

Short Term Music Programme Postgraduate Level 2026-27

Open to those wishing to study abroad or take a gap year post Bachelor level studies

Contents:

General Information	2
Duration and Start Date	2
Eligibility	2
How to Apply	2
Audition Requirements by Department	3
Additional Information	5
Tuition Fees and Deposit.....	5
English Language Support	5
Visa Support	6
Programme Information & Content	7
Credits and Assessments.....	7
Credit Breakdown.....	7
International Orientation & General Induction Activities	7
Induction Module	8
Principal Study Modules	8
Elective Modules	12

General Information

Duration and Start Date

The Guildhall School can accept students for the following period:

Friday 12 September 2025 - Friday 20 February 2026

Christmas break: 6 December 2025 - 4 January 2026 (inclusive)

A September start date is required to enable students to attend induction events and to get the most benefit from the study period. Students may not extend their stay after 20 February 2026.

Students from the UK who do not need to attend the international orientation day on Friday 12 September can start the programme on Monday 15 September 2025.

Eligibility

Applicants for the Short Term Music Programme (Postgraduate):

- Will normally be 18 years of age or above
- Will normally have completed an undergraduate (Bachelor) degree
- Will be expected to be competent in English at a minimum of level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)
- Will be assessed by online video audition (please see audition requirements on pages 3-5). Eligibility is dependent on Principal Study level and educational background. The Guildhall School's usual auditions standards will apply.

How to Apply

Application deadline: 27 March 2026, 4.30pm (UK time)

Application fee: £77

Apply online through our website at

https://www.gsmd.ac.uk/about_the_school/shared_left_nav/how_to_apply/.

The application, recording(s)/portfolio and its fee must all be received by the application deadline in order to be processed. Payment of application fees should be made at the time of application. Please note that application fees are **non-refundable**; there is no right to cancel before we start processing your application once payment has been received.

When the application is ready to be submitted, applicants will be able to pay online using a credit or debit card. If you experience any problems when trying to make a payment, please contact the Finance Office on +44 (0) 207 382 7208, (open Mon-Fri, 9.30am – 4.30pm).

If you have any enquiries, please make sure in all communication that you include your full name, programme applied for (Short Term Music Programme – Postgraduate), pathway and applicant reference number (if known).

Audition Requirements by Department

Recordings are accepted in the following format:

- Online submission (preferred): high quality streamed web links (e.g. Vimeo/YouTube). Please email the link, with your application reference number, to: shorttermmusic@gsmd.ac.uk
- Please label your recordings/documents (include your name, title of piece)
- If you need to submit your recording in another format please contact shorttermmusic@gsmd.ac.uk for further advice.

Please see the audition requirements below:

1. Historical Performance (keyboard and continuo instruments)
2. Jazz
3. Keyboard
4. Piano Accompaniment
5. Strings
6. Vocal
7. Wind, Brass & Percussion

<p>Historical Performance</p>	<p>Lute applications should present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three contrasting pieces appropriate to your instrument(s) <p>Early Harp applicants should present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three pieces of the applicant's own choice in contrasting styles <p>Harpsichord applicants should present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three pieces to include French and Italian styles <p>Fortepiano applicants should present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A movement from a sonata by Haydn; Mozart; Beethoven or Clementi • Two pieces of your own choice
<p>Jazz</p>	<p>Applicants should present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A jazz standard of the applicant's own choice, played from memory and including improvisation • Blowing over jam-type tune: Improvisation (no theme required) on one of the following short sequences: Blues (be-bop changes); Record-Me (Joe Henderson); Doxy (Sonny Rollins); Cantaloupe Island (Herbie Hancock). Three chorus minimum.
<p>Keyboard</p>	<p>Applicants should present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A varied recital programme of 40 minutes

Piano Accompaniment	<p>Applicants should present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short solo piece of your own choice • A movement from an instrumental sonata • Two contrasting songs <p>Note: due to the collaborative nature of this Principal Study, part of the audition requirements is to source your own soloists for your audition video.</p>
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Strings	<p>Bowed Strings applicants should present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One movement of unaccompanied Bach • The first movement of a concerto from the standard repertoire with cadenza • The first movement of a duo sonata (with piano) <p>Harp applicants should present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One piece of the applicant's own choice composed before 1830 • Two contrasting pieces of the applicant's choice <p>Guitar applicants should present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three substantial and contrasting pieces from three different musical eras
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Vocal	<p>Applicants should present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four pieces in a variety of languages, styles and time periods. This must include at least one operatic aria and one art song. • A short monologue, poem or piece of prose in English or in English translation. <p>Everything should be performed from memory.</p>
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Wind, Brass & Percussion	<p>Flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, trumpet, tenor trombone, bass trombone, tuba, saxophone, and recorder applicants should present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three contrasting pieces of the applicant's own choice which should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A study of etude - A concerto, or a sonata, or other substantial work, with piano accompaniment - A contrasting piece
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	<p>Percussion applicants should present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A solo piece on either marimba or xylophone (2 or 4 mallets) • Orchestral excerpts for timpani: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beethoven Symphony No. 9: 1st mvt: opening until letter A, 4 bars before K until L, and 18 bars before S until the end. 4th mvt: Prestissimo until the end - Stravinsky The Rite of Spring Danse Sacrale: 186 to the end • Snare drum: a study or etude • A solo piece for a multi-percussion set-up, OR a 4-mallet solo piece for marimba or vibraphone
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Additional Information

Students on the programme have access to all School facilities, including practice rooms and the services of Student Affairs. Use of the School Library requires payment of a returnable security deposit.

Short Term Music students are not eligible for:

- Accommodation in the School's Halls of Residence, Sundial Court. Unfortunately, accommodation is not provided as part of the programme. Students will be required to make their own accommodation arrangements for the duration of their stay
- Guildhall funding (scholarship or bursary) towards their studies
- Financial support from the UK government
- A Student Visa

Tuition Fees and Deposit

Home and overseas students: £7,580

All students offered a place will be required to pay 15% of the tuition fee as a non-refundable deposit by 15 July 2025. Failure to pay the deposit will result in the place being withdrawn. The balance of the fees is due on Monday, 14 September 2026.

English Language Support

Students will be expected to be competent in English at a minimum of CEFR level B2 order to benefit from the programme. CEFR B2 level descriptors are as follows:

- can keep up with a discussion and express their ideas and opinions clearly, precisely and convincingly
- has a sufficient range of vocabulary to vary formulation and avoid repetition when expressing themselves
- can give clear, well-developed, detailed descriptions on subjects related to their interests
- can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation.

- can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

However, students are invited to undertake non-credit bearing English language support classes alongside the programme. These classes focus on the development of skills in written English for academic purposes. They include written and spoken exercises for developing the acquisition of grammar and vocabulary.

Students from outside of the UK will also be put in touch with an 'International Buddy' before the start of the programme. This is a student at the Guildhall School who can help answer questions about settling into the School and life in London.

Visa Support

Depending on your nationality, you may need to apply for a Short-Term Study visa to come to the UK.

The UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) website has a useful tool for checking if this applies to you: www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa

You should:

- Select your nationality from a drop-down menu
- Under 'Why are you coming to the UK', select 'Study'
- Under 'How long are you planning to study in the UK', select '6 months or less'

If you will require a Short Term Study visa, you can find out more details here: www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa

Contact Registry for advice on visas: immigration@gsmd.ac.uk.

Programme Information & Content

Credits and Assessments

The Guildhall School operates a credit equivalency of 20 notional learning hours to 2 UK Credits, 1 ECTS credit or 0.5 US Semester Credits. Notional learning hours are a combination of contact time and private study.

Assessments are graded on a scale of 0 to 100 which fall under the following scheme:

Percentage mark out of 100%	Award
70% and above	Distinction
60% and above	Merit
50% and above	Pass
49% and below	Fail

Credit Breakdown

Dates: 14 September 2026 - 19 February 2027 Christmas break: 5 December 2026 – 3 January 2027 (inclusive)	UK At NQF Level 7	ECTS	US
International Orientation & Induction activities Including all general induction activities within first week	1	0.5	0.2
Principal Study See content by department on pages 8-11	60	29.5	16
Reflective Practice Module See content on page 8	10	5	2.6
Elective Module See available electives on pages 12-13	10	5	2.6
Total	81	40	21.4

International Orientation & General Induction Activities

The International Orientation is arranged by the Student Affairs department and takes place each year on the Friday before the start of Term 1 (Friday 11 September 2026). You will have an opportunity to meet fellow students and staff, and there will be a programme of presentations, tours and discussion groups.

All students are required to engage in the induction activities within the first two weeks of Term 1, including attendance at group meetings with the Director of Music and senior members of the Principal Study and Academic Studies Departments.

Reflective Practice Module

Postgraduate Short Term Music students will attend and be assessed in the Reflective Practice Module. This will normally be delivered through two seminars at the start of each term and a seminar at the end of each term. These seminars, and associated assessment tasks are supported by discussion groups which normally meet twice a term.

This module aims to:

- Introduce general research and professional development issues of relevance to all postgraduate students.
- Develop students' capacity to reflect intelligently on the nature of musical excellence and on their own emerging professional ambitions.
- Help students be open-minded in questioning the boundaries of traditional practice in relation to self-reflection, research and professional development.
- Ensure students are able to articulate and present their self-reflections and their ideas for research and professional development in a manner which is appropriate.

The assessment is through the submission, by the middle of the first term, of a short piece of written work (a self-reflective account).

Principal Study Modules

Students' activities vary by department. You are expected to attend all aspects of the Principal Study Module during your period of study (including all scheduled rehearsals). A Leave of Absence form must be approved for any absences during term-time.

The allocation of the Principal Study teacher is determined by student preference and tutor availability and the final decision is made by Head of Department. The School cannot guarantee a particular principal study teacher.

Please see the available Principal Study modules below for further details:

1. Historical Performance
2. Jazz
3. Keyboard
4. Piano Accompaniment
5. Strings
6. Vocal
7. Wind, Brass & Percussion

Historical Performance: Principal Study Module	
Principal Study lessons:	20 hours
Exams:	End of Study performance platform 20-25 minute recital
Platforms:	Attendance required and at least one performance
Ensemble:	Participation in ensembles and performance projects according to the availability and with agreement of Head of Department
Other classes:	Attendance required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medieval and Renaissance Studies • Classical Studies and Baroque Studies

Jazz: Principal Study Module	
Principal Study lessons:	20 hours
Exams:	End of Study performance platform 20-25 minute recital
Platforms:	Attendance required and at least one performance (combo)
Ensemble:	Participation in ensembles and performance projects according to availability and with agreement of Head of Department.
Other classes:	Attendance required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jazz Improvisation Jazz composition and arranging and/or other classes in negotiation with the Head of Department.

Keyboard: Principal Study Module	
Principal Study lessons:	20 hours
Exams:	End of Study performance platform 20-25 minute recital
Platforms:	Attendance required and at least one performance

Piano Accompaniment: Principal Study Module	
Principal Study Lessons:	20 hours
Exams:	End of study performance platform 20-25 minute recital
Classes & Platforms:	Students are required to attend and play at one-two classes per week, plus performance at the Vocal Platforms

Strings: Principal Study Module	
<p>Chamber Music: Participation in chamber music cannot be guaranteed. On occasion, optional non assessed participation in chamber music may be authorised, but this requires the approval of the Head of Chamber Music.</p> <p>Optional non assessed participation can also be authorised in a broad range of other activities, including string concerts, professor platforms, performance classes, and other workshops and projects in accordance with the applying student's experience and ability, and by agreement with relevant Department Heads.</p>	
Principal Study lessons:	20 hours
Exams:	End of Study performance platform 20-25 minute recital
Platforms:	<p>Bowed strings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional platform classes <p>Harp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in harp performance classes • Optional platform classes <p>Guitar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at Guitar Musicianship and Repertoire & Performance classes • Optional platform classes
Ensemble:	<p>Bowed Strings/Harp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in orchestras / ensembles

Vocal: Principal Study Module	
Principal Study lessons:	15 hours + 5 hours repertoire coaching
Exams:	End of study performance platform 20 minute recital
Platforms:	Attendance required and at least two performances
Other classes:	Attendance required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repertoire Open Class • Opera, Stagecraft & Movement

Wind, Brass & Percussion: Principal Study Module	
Principal Study Lessons:	20 hours (including doubling instruments where appropriate)
Exams:	End of Study performance platform 20-25 minute recital
Platforms:	Attendance required and at least one performance
Ensembles:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in chamber group • Participation in orchestral or other ensemble project (saxophone students play in saxophone ensemble, recorder students in recorder consort)
Other classes:	Attendance required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least two WBP orchestra repertoire sessions, and instrumental class each week. • Saxophone students: jazz class and classical repertoire class each week. • Recorder students: two classes each week in consort, solo repertoire and contextual study.

Elective Modules

In addition to the Principal Study Module, students may take one elective class. Please note that:

- There is no guarantee that any particular module will run in a particular year, therefore students should specify an order of preference.
- This information is subject to change, and confirmation of modules available will be approved on an individual basis on arrival at the School.

Advanced Principal Study 10 additional hours of PS teaching	
Requirements	PS must be of the highest level; approval from Head of Department must be obtained.
Information	Teaching and supervision for the preparation of the assessment happen within the normally allocated time for Principal Study.
Assessment	20-minute recital Students on the vocal programme need to present 4 contrasting items.

Ear Training 14 hours of contact time	
Requirements	An aural test will be taken before the start of the term to assess the level of ability and to ensure that the student is streamed into the correct class level.
Information	Students are streamed according to abilities.
Assessment	Continuous assessment.

Musical Materials 14 hours of contact time	
Requirements	A harmony test will be taken before the start of the term to assess the level of ability and to ensure that the student is streamed into the correct class level.
Information	Students are streamed according to abilities; the course is designed to deepen understanding of tonal harmony in western music.
Assessment	Continuous assessment.

Jazz Workshop 14 hours of contact time	
Requirements	Available to Classical students, for either beginners or students with previous jazz experience. An advanced option is available to jazz students.
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop the students' abilities to prepare and execute tonal jazz performances. • To develop stylistic awareness through the study of rhythmic, melodic and harmonic materials.
Assessment	Continuous assessment in class activities

Keyboard Musicianship 14 hours of contact time	
Requirements	Students are divided into groups of 6 to 8 students on the basis of their experience, keyboard proficiency and musical background. Not available to principal study pianists. Places are limited and may not be available.
Information	The aim of the classes is to develop skills that will support work in musicianship and principal study areas.
Assessment	Continuous assessment.

Second Study 10 hours of contact time	
Requirements	By audition
Information	Second study offers students the opportunity for one-to-one lessons in a specific area appropriate to their needs and abilities. Lessons will be given by Guildhall School staff or Fellows
Assessment	20-minute practical assessment

If you have any questions, please contact shorttermmusic@gsmd.ac.uk.

Last updated: Jan-2026