

# Short Term Music Programme Undergraduate Level 2026-27

Open to those wishing to study abroad or take a gap year

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## General Information

### Duration & Start Date

The Guildhall School can accept students for the following period:

Friday 11 September 2026 - Friday 19 February 2027

Christmas break: 5 December 2026 - 3 January 2027 (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 19 February 2027.

Students from the UK who do not need to attend the international orientation day on Friday 11 September can start the programme on Monday 14 September 2025.

### Eligibility

Applicants for the Short Term Music Programme (Undergraduate):

- Will normally be 18 years of age or above
- Will normally have secured a deferred study place for a Bachelor degree at another institution or be in the process of applying for one
- 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) or submission of a Composition portfolio. Eligibility is dependent on Principal Study level and educational background. The Guildhall School's usual auditions standards will apply.

### How to Apply & Application Fee

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 – Undergraduate), 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](mailto: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](mailto:shorttermmusic@gsmd.ac.uk) for further advice.

Please see the audition requirements below:

1. Composition
2. Jazz
3. Keyboard
4. Strings
5. Vocal
6. Wind, Brass & Percussion

<b>Composition</b>	<p>Applicants should present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PDFs of four compositions, emailed to <a href="mailto:shorttermmusic@gsmd.ac.uk">shorttermmusic@gsmd.ac.uk</a>.</li> <li>• Where possible, recordings of the scores should also be supplied (please see instructions for submitting recordings above)</li> <li>• In no circumstances will a recording of a purely instrumental work be accepted without a score, but purely electronic pieces may be accompanied by a short textual commentary.</li> </ul>
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<b>Jazz</b>	<p>Applicants should present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A jazz standard of the applicant's choice, played from memory and including improvisation</li> <li>• Blowing over jam-type tune: Improvisation (no theme required) on one of the following short sequences: Blues (be-bop changes); Recorda-Me (Joe Henderson); Doxy (Sonny Rollins); Cantaloupe Island (Herbie Hancock). Three chorus minimum.</li> </ul>
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<b>Keyboard</b>	<p>Applicants should present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three contrasting pieces of the applicant's own choice to be played from memory</li> </ul>
<b>Strings</b>	<p>Violin applicants should present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 1st movement from a concerto in the standard repertory with cadenza where appropriate</li> <li>• One contrasting piece of the applicant's own choice</li> </ul> <p>Viola applicants should present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 1st movement from a concerto in the standard repertory with cadenza where appropriate</li> <li>• One contrasting piece of the applicant's own choice</li> </ul> <p>Cello applicants should present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 1st movement from a concerto in the standard repertory with cadenza where appropriate</li> <li>• One contrasting piece of the applicant's own choice</li> </ul> <p>Double Bass applicants should present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two contrasting movements from a baroque sonata (e.g. Marcello, Vivaldi, Eccles etc.)</li> <li>• One contrasting piece of the applicant's own choice</li> </ul> <p>Harp applicants should present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One piece of the applicant's own choice composed before 1830</li> <li>• One contrasting piece of the applicant's own choice</li> </ul> <p>Guitar (classical) applicants should present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two contrasting pieces of the applicant's own choice from the classical repertoire</li> </ul>
<b>Vocal</b>	<p>Applicants should present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three contrasting pieces in a variety of languages, styles and time periods (which may include one piece of musical theatre or crossover).</li> <li>• A short monologue, poem or piece of prose in English or English translation.</li> </ul> <p>Everything should be performed from memory.</p>

<b>Wind, Brass &amp; Percussion</b>	<p>Flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, tenor trombone, bass trombone, tuba, saxophone, recorder applicants should present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three contrasting pieces of the applicant's own choice which should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a study or etude</li> <li>- a concerto, or a sonata, or other substantial work, with piano accompaniment</li> <li>- a contrasting piece</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Percussion applicants should present the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A solo piece on either marimba or xylophone (2 or 4 mallets)</li> <li>• Two contrasting studies for timpani</li> <li>• Snare drum: a study or etude</li> <li>• A solo piece for a multi-percussion set-up, OR a 4-mallet solo piece for marimba or vibraphone</li> </ul>
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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 2026. 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](http://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](http://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa)

Contact Registry for advice on visas: [immigration@gsmd.ac.uk](mailto: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
40% and above	Pass
39% 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 4	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 8-10	60	29.5	16
Elective Module 1 See available electives on pages 10-12	10	5	2.6
Elective Module 2 See available electives on pages 10-12	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.

## 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 on-line 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. Composition
2. Jazz
3. Keyboard
4. Strings
5. Vocal
6. Wind, Brass & Percussion

<b>Composition: Principal Study Module</b>	
<b>Principal Study lessons:</b>	15 hours
<b>Exams:</b>	End of Study portfolio 2 pieces 3-5 minutes in length
<b>Other classes:</b>	Attendance required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weekly open sessions</li><li>• Introduction to Electronic Music</li></ul> One other Techniques course to be agreed with the Associate Head/Head of composition

<b>Jazz: Principal Study Module</b>	
<b>Principal Study lessons:</b>	15 hours
<b>Exams:</b>	End of Study performance platform 20-25-minute recital
<b>Platforms:</b>	Attendance required and at least one performance (combo)
<b>Ensemble:</b>	Participation in ensembles and performance projects according to availability and with agreement of Head of Department.
<b>Other classes:</b>	Optional attendance with agreement of Head of Department: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jazz BMus Creative and Performing Knowledge</li></ul>

<b>Keyboard: Principal Study Module</b>	
<b>Principal Study lessons:</b>	15 hours
<b>Exams:</b>	End of Study performance platform 20-25-minute recital
<b>Platforms:</b>	Attendance required and at least one performance
<b>Ensemble:</b>	Participation required, with assessment

<b>Vocal: Principal Study Module</b>	
<b>Principal Study lessons:</b>	15 hours
<b>Exams:</b>	End of Study performance platform 15-minute recital
<b>Platforms:</b>	Attendance required and at least two performances
<b>Other classes:</b>	Attendance required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Craft</li> <li>• Repertoire &amp; Language Repertoire</li> </ul>

<b>Strings: Principal Study Module</b>	
<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>	
<b>Principal Study lessons:</b>	15 hours
<b>Exams:</b>	End of Study performance platform 20-25-minute recital
<b>Platforms:</b> Bowed Strings	Attendance required and at least one performance
<b>Platforms:</b> Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance required and at least one performance</li> <li>• Participation in harp performance classes</li> </ul>
<b>Platforms:</b> Guitar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance required and at least one performance</li> <li>• Attendance at Guitar Musicianship and Repertoire &amp; Performance classes</li> </ul>
<b>Ensemble:</b> Bowed Strings/Harp	Participation in orchestras / ensembles

<b>Wind, Brass &amp; Percussion: Principal Study Module</b>	
<b>Principal Study lessons:</b>	15 hours (including doubling instruments where appropriate)
<b>Exams:</b>	End of Study performance platform 20-25-minute recital
<b>Platforms:</b>	Attendance required and at least one performance
<b>Ensemble:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in chamber group</li> <li>• Participation in orchestral or other ensemble project (Saxophone students play in saxophone ensemble, Recorder students in recorder consort)</li> </ul>
<b>Other classes:</b>	Attendance required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least two WBP orchestral repertoire sessions, and instrumental class each week.</li> <li>• Saxophone students: jazz class and classical repertoire class each week</li> <li>• Recorder students: two classes each week in consort, solo repertoire and contextual study.</li> </ul>

### **Elective Modules**

In addition to the Principal Study Module, students may take up to two elective classes. 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 arrival at the School.

<b>Advanced Principal Study</b> 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 an additional principal study assessment.
Assessment	20-minute recital. Students on the vocal programme need to present 3 contrasting items.

<b>Ear Training</b> 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.

<b>Musical Materials</b> 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.

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

<b>Keyboard Musicianship</b> 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.

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

If you have any questions, please contact [shorttermmusic@gsmd.ac.uk](mailto:shorttermmusic@gsmd.ac.uk).

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