



Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland

JAZZ

rcs.ac.uk

LIKE
NOWHERE ELSE:
LEARN FROM
THE NATION'S
BEST JAZZ
ARTISTS

Glasgow is home to a thriving jazz scene and students can expect to learn and perform throughout RCS and the wider city. It is this combination of high quality education with performance that makes studying jazz in Glasgow so distinctive and relevant.

Led by **Professor Tommy Smith OBE**, the RCS Jazz department is a vibrant and energetic environment, where students are encouraged to explore jazz in the broadest possible terms and hone their individual musical voice.

You will receive 90 minutes of one-to-one tuition on your principal study each week, allowing you more time for your personal and musical development.

Jazz

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

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

Why choose us?

- | Receive 90 minutes of one-to-one tuition on your principal study every week
- | Study in Glasgow, home to the Scottish Jazz Festival, with hundreds of jazz gigs, concerts and events taking place each month
- | Work in dedicated jazz rehearsal spaces, and record and mix your own music in our recording studio with a full-time professional sound engineer

- | Learn from the best educators and highly acclaimed jazz performers in the UK
- | Benefit from close links to the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra and its international guests, enabling you to attend rehearsals and performances, and observe professionals at work
- | Audition for the Tommy Smith Youth Jazz Orchestra and perform regular concerts in Scotland, as well as recording for Spartacus Recording Ltd
- | Audition for the Jazz Workshop, a unique opportunity for jazz students to tour across Europe, performing in conservatoires and festivals throughout the continent
- | Perform in Fridays at One and Blue Mondays concerts and masterclass series featuring guest teachers; past clinicians include **Jazzmeia Horn, Jacqui Dankworth, Bob Minzter, Mike Stern, Makoto Ozone, Courtney Pine, Branford Marsalis, David Liebman, Peter Erskine, Paolo Fresu, Randy Brecker and Arild Andersen**
- | Perform in monthly 'Jazz at the Chimp' events featuring student-led projects
- | 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 Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is a dynamic conservatoire bursting with potential and creativity. It’s the place you want to be if you desire to truly be the best musician you can be.”

Head of Jazz: **Professor Tommy Smith OBE**

Your studies

The curriculum is built around performance and you will have many opportunities to perform throughout your studies, both within RCS and at external venues around Glasgow and Scotland.

Your studies will see you tackle the fundamentals of jazz composition and improvisation. A varied curriculum includes modules in jazz theory, jazz history, arranging for big band, music business, ear training, chord scales, transcription, repertoire classes in original and standard jazz compositions, and Latin ensemble.

Our aim is that you graduate as a confident performer with the skills necessary to succeed within the industry.

Facilities

Students enjoy the use of two dedicated jazz ensemble spaces on campus, including a fully equipped recording facility that gives our students a tangible edge in gaining experience in professional recording and production techniques.

Teaching staff

- | **Professor Tommy Smith OBE** Head of Jazz
- | **Colin Broom** Jazz Co-ordinator
- | **Paul Harrison** Piano
- | **Chris Grieve** Trombone
- | **Kevin MacKenzie** Guitar
- | **Mario Caribe** Bass
- | **Alyn Cosker** Drums
- | **Tom MacNiven** Trumpet
- | **Paul Towndrow** Alto Saxophone
- | **Louise Mochan** Voice
- | **Tom Gibbs** Piano
- | **Peter Johnstone** Piano



DID YOU KNOW?

Graduate jazz pianist and composer Fergus McCreadie (pictured on the cover) has become one of the most talented musicians and band leaders in Europe, winning both the UK’s prestigious Parliamentary Jazz Awards’ Album of the Year and Best Album at the Scottish Jazz Awards, as well as being shortlisted for the Scottish Album of the Year Award.



Our graduates

Recent graduate successes include:

- | **Fergus McCreadie Trio** (graduates **Fergus McCreadie, David Bowden** and **Stephen Henderson**) won a 2019 Scottish Jazz Award for Best Album
- | **Strata** (formed of graduates **Liam Shortall, Fergus McCreadie, Joe Williamson, Mark Hendry** and **Graham Costello**) have received excellent reviews for their album *Obelisk*, which was also nominated for Scottish Album of the Year, 2019
- | **Utsav Lal** performed at the Carnegie Hall in New York City
- | **Brodie Jarvie** and **John Lowrie** performed at the London Jazz Festival, as well as presented their own jazz concerts in Edinburgh and Glasgow
- | **Brodie Jarvie, Michael Butcher** and **Stephen Henderson** performed in Hanover as part of the UNESCO City of Music and Creative City Network
- | **Joe Williamson** and his group **Square One** released their debut album in 2017, following their win of the prestigious Peter Whittingham Jazz Award
- | Many graduates and their bands have featured on BBC Jazz at the Quay, including **Square One, David Bowden's Mezcla, Fat-Suit, Strata** and **Joe Williamson**

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 application deadline is **1 October** and, for US applicants only, **1 December**.

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

“Costello’s Strata has been setting a standard of musicianship that has seasoned observers talking about Glasgow as a jazz hotbed of approaching New York proportions.”

The Herald on graduate jazz band **Strata**

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. You can also audition via a video recording, please see our website for what to prepare.

Stage 1 of the jazz audition is designed to assess your improvisational skills and is submitted electronically. To apply, you need to send a video of yourself performing prescribed pieces - please see [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk) for the current audition prescribed pieces.

You may then be called back for a live audition conducted by a member of the RCS Jazz faculty and the full Stage 2 audition process can be found on our website.

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 will be happy to help you.

The Royal Conservatoire *of* Scotland

100 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G2 3DB

Telephone: +44 (0) 141 332 4101

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

 @RCStweets

 RCSofficial

 RCSofficial

 RCSofficial