

## AUDITION FEE WAIVERS

The Royal College of Music is committed to ensuring fair access to a conservatoire education for students who have the talent and potential to benefit from it, regardless of their background. In support of this, audition fee waivers are offered to applicants for whom financial hardship may be a barrier to auditioning. The purpose of these audition fee waivers is to encourage applications from groups currently underrepresented in UK higher education.

### Eligibility

To be considered for an audition fee waiver applicants should meet all of the following criteria:

- You must be ordinarily resident in the UK (ie not just for the main purpose of education)
- Have an annual household income equal to or below the eligibility threshold set by the Student Loans Company for a full student maintenance loan. This is currently £25,000 per year.

For those applying for the Bachelor of Music, the above can be considered for the household where the applicant has permanent residence. For postgraduate programmes the criteria will need to apply to the individual applicant.

Requests will also be considered from applicants who are care-experienced, leaving residential care and/or who are estranged from their families. Applicants who fall into this category may contact us to discuss their circumstances.

Applicants with asylum seeker, refugee or humanitarian protection status may also be considered. You will be required to submit evidence such as a valid Asylum Registration Card or Biometric Residence Permit.

Applications through UCAS Conservatoires are subject to a £27.50 application charge. This is retained by UCAS and cannot be waived.

### How to request a waiver

1. Check that you meet the criteria listed above.
2. Complete the UCAS Conservatoires application and pay the UCAS application charge, but do not pay the RCM audition fee at this point. Without payment of the UCAS charge, the application will not be visible to RCM staff and we cannot process your request.
3. Please complete our [Audition Fee Waiver application form](https://rcmregistration.wufoo.com/forms/audition-fee-waiver-application/) (<https://rcmregistration.wufoo.com/forms/audition-fee-waiver-application/>).
4. If you are applying on the basis of your household or individual income, ensure you attach documentary evidence of your finances. Information provided will be treated in confidence and only viewed by staff processing the request. It will not be seen by the audition panel.

5. Applicants may choose what evidence they submit as proof of their finances, provided it clearly states their household income. Examples of acceptable documents include, but are not limited to, assessments for:
- Jobseekers allowance
  - Income support
  - Working Tax Credits, Child Tax Credit or Universal credit
  - Housing benefit
  - Personal Independence Payments (PIPs)
  - Full-time carers allowance
6. The Admissions Officer will refer your household income documentation to a designated member of the Student Services team for assessment. You will be notified of the decision as soon as possible. If a fee waiver is granted, this will be processed on UCAS Conservatoires.

Requests will normally be processed within 14 days of receipt. Please note that we cannot consider requests received after an audition has taken place.