



# Royal Conservatoire *of* Scotland

**Muhlenberg College  
Guide for Applicants: 2019/20**

**Bachelor of Music (Hons)  
BA Contemporary Performance Practice (Hons)  
BA Production Technology and Management  
BA Production Arts and Design  
BA Modern Ballet**

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## Introduction

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is one of the worlds' leading Conservatoires and we are unique in Europe in offering such a rich range of programmes, which include dance, drama, music, production and film. We recruit students from around 60 countries across the world and, which, of course, includes many from the United States of America.

We are delighted that you are interested in joining us at the Royal Conservatoire and we would be very happy to consider an application from you for term one, terms two and three or for an entire year. We can guarantee you an experience of exceptional quality.

Our term dates for session 2019/20 are:

Term 1	Monday 23 September 2019	New Students (Welcome & Transitions Week)
	Monday 4 November 2019	Independent Learning Week
	Friday 13 December 2019	Term 1 Ends
	Monday 16 December 2019	Winter break begins
Term 2	Monday 6 January 2020	Term 2 begins
	Monday 23 March 2020	Intensive Choice Week
	Friday 27 March 2020	Term 2 ends
	Monday 30 March 2020	Spring break begins
Term 3	Tuesday 14 April 2020	Term 3 begins
	Monday 15 June 2020	Bridge/Transitions week
	Friday 19 June 2020	Term 3 ends

The RCS academic year is divided into three terms: September through December, January through March and April through June. Muhlenberg students may enrol for term one, ending in mid-December when modular teaching is completed and alternative assessments are arranged; terms two and three, starting in January and concluding with June examinations; or the full academic year, with examinations in January and June.

The Conservatoire uses the SCQF credit system. This system is based on RCS students earning around 60 SCQF credits per part-year study and 120 SCQF credits for the full academic year. Students will enrol in a standard full-time study load and complete all relevant assessments in accordance with the rules and regulations of the

Conservatoire. The assessment method(s) for a class are indicated in the Programme Handbook. These methods may vary.

Students studying for terms 2 and 3 or for the full academic year must sit any final examinations attached to the modular courses they study. Students in term one will have alternative final assessments arranged for them prior to departure. Students will meet with their Head of Programme/Programme Leader to determine their assessment schedule.

The Conservatoire welcomes applications from students with disabilities. Successful applicants are encouraged to disclose any disability to the Conservatoire's Assistant Registrar (International and Student Experience), Sarah Ward, who will then inform the Counsellor and Disability Advisor, Jane Balmforth. Jane will contact the successful applicant to make any necessary arrangements prior to the start of the study period.

A Transcript of Records for each Muhlenberg student will be issued by the Conservatoire not later than five weeks after the assessment period has finished. Term one students will receive their transcript in February and terms two and three / full year students will receive theirs in July. The transcript will be sent directly to Susan Norling at Muhlenberg College, unless otherwise agreed.

Full details of all our programmes are available on our website at <https://www.rcs.ac.uk/studyhere/> Programme Handbooks for academic year 18/19 will be available in August 2018. In the meantime, Programme Handbooks for academic year 18/19 are available at <https://www.rcs.ac.uk/apply/erasmus/studyatrcs/>

If you require any further information, please contact our Assistant Registrar, Sarah Ward at [international@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:international@rcs.ac.uk)

## **How to Apply**

Applicants should apply using the Association of European Conservatoires' EASY application system at <https://aec.dreamapply.com/> prior to 29th March 2019. The application should be completed in full with a recording/portfolio, letter of motivation, CV, transcript and reference all uploaded as instructed.

## Bachelor of Music with Honours (BMus Hons)

### Programme information

The Bachelor of Music programme is a four year full-time programme for performers and composers of outstanding potential. It is practical in focus and vocational in purpose. Its structure and content are flexibly designed to allow students to develop the full range of their abilities and pursue their musical interests and aspirations to a high level, with a view to postgraduate study or professional employment as performers, composers, teachers, or in other portfolio careers in the music profession.

Currently, there are six pathways through the BMus programme:

Performance

Composition

Jazz

Traditional Music

Traditional Music – Piping

Joint Principal Study

It is anticipated that Muhlenberg College applicants will apply to the BMus Performance pathway for entry into either year two, three or four. Each successful applicant will have a 90-minute one-to-one lesson each week in addition to taking other core and 'choice' modules.

### BMus Performance – years two, three and four.

The modules students will take are listed as follows. Please be aware that this information is correct as of academic year 18/19 but could be subject to slight revision in academic year 19/20. Muhlenberg College students who come to study at the Conservatoire for less than a full academic year will take fewer than 120 Scottish Credits (SCQF). The precise amount will be calculated on arrival, or if required, in advance via completion of the Study Abroad Learning Agreement.

Performance 2	Core	60
Integrated Music Studies 2	Core	30
Music Leadership	Core	10
Options (from Music/Drama/Dance/Production/Film, any level)	Options	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>120</b>
Performance 3	Core	60
Ensemble Musician 1	Core	10
The Teaching Musician	Core	10

The Freelance Musician	Core	10
Analysing Music or Researching Music and Culture or Special Repertoire Topic	Core	10
Options (from Music/Drama/Dance/Production/Film, any level)	Options	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>120</b>
Performance 4	Core	80
Ensemble Musician 2	Core	10
Options (from Music/Drama/Dance/Production/Film, any level)	Options	30
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>120</b>

### Audition requirements

Applicants should supply an audio-visual recording of a performance of two contrasted works on the principal instrument or voice. Those who play Timpani and Percussion should contact [international@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:international@rcs.ac.uk) for a list of pieces they should record. Composition applicants should submit at least two compositions (preferably recent examples) together with brief analytical notes, and recorded performances and software files wherever possible. It is important to choose music that will demonstrate present level of achievement and musical potential.

Applicants are selected first and foremost on the basis of merit and potential. However, due attention is also paid to the range of Principal Studies accepted in order to ensure the optimum experience for each student and to sustain the critical mass required for curricular activities, such as the symphony orchestra. All decisions will be posted on EASY.

Audition feedback can be requested as per our Feedback policy <http://staging.prcht.co.uk/applicants/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Feedback-Policy.pdf>

## BA (Hons) Contemporary Performance Practice

### Programme information

The programme aims to:

- provide a broad-based practical study of contemporary theatre and performance

- the foreground the social function of performance practices
- establish the concept of praxis, a dialogue between the critical study of performance and the creative work of the artist
- provide the student with the knowledge, skills and understanding to realise the aesthetic and social potential of the making of performance with other people
- enable the student to experience various relationships to audiences, performance environments and contexts
- serve the wider performing arts profession's increasing demand for skills and aptitudes beyond the traditional understanding of theatre and the received understanding of live art and performance practices, and thereby promote employability of its graduates
- encourage the student to develop a variety of approaches and attitudes to making performance by working with professional theatre-makers and artists of the highest calibre

Our students say that studying Contemporary Performance Practice at the Royal Conservatoire is like nothing you could ever imagine. This programme is a four-year, full-time programme leading to an honours degree. It is for aspiring performance-makers who wish to develop their skills as innovative and socially-engaged performers, directors, teachers, and cultural leaders who can realise their aspirations to create and shape the future of new work. This could be the programme for you if you are passionate about creating performance, but you are unsure of what you would specifically like to do in the field.

You will be able to explore realisation of your ideas through the disciplines of performance, education, installation, movement, research and documentation. We will help you to develop your performance skills in our world-class facilities with our staff, visiting practitioners, directors and lecturers. You will have regular opportunities to take part in specialist workshops and masterclasses, you will push yourself and push boundaries, creating new works with image, action, sound and text.

### **Audition requirements**

Please submit the following:

1. An e-recording of a personal statement (straight to camera). This should include a brief overview of your background and why you are interested in studying at the Conservatoire.
2. An e-recording of yourself performing a short performance piece (please email [international@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:international@rcs.ac.uk) to be sent the performance piece pictures)
3. A performance analysis

Upon submission of your application you may be contacted for a Skype interview.

### **What is the Performance Piece?**

- You will be invited to prepare an original, devised performance piece using as a starting point your selection from a number of pictures which will be sent to you with your invitation to attend for audition. You may, if you wish, choose elements from any or all of the pictures. They are random pictures but you may see a 'theme' in them and wish to explore that.
- The piece must last no more than 3 minutes, so time yourself.
- It does not have to be naturalistic or 'tell a 'story'.
- The main thing to avoid is performing a 'talking head'. In other words don't just perform a spoken monologue in character without any of the ideas below. Try, as far as possible to turn your ideas into images.
- Try to give your piece a structure (even though it's only 3 minutes) for example, you may begin and end with the same 'moment' in time.

Your piece may include one, some or all of the following:

- Real objects: e.g. teapot, iron, hat, suitcase, clothing etc.
- Symbolic objects: e.g. cross, flower, mask, etc.
- Spoken word: e.g. text you've written yourself, text from a play, text from a poem, a newspaper article, a politician's speech etc.
- Action and movement: e.g. gestures, everyday activity, found activity (copying the way someone you see in the street walks, an air hostess giving emergency instructions, someone dancing in a club etc.), dance etc.
- Music: e.g. a song sung live, music and/or sound recorded onto MP3 or CD, music played by you on an instrument etc.

### **The Written Exercise – Performance Analysis**

You are invited to write about a live performance event you have seen recently, saying what you liked/disliked about it and why. You are asked to explain why this performance was an important experience for you. The written Performance Analysis will give us an indication of your ability to communicate your ideas about performance in good written English. You are advised to write about a live performance event which you feel strongly about. Your Performance Analysis should be no longer than 500 words and must be all your own work.

## **BA Production Technology and Management (BA PTM) / BA Production Arts and Design (BA PAD)**

### **Programme information**

BA PTM - This programme is for students who wish to train in one or more of the following areas:

- Stage Management
- Lighting
- Stage Technology
- Sound Technology

BA PAD – This programme is for students aspiring to a career as a Production Artist or a Set/Costume Designer in the performing arts sectors of the creative industries specialising in one or more of the following areas:

- Scenic Art
- Costume Construction
- Set Construction
- Prop-making
- Set and Costume Design

The programme will allow you to develop your abilities in a real world context, with a focus on building high-level practical skills but allowing you to take on greater responsibility for the management of resources and leadership in productions if you choose. We will help you to develop the specialist practical, aesthetic, and conceptual skills, confidence, and professionalism to work collaboratively with directors, producers, and performers.

Students on this programme are very self-motivated. There are no regular classes as most of the learning is done on live productions. Most of the main fully produced shows are in the drama studio (Chandler Theatre) or in the proscenium theatre (New Athenaeum). There are shows in production all year round so there is always something going on. For example, in term one of academic year 18/19 there were two final year acting shows in the main theatre and another in the studio as well as a musical and two weeks of fringe-style devised work in the studio. There are also some other smaller works such as opera and musical theatre showcases in the music venues too (the Conservatoire has a concert hall, a recital room and an opera studio).

Teaching is in blocks - one at the start of year one and one in the middle of year two. Outside of these teaching blocks, Tuesday through to Friday/Saturday is all production work. Personal and Professional Development classes take place on a Monday along with Options (modules delivered by other programmes) and tutorials/group meetings.

There are 20 students in each of the three years of the BA PTM programme. These students are spread across four subject areas of stage management, lighting, stage technology and sound technology. In stage management, there are around 6 students

in each year (18 in total across the whole programme) with two full-time stage management staff.

All Muhlenberg students are provided with a pair of steel toe-capped safety boots and other safety equipment. Muhlenberg students are also exempt from paying the consumables fee, i.e. levy.

### **Audition requirements**

You are encouraged to submit examples of your work via EASY which might take the form of at least some of the following, depending on your specialism:

- Art portfolios, sketches, models, photographs
- Samples of practical work such as props, costume, small pieces of woodwork etc.
- Prompt books, cue sheets and other production related documentation.
- Set and/or costume designs either as sketches, renderings or three-dimensional models.
- Examples of lighting and/or sound designs.
- Rigging plans or technical specifications sheets.
- Evidence of previous production experience such as press cuttings or programmes, whether at school, amateur level or professionally.

You may also be asked to complete a written exercise and/or invited to an interview via Skype.

The interview panel will be assessing, amongst other things;

- The relevance and validity of your previous experiences, both academic and production-related.
- Your ability to analyse production requirements, make appropriate decisions and communicate and defend your conclusions.
- Your understanding of the Technical and Production Arts industry and the nature of the training programme have applied for.
- Your career aspirations and approach to achieving your goals.

Applicants for BA PTM can apply to come in either term 1 or terms 2 and 3. However, terms 2 and 3 are preferable, if the applicant is applying for entry into year 2 of the programme, because there is a lot more classroom teaching in March. There is also there chance to take on a more senior show role as well.

## **BA Modern Ballet**

### **Programme information**

The BA Modern Ballet programme is delivered in partnership with Scottish Ballet. This three-year programme is designed to help you build a robust classical technique and prepare you for the profession as a confident, versatile and technically strong dancer.

You will graduate with the skills required by professional ballet companies as well as the ability to communicate effectively with an audience through the performance of a wide variety of classical, modern and contemporary choreography.

Our partnership with Scottish Ballet provides numerous opportunities, allowing you to gain invaluable insight into professional life. You will work regularly with Scottish Ballet staff and dancers, and internationally-acclaimed teachers and choreographers. You will have the opportunity to participate in performances or placements.

Our facilities are among the best in Europe and feature state-of-the-art dance studios and professional venues, as well as a whole range of other facilities to support you. You will take part in numerous performance opportunities, within a variety of environments and contexts, further enhancing the breadth of training and enhancing your employability. We aim to train you to be versatile and adept across a variety of styles to prepare you to work both in the UK and internationally.

A typical week consists of daily ballet class, classes in pas de deux, contemporary dance, repertoire, pointe work, virtuosity, contextual studies, Pilates and Gyrotonics. Students have the opportunity to work individually with tutors on techniques and repertoire solos. In addition, there will be observation sessions at Scottish Ballet and work with Company members where appropriate. The timetable is predominately practical (general 9am to 5pm) with additional Saturday morning sessions.

The programme aims to:

- develop the individual technique of each student, focused towards a career as a professional dancer and giving them the opportunity to achieve their full potential
- create critically self-reflective dancers who are able to perform a variety of styles and dance techniques with artistic integrity and document and communicate their experiences
- provide a structured experience of a diverse range of classical and modern repertoire, through which students will gain an understanding of the stylistic and physical demands of different dance genres and their performance potential.
- facilitate students to work effectively and creatively as individual artists and in collaboration with others
- equip students with knowledge, understanding and maintenance of safe dance practice
- provide opportunities for students to work with a range of nationally and internationally-recognised professionals, towards the student gaining further insight and knowledge and the ability to work in a variety of diverse cultural contexts

## **Audition requirements**

Please submit a recording via EASY and ensure that you chapter each section clearly. The camera should be positioned so that the full range of movements is shown. Practice clothes and soft ballet shoes should be worn.

## **Barre Work** (Exercises should be performed on both sides)

Approximately 15 minutes, including:

- Plies
- Battements Tendus and Battements Glisses
- Ronds de Jambes and Battements Fondus
- Adage
- Grands Battements

Applicants should give details of the highest level of external examination attained (if any), the date and the mark awarded. They should also state which Dance Society this was with (i.e. RAD, ISTD, etc.). It should be noted that this is **not** a prerequisite for audition and merely an indication of level. This should be noted in the letter of motivation.

## **Photographs**

Applicants should upload the following photographs to EASY. If this is *not* possible they should be emailed to [international@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:international@rcs.ac.uk)

- (i) Demi-plie en face, arms in bras bas
- (ii) Degage a la seconde, arms in 2<sup>nd</sup> position
- (iii) Arabesque en l'air, facing decote (side)
- (iv) Girls only – 2<sup>nd</sup> position en pointe, arms in 5<sup>th</sup> position

The photographs do not need to be professionally taken but should be against a plain background and of good quality. Applicants should be photographed in leotard and tights **Centre Practice and Allegro**

Approximately 20 minutes, including:

- Battements Tendus/Glisses/Grands Battements
- Adage
- Pirouettes – can be taken from 5<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> position, shown both en dehors and en dedans. Pirouettes should be performed on both the right and the left side
- Petit Allegro/Warm-up jump
- Allegro enchainement
- One grand allegro enchainement

## **Females**

In addition to the above, females should show a short example of pointe work.

## **Post-Offer Stage**

If you are made an offer of a place to study at the Conservatoire and you choose to accept it you will be emailed a link to access the pre-arrival and induction information

on the Conservatoire student portal. After this, the International and Student Experience team will make contact to discuss your housing and visa requirements as well as any other information you may need.

Any Muhlenberg student who accepts an offer of a place for the full academic year will be sponsored for their visa under Tier 4 and will be issued with a CAS (a unique alphanumeric code.) All other students will be asked to apply for a short-term student visa either on arrival at the UK port of entry (if they are a non-visa national) or prior to leaving the USA (if they are a visa national).

We take your privacy very seriously. You can contact us at [dataprotection@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@rcs.ac.uk)