



Royal Conservatoire  
*of Scotland*

**STRINGS**

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

**LIKE  
NOWHERE ELSE:  
LEARN FROM OUR  
PROFESSIONAL  
PARTNERS IN  
THE NATIONAL  
COMPANIES**

The Strings department offers outstanding opportunities to explore your musical passions. With us you will find your identity through creativity and artistic experimentation.

With a high staff-student ratio, we have a friendly and supportive learning environment that responds to individual needs, allowing you to expand your breadth of musical vision. We aim for our graduates to be among the most employable musicians in the world.

# Strings

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

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

Study with us and benefit from many solo, chamber and orchestral performing opportunities. You may work alongside national orchestras including BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Ensemble, Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO), Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Orchestra of Scottish Opera.

## Why choose us?

- | 90-minute individual lesson on your principal study
- | Side-by-side chamber music opportunities with ensembles including Hebrides Ensemble and the Brodsky Quartet
- | Our teaching focusses on integrating technique and creativity, musicality and theory - it's about 'head' and 'heart'
- | Explore improvisation and spontaneity with people from other musical worlds, including jazz and traditional music at RCS
- | String students work closely with the School of Drama to find new ways of embodying music in dance and ways of moving; new levels of expression, communication and projection
- | 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



**“Whatever your destination might be as a musician, creative adaptability will be essential. Whether your heart is set on solo, chamber, orchestral playing or pedagogy, you will encounter everything you need at RCS from early music to contemporary music and improvisation.”**

Head of Strings: **Professor David Watkin**

## Your studies

Your 90-minute individual principal study lesson is enhanced by regular masterclasses, performance classes and orchestral classes, all underpinned by regular, co-ordinated technique classes.

Along with the most up-to-date approaches to teaching and learning - including video analysis, online peer assessment and mutually constructed feedback - our international team of teachers represent the major pedagogical traditions of Europe, Russia and the USA. Many of them are drawn to Glasgow as principal players in Scotland's world-renowned national companies.

## Teaching staff

### Visiting Professors

- | **Pedro de Alcantara** and **Joseph Swensen**

### Violin

- | **William Chandler, Ruth Crouch, Francis Cummings, Tamás Fejes, Professor Andrea Gajic, Maya Iwabuchi, Gongbo Jiang, Greg Lawson, Daniel Pioro, Hector Scott, Angus Ramsay, Laura Samuel, Justine Watts, Bernard Docherty, Olivier Lemoine** and **Donald Grant**

### Baroque Violin

- | **Huw Daniel** and **Ruth Slater**

### Viola

- | **Dr Lev Atlas, Scott Dickinson, Duncan Ferguson, Sophie Renshaw** and **Jane Atkins**

### Baroque Viola

- | **Alfonso de Leal**

### Violoncello

- | **Robert Irvine, Aleksei Kiseliiov, Martin Storey, Betsy Taylor, Professor David Watkin** and **Alison Wells**

### Baroque Cello

- | **Alison McGillivray** and **Professor David Watkin**

### Double Bass

- | **Tom Berry, Ana Cordova, Iain Crawford** and **Nikita Naumov**

### Chamber Music coaches

- | **David Watkin, Hector Scott, William Conway** and **Greg Lawson**

Recent masterclasses include; **Nicola Benedetti**, the **Brodsky Quartet**, **Paul Coletti**, **Professor David Dolan**, **Decoda**, **James Ehnes**, **David Geringas**, **Lutsia** and **Alina Ibragimova**, **Rinat Ibragimov**, **Ralph Kirshbaum**, **Henning Kraggerud**, **Graham Mitchel**, **Johannes Moser**, **Trio Apaches**, **Maxim Rysanov**, **Peter Salaff**, **Janet Sung** and **Raphael Wallfisch**.



## Our graduates

- | **David Bamaung** (Assistant Principal Viola, Welsh National Opera)
- | **Javier Fernandez Diaz** (Profesor de Violin at Conservatorio Profesional “Garcia Matos” de Plasencia)
- | **Clara Hernandez** (Profesora de Violin at Conservatorio Profesional de Musica Esteban Sanchez de Merida)
- | **Jiří Kabat** (Professor of Viola at the Prague Conservatoire and member of Prague Philharmonic String Quartet)
- | **Katrina Lee** (Principal 2nd Violin, Scottish Ballet)
- | **Maxwell Quartet** (selected as Tunnell Trust and Park Lane Group)
- | **Wouter Raubenheimer** (Principal Viola, Stavanger Chamber Orchestra and Principal Viola, Chamber Orchestra of Europe)
- | **Duncan Strachan** (Artistic Director of the Loch Shiel Festival)
- | **Erik Vardanyan** (Suzhou Symphony Orchestra, China)
- | **Veronika Vardpatrikyan** (Assistant Principal Viola, Yerevan Symphony Orchestra, Armenia)

## 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](https://ucas.com/conservatoires)

Our institution code is **R58** and you will 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

## DID YOU KNOW?

Strings students benefit from side-by-side chamber music opportunities with ensembles including Scottish Ensemble, Hebrides Ensemble and the Brodsky Quartet.

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)

## 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.

## Auditions

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.

Most auditions take place on campus, however we do offer some internationally. Please see [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk) for more details. You can also audition via a video recording, please see our website for what to prepare.

At your audition you will be asked to:

- | Perform three pieces from a prescribed list - A full list of your instrument's selected pieces can be found at [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk)

You may be asked to:

- | Sight-read
- | Play scales

Full details on the audition processes are available at [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk)

## 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 expert one-to-one tuition from RCS 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'll be happy to help you.

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