



Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland



WOODWIND

rcs.ac.uk

**LIKE
NOWHERE ELSE:
LEARN IN A
CHALLENGING
AND INSPIRING
ENVIRONMENT**

The Woodwind department has an international reputation for developing leading musicians. Our team of dedicated staff includes many of Britain's finest woodwind players, with world-class reputations as soloists, orchestral and chamber musicians.

This programme offers you invaluable performing experience throughout the country in some of Scotland's most prestigious venues. Symphony, chamber and wind orchestra performances, opera productions, wind ensembles and chamber experiences are central to the education of each student.

Front cover image:
Georgina Hughes
MMus alumna

Woodwind

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

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

Our professional partnerships with all of the national companies offer unique opportunities for side-by-side performances, mentorship, masterclasses and competitions. There are also further concerto opportunities with RCS Symphony, Chamber and Wind Orchestras.

Why choose us?

- | Diverse and unique performance opportunities including radio broadcasts, orchestral tours, education projects and collaborative performances
- | 90-minute one-to-one lesson each week on your principal study
- | Annual Woodwind concerto opportunities with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, RCS Symphony and Wind Orchestras
- | Professional collaborative performance opportunities: interdisciplinary projects across the performing arts within RCS and with organisations such as Drake Music Scotland, the BBC and The Glasgow School of Art
- | Students can rehearse and perform with the Royal Scottish National and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestras; play side-by-side with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra Winds in a series of live concerts; participate in side-by-side masterclasses with the Orchestra of Scottish Opera and perform in live concerts with our resident contemporary ensemble, Red Note
- | A professional accompanist dedicated to work with our woodwind students
- | 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



“We offer students a first-class training experience with quality, dedicated staff, tailored pathways through the course and unique performance opportunities.”

Head of Woodwind: **Heather Nicoll**

Your studies

The range of specialist classes include:

- | Collaborative practice (e.g. with drama, musical theatre, composition and ballet departments)
- | Orchestral, ensemble and chamber music coaching from specialist staff
- | Healthy practice (e.g. mindfulness training)
- | Reed-making sessions for double reed students
- | Instrument Maintenance classes
- | Integrative visiting artist programme

Teaching staff

Flute/Piccolo

- | **Richard Blake**
- | **Helen Brew**
- | **Katherine Bryan**
- | **Ruth Morley**
- | **Janet Richardson** (piccolo)
- | **Ewan Robertson** (piccolo)

Oboe/Cor Anglais

- | **Peter Dykes**
- | **Amy Turner** (cor anglais)
- | **Stephen West** (oboe/cor anglais)
- | **John Roberts** (Visiting Artist in Orchestral Performance)
- | **Stephane Rancourt** (Visiting Tutor)

Clarinet/Eb/Bass

- | **John Cushing**
- | **Yann Ghiso**
- | **Lawrence Gill**
- | **Josef Pacewicz** (Eb)
- | **Heather Nicoll** (bass)
- | **Nicolas Baldeyrou** (Buffet-Crampon Visiting Professor)

Bassoon/Contra

- | **Alison Green**
- | **David Hubbard**
- | **Janet Bloxwich**
- | **Peter Welsey** (contra)
- | **Paolo Dutto** (contra)

Saxophone

- | **Josef Pacewicz**
- | **Arno Bornkamp** (Visiting Artist)

Accompanist

- | **Scott Mitchell**

Recent masterclass artists include:

Michael Cox, Oliver Stankiewicz, Ole Kristian Dahl and Annelin Van Wauwe.

A professional accompanist is provided for woodwind students throughout their training for classes, exams and competitions.





Students perform side-by-side with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra Winds

Our graduates

Woodwind graduate successes include:

- | **Graeme Brown** Principal Bassoon No2 in the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra
- | **Clara Lafuente Garcia & Chris McShane** Principal Oboe & second Bassoon respectively in Orchestra Accademia China
- | **Konrad Fiszer** Opera Nova w Bydgoszczy
- | **Fraser Gordon** Principal Contrabassoon with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
- | **Lindsey Ellis** Principal piccolo in the BBC National Orchestra of Wales
- | **Fraser Langton** Principal E-flat Clarinet in the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra
- | **Kate McDermott** Co-Principal Clarinet with the Gothenburg Opera
- | **Sinziana Mugea** Co-Principal Oboe in the Romanian Filmarmonica de stat 'Oltenia' Orchestra
- | **Paul Rissmann** Internationally renowned amateur, presenter and composer

“Performing Ibert’s *Concertino da Camera* with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra was a real privilege and highlight of my time at the RCS.”

RCS saxophone alumnus, **Lewis Banks**

How to apply

Before you apply, please go to [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk) to read full details on the 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://www.ucas.com/conservatoires)

Our institution code is **R58** and you will find the specific programme codes 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)

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.

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.

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 two contrasting pieces. A suggested repertoire for your instrument is available on the website, however applicants can choose their own free programme.

Scales, arpeggios and sight reading may be requested at the discretion of the interview panel.

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

“Taking part in this exciting mentoring scheme with the SCO Winds has taught me so much. Working closely with professional musicians and performing alongside them has showcased to me what it truly takes to succeed in the profession. From enhancing my ensemble skills, to professionalism and collaboration, this experience has been invaluable and something which I will carry close with me in my future endeavours.”

Christopher Michie

BMus flute, Scottish Chamber Orchestra / RCS side-by-side Concert Series

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.

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

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