



Royal Conservatoire  
*of Scotland*

**KEYBOARD**

[rcs.ac.uk](http://rcs.ac.uk)

**LIKE  
NOWHERE ELSE:  
WORLD-CLASS  
PERFORMING  
AND PRACTICE  
FACILITIES**

Welcome to the RCS Keyboard department - the destination of choice for students from across the UK, Europe, Asia and the USA.

Within our renowned faculty you will find distinguished teachers and performers working closely with our students, creating together a close community of shared practice and knowledge.

This stimulating environment, combined with 90 minutes of one-to-one tuition each week and collaborative performing opportunities across the arts, offers you a distinctive learning experience like nowhere else.

# Keyboard

**BMus: Four years, full-time**  
[rcs.ac.uk/keyboard](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/keyboard)

**MMus; Two years, full-time**  
**MA: One year, full-time**  
[rcs.ac.uk/pgkeyboard](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/pgkeyboard)

Choose to study at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and you'll develop your individual skills in a supportive and innovative environment where you will be challenged to become the best performer you can be.

## 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)
- | Competitive scholarships
- | 90-minute individual lesson each week
- | Steinway Model B grands in all dedicated piano teaching and practice rooms
- | Opportunity to audition to perform a concerto with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and RCS Symphony Orchestra
- | Multitude of performance opportunities, including regular showcase concerts, prestigious concerto opportunities, piano festivals, competitions and chamber music
- | Internal competitions with prize money opportunities
- | Cutting-edge video technology, recording, documentation and peer feedback provide innovative structures for highly creative learning and development
- | Varied programme of masterclasses from distinguished visiting artists; recent visitors include **Nikolai Lugansky, Steven Osborne, Idil Biret, Olga Kern, Andrei Gavrilov, Richard Goode, Angela Hewitt, Bernard d'Ascoli, Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, Leslie Howard, Elisabeth Leonskaja, Malcolm Martineau and Pascal Roge**
- | 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



**“The international faculty of distinguished teachers and performers work closely together with our students, using generous performing opportunities to build a community of shared practice and knowledge.”**

Head of Keyboard: **Professor Aaron Shorr**

## Your studies

As well as your weekly 90-minute, one-to-one lesson and performance classes, you will also undertake a variety of supporting study options including classical improvisation, conducting, piano technique, organ and harpsichord seminars and French repertoire classes.

Students may also elect to share their one-to-one lessons between two principal study teachers, a practice which is encouraged and supported.

With performance at the heart of the curriculum, you will have many opportunities to perform throughout your studies, and this is further enhanced by our innovative digital platform with all performance classes and concerts recorded for consultation. This resource is supported by peer and tutor feedback, enabling students to watch, listen and reflect on their practice, allowing you to focus on your development as an artist.

## Facilities

Our facilities are amongst the best across the conservatoire sector. The Stevenson Hall plays host to regular live recital broadcasts for BBC Radio 3 and the prestigious, triennial Scottish International Piano Competition.

Each piano practice room has a Steinway Model B grand and all piano teaching rooms are equipped with two Model B Steinways. There are also six Model D Steinways and one Bosendorfer 280VC in our concert halls and recording studio. Students may also make CD quality recordings in our state-of-the-art recording studio.

## Teaching staff

- | **Professor Aaron Shorr** Head of Keyboard and Scholarships
- | **Professor Fali Pavri** Associate Head of Keyboard
- | **Steven Osborne** International Fellow of Piano
- | **William Fong** Visiting Professor of Piano
- | **Roy Howat** Research Fellow
- | **Anto Pett** Visiting Artist in Free Improvisation
- | **David Dolan** Visiting Artist in Classical Improvisation
- | **Piano**
- | **Isobel Anderson**
- | **Nicholas Ashton**
- | **Norman Beedie**
- | **Stephen Coombs**
- | **Sasa Donaldson**
- | **Petras Geniušas**
- | **Sinae Lee**
- | **Graeme McNaught**
- | **James Willshire**
- | **Accordion**
- | **Djordje Gajic**
- | **Organ**
- | **David Hamilton**
- | **Harpsichord**
- | **Jan Waterfield**





## Our graduates

Students and recent graduates have won major prizes at the **Rubinstein Competition** in Tel Aviv, the **Anton Rubenstein Chamber Music Competition** in Dusseldorf, the **Beethoven Society of Europe's Intercollegiate Competition** in London, the **UNISA South Africa competition**, **Ciurlionis Competition** and **Morocco Philharmonic Competition**.

Other competition successes include the **Prix du Piano Interlaken Classics** (Switzerland), the **Sheepdrove Competition**, **Andre Dumortier Piano Competition** (Belgium), the **Royal Overseas League**, (Overseas Prize) and **Moray** (1st Prize), **Yamaha Competition** (UK), **Bromsgrove International Competition**, **Estonia** (Tallinn 1st Prize), **Lagny sur Marne** and **Piano Campus** (France), **Vines** (Spain), **Chieri** (Italy), **Maria Callas** (Greece), **EU Competition** (Prague), **Sparkasse Chamber Music Competition** (Frankfurt) and **Isidor Bajic** (Serbia).

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can keep up-to-date with the Keyboard department on Facebook, follow us @RCSKeyboard

## How to apply

Before you apply, please go to **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**

All applications must be made through the UCAS Conservatoires online admissions service: **ucas.com/conservatoires**

Our institution code is **R58** and you'll find the specific programme code on **rcs.ac.uk**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Piano students collaborate with students from across RCS regularly, including an annual Piano and Dance recital with our ballet students.

## 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**

## 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**. 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** 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](mailto:admissions@rcs.ac.uk) and we will be happy to help you.

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

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