



Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland

BRASS

rca.ac.uk

**LIKE
NOWHERE ELSE:
LEARN
FROM OUR
PROFESSIONAL
PARTNERS**

The RCS Brass department works with professional partners in the national companies to give students access to unrivalled side-by-side learning opportunities.

Choose to study here and you could benefit from mentoring schemes with the **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra**, **Scottish Opera** and **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**, perform onstage in the world's largest winter music festival **Celtic Connections**, or work with professional players from the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra**.

These industry links, combined with 90 minutes of one-to-one tuition each week, collaborative performing opportunities across the arts, and the individual nurturing given to each student offers you a distinctive learning experience like nowhere else.

Brass

BMus: Four years, full-time
rcs.ac.uk/brass

MMus: Two years, full-time
MA: One year, full-time
rcs.ac.uk/pgbrass

The RCS Brass department is an encouraging, vibrant place where players are challenged to become the best performers they can be. We have a worldwide reputation for training leading musicians and our teaching team includes many of Britain's finest brass players.

Why choose us?

- | RCS is recognised as one of the world's top three destinations to study the performing arts (QS World University Rankings 2021)
- | Highest-quality tuition from expert teachers, many of whom are also players in the national artistic companies
- | Access to mentoring schemes with BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Opera and Scottish Chamber Orchestra, as well as the Royal Scottish National Orchestra's Professional Experience Scheme to learn from industry professionals
- | Opportunity to rehearse with and obtain feedback from players of national orchestras
- | 90-minute individual lesson on your principal study each week
- | Opportunity to undertake an additional performance study
- | Small class sizes allowing tutors more time to dedicate individual attention to each student
- | Access to the John Webb collection of over 450 historical brass instruments
- | International performing opportunities
- | Cross-collaboration performance opportunities with other departments including jazz, traditional music and ballet



“We are proud of our dynamic learning environment which gives students many diverse performance opportunities from day one.”

Head of Brass: **John Logan**

- | Excellent graduate employment success, with many of our students obtaining employment with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Opera and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra
- | Undergraduate music students can take advantage of learning within this unique Scottish conservatoire and undertake a module within traditional music, enabling you to broaden your repertoire, musicality and ensemble arrangement practices

Your studies

You will get a real sense of the professional world on the programme. As well as weekly classes in orchestral, ensemble and solo repertoire, individual tuition on your principal instrument and additional performance study, there are also many performance opportunities, often in professional settings.

Common to all years are your principal study lessons, performance classes and creative and contextual studies. Your performance folios will also include orchestral, chamber, recording, new work and concerto classes.

As the programme progresses, you are given more credits of your own choice. These may be taken as added academic modules, cross-school modules or by being involved in more performance-based activities.

Performance

From first year, your studies will revolve around performance. Using the Mondays and Fridays at One concert series, as well as a host of other programmed concerts, you will have the opportunity to perform frequently.

Students can take part in symphony, wind, opera and chamber orchestras, and a diverse range of ensembles including the RCS Big Band and RCS Brass. Our ensembles give concerts regularly throughout Scotland and have also performed internationally with recent concerts including playing alongside **Nicola Benedetti** and conducted by **Sir James MacMillan**.

Mentoring schemes

We have excellent partnerships with all of the national companies and brass students are given the best possible start to their performing careers, with opportunities to participate in public performances, TV broadcasts, and worldwide tours with Scotland's major orchestras and ensembles. We currently run mentoring schemes with:

- | BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra
- | Scottish Chamber Orchestra
- | Royal Scottish National Orchestra
- | Scottish Opera
- | Red Note Ensemble



Teaching staff

Horn

- | Christopher Gough
- | Stephanie Jones
- | John Logan
- | David McClenaghan
- | Alberto Menendez

Natural Horn

- | Beccy Goldberg

Trumpet

- | Nigel Boddice MBE
- | Peter Franks
- | John Gracie
- | Mark O'Keefe

Natural Trumpet

- | Sandy McGrattan

Trombone

- | Lance Green
- | Simon Johnson
- | Davur Juul Magnussen

Bass Trombone

- | Christopher Stearn

Tuba

- | Craig Anderson
- | Andrew Duncan
- | Anthony Swainson

Ophicleide, Cimbasso and Historic Brass

- | Tony George
- | Visiting specialists
- | Ian Bousfield Visiting Professor
- | Mike Lovatt Associate Artist
- | John Wallace CBE Emeritus Professor

Our graduates

Many of our graduates hold orchestral positions including:

- | Christopher Gough Principal Horn, Royal Scottish National Orchestra
- | Kyle MacCorquodale Principal Bass Trombone, Hallé Orchestra
- | Andrew McLean Associate Principal Horn, Royal Scottish National Orchestra
- | Martin Murphy Associate Principal Horn, Royal Scottish National Orchestra
- | Cillian Ó Ceallacháin Principal Trombone, Scottish Opera
- | Tom Poulson Co-Principal Trumpet with the Vasteras Sinfonietta, WorldBrass and Stockholm Chamber Brass
- | Martin Wright Principal Fifth Horn, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
- | Paul Klein Principal Horn, Ulster Orchestra
- | Neil Gallie Second Trombone, Ulster Orchestra
- | Johnny Durrant Sub-principal Horn, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden
- | Keith McNicoll Bass Trombone, Covent Garden

DID YOU KNOW?

Students can take part in symphony, wind, opera and chamber orchestras, and a diverse range of ensembles including the RCS Big Band and RCS Brass.

How to apply

Before you apply, please go to [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk) to read full details on the music programme you wish to apply to, and the application and admissions processes.

The standard application deadline is **1 October**. Late applications made after this date may be accepted and those details can be found at [rcs.ac.uk/apply](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/apply)

All applications must be made through the UCAS Conservatoires online admissions service: [ucas.com/conservatoires](https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires)

Our institution code is **R58** and you'll find the specific programme code on [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk)

Entry requirements

Entrance to RCS is based on talent, potential and ability. We are looking for students who display outstanding potential, dedication and ambition.

BMus academic entry requirements

- | Scottish Highers - 3 passes (grade C or above)
- | A Levels - 2 passes
- | International Baccalaureate - minimum score of 24 with 3 subjects at Higher Level
- | Recognised equivalences

We offer a flexible approach to students taking Highers over more than one academic year and/or who achieve their qualifications in more than one sitting.

Within the minimum academic entry requirements, the subjects recommended are:

- | Music at Higher, Advanced Higher or Advanced level or equivalent
- | English at Higher, Advanced Higher or Advanced level or equivalent

Postgraduate academic entry requirements

- | Honours degree (at least 2.2), or its overseas equivalent in a subject area relevant to the demands of the programme

For more specific entry requirements, including language requirements, please visit [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk)

Your audition

We want you to enjoy the audition process and use the opportunity to discover more about RCS and see if it is the right place for you.

Details on the audition/interview process are available online at [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk). This includes information on any deadlines, live vs. recorded auditions, repertoire/requirements and what to expect following your audition/interview.

Tuition fees and scholarships

Tuition fees can be found at [rcs.ac.uk/fees](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/fees) as well as information on financial support and scholarships.

Junior Conservatoire

The Junior Conservatoire of Music programme is for talented and committed young people aged 11-18 who are passionate about music and want to develop their skills and techniques.

Junior Conservatoire students benefit from one-to-one tuition from RCS expert teaching staff, performance classes and the opportunity to play in a variety of ensembles every week.

Find out more at [rcs.ac.uk/junior](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/junior)

Short Courses

We offer a range of short courses and summer schools for people who wish to develop their skills and passion for music.

To see what courses are on offer this year, please visit [rcs.ac.uk/shortcourses](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/shortcourses)

Contact us

If you have any questions about your application, please contact us at admissions@rcs.ac.uk and we'll be happy to help you.

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

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[rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk)

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