves creating a score (e.g. a Composition, Arrangement, Orchestration or other piece of notation), files can be submitted in any the following three formats: Sibelius, Musescore or XML + PDF (2 files).

[*Sibelius*](https://shop.avid.com/ccrz__ProductDetails?viewState=DetailView&cartID&sku=SBDYNA2000)

If you have access to Sibelius then you can complete your work using it. Sibelius is the software which has normally been used by staff and students in the Conservatoire. An educational license for Sibelius Ultimate (the recommended version) can be bought on a per month (£8.25), per year (£79.00) subscription, or a perpetual license (one-off payment:

£249).

[*Musescore*](https://musescore.org/en/download) *(Free)*

If you don’t have access to Sibelius, we recommend you download Musescore, a free notation app available for Windows, Mac and Linux. (<https://musescore.org/en/download>)

There are also many [online tutorials](https://musescore.org/en/tutorials) available on how to use Musescore.

*Scoring & Notation - Other Alternatives*

There are also many other notation software alternatives – some cost money and some are free. The other free ones may not be quite as fully featured as those above, but they may prove useful if you do not want to or can’t use Musescore.

However, if you use any software other than Sibelius or Musescore, **you must submit your work as an XML file, accompanied by a PDF**. An XML is a file format that most notation software apps can open.

Other Paid-for Notation Software options:

* [Dorico](https://new.steinberg.net/dorico/)
* [Finale](https://www.finalemusic.com/)

Both Dorico and Finale are fully-featured software and can do everything that Sibelius can, but you will need to remember to save as XML+PDF.

Other Free Notation Software (again, remember to save as XML+PDF):

* [Noteflight](https://www.noteflight.com/) - browser-based notation service; missing some instruments, but it may do the job
* [Flat.io](https://flat.io/) - another web-based notation service; can be downloaded as an app for iPad
* [Staffpad](https://www.staffpad.net/) - (iPad or Microsoft Surface only)

## Recording at Home Equipment

In your principal study lessons, you may be sending recordings of yourself playing to your teacher and web conferencing with them. With this in mind, it makes sense try to get the best sound you can for these.

There are three different options for home recording:

1. USB microphones (the cost of the mic)
2. Handheld recorders (total estimated cost included accessories: £200 - 250 depending on which recorder you choose)
3. External microphones with an audio interface (total estimated cost including accessories £313 - £464 depending on the mic(s) you choose)

**USB mics** are cheap and relatively easy to connect to your computer. However, they often have the poorest sound quality of the three options and usually cannot be attached to a mic stand, so they can be difficult to position well for many instruments.

**Handheld recorders** are very portable and many can also be used as a USB microphone (and in terms of sound quality are better than dedicated USB mics). They are very easy to transport and so useful to take with you for gigs/rehearsals. You can mount these on tripods, but you can also get adapters for mic stands (very useful!).

**A dedicated microphone and audio interface** gives the best sound quality. An audio interface connects to a computer and controls the microphone input and your headphone output. Small interfaces are available that are easy to transport in a bag with your laptop.

*Summary*

\*If you want maximum portability, a handheld recorder will be your best option.

\*If you want the highest quality, you will get this from a decent mic and interface.

\*We can’t recommend USB mics as the best choice for recording acoustic instruments/voices, but if they are your only option, try to find ways to position it well for your instrument/voice.

*Recommendations for Option 2: Handheld Recorders*

We recommend either:

* **Tascam DR-44WL** handheld recorder with two built in mics and two XLR inputs for connecting external mics (£230), or
* **Zoom H4N** handheld recorder with two built in mics and two XLR inputs for connecting external mics (£200)

*Question: I’ve decided to get a handheld recorder. What else do I need?*

* Headphones (recommendations above)
* Tripod adapter such as this: <https://amzn.to/2XRoaR4>
* Mic stand, either:
  + [K&M w/ Telescoping Boom](https://www.thomann.de/gb/km_210-9_stativ.htm) - £38 (a telescoping book can go much shorter, very good for live work on stage or cramped spaces), or
  + [K&M w/out Telescoping Boom](https://www.thomann.de/gb/km_21070_black.htm) - £31

*Recommendations for Option 3: Audio interface and dedicated microphone(s)*

For an audio interface we recommend: **Focusrite Scarlett 2i2** audio interface (connects to a computer via USB) (£138)

For microphones, we recommend either:

* **Rode M5** Pair (£116 in total), or
* **Line Audio CM4** (c. £130 per mic; £260 pair)

*Question: I’ve decided to get an audio interface and mic(s). What else do I need?*

* Mic stand, either:
  + [K&M w/ Telescoping Boom](https://www.thomann.de/gb/km_210-9_stativ.htm) - £38 (a telescoping book can go much shorter, very good for live work on stage or cramped spaces), or
  + [K&M w/out Telescoping Boom](https://www.thomann.de/gb/km_21070_black.htm) - £31
* [K&M Stereo Bar](https://www.thomann.de/gb/k%2Bm_235-50.htm?glp=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwtZH7BRDzARIsAGjbK2Ziw00dzKKmzXAGP4MdqCCpbTGMR-jQjY-mswLmzHH1bGvQDIcVpHIaAv_mEALw_wcB) (£8.50)
* 1 or 2 mic (XLR) cables. A cable isn’t going to make a meaningful difference to the recorded sound, but a good quality cable won’t break. You can buy cables direct from [Canford](https://www.canford.co.uk/XLR-XLR-cable-assemblies) that are quite reasonably priced, or from [CPC](https://cpc.farnell.com/van-damme/101-067-001/xlr-mic-lead-male-to-fem-10m-black/dp/AV26587?st=van%20damme%20xlr).

## Audio Editing

For basic audio editing [Ocenaudio](https://www.ocenaudio.com/) is free, and easy to use. Some modules may require the use of specific software, which will be outlined either in the documentation or in the introductory classes.

## Video Recording

As well as audio recording, you may occasionally be asked to film yourself performing or presenting. In most cases the camera on a smartphone is perfectly sufficient for this.

However you may wish to purchase a simple tripod to give you flexibility in positioning the camera. A [Vicloon Camera Phone tripod](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Vicloon-Lightweight-Cellphone-Universal-Smartphone/dp/B075FRFRFZ/ref%3Dsr_1_11?dchild=1&keywords=smartphone%2Btripod&qid=1600682402&rnid=1642204031&s=electronics&sr=1-11) is an inexpensive option for smartphones.

*Video Editing Software*

If you need to edit video footage, there are a number of free software options available. We recommend [Da Vinci Resolve](https://www.blackmagicdesign.com/products/davinciresolve/).

Alternatively:

* [iMovie](https://www.apple.com/imovie/) (Apple only)
* [Videopad](https://www.nchsoftware.com/videopad/index.html) (Windows only)

Additionally, most computers within the Conservatoire have access to Adobe Premiere Pro.