



Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland

Welcome to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

August 2023

Dear new students,

We are delighted to welcome you to the BMus (Hons) course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. We're looking forward to welcoming you in person and helping you to settle into the RCS, your course and your department.

Everyone is always a bit nervous about starting something new and that's both completely natural and also a good sign - it means it's important to you! You should discover quickly that everyone at RCS is very friendly and happy to help if you have questions - we want to help you make the most of all opportunities that will be available to you here over the next four years.

The structure of a Conservatoire BMus is quite distinctive, as you are part of both an overall programme and pathway (Performance or Composition) but also part of a department (Brass, Woodwind, Composition, Guitar & Harp, Keyboard, Strings, Timpani & Percussion or Vocal Studies). If you are one of our Joint Principal Study students, you will be part of two departments as well as the overall programme! The key people to get to know in your department will be your Head of Department, your Programme Support Administrator (PSA) and, of course, your own tutor, with whom you will have your one-to-one lessons. All the Principal Study lessons, classes and activities are organized by your department.

Alongside that, you have your core course activities and modules as part of the programme, that everyone does regardless of which department they are in. The key people to get to know here are:

Dr Steve Halfyard
(they/ them)
Head of BMus

Dr Sam Ellis (he/him)
Associate Head of BMus

Dr Brianna Robertson-Kirkland
(she/ her)
BMus1 Transitions Tutor



Brianna, your Transitions Tutor, will meet with you at different points in the year to find out how you are getting on.

The final key person is the BMus programme administrator, Fergus Clark. You will meet all of us during the first few weeks of term. There will be a lot of information coming at you as you start the course, so we're not going to burden you with too much at this stage – there is a lot to take in, and inevitably you will forget things. One useful place to look for information will be the BMus course page in Moodle – we will send you a link to this at the start of term, once your RCS email account is activated.

However, in the meantime there is a pre-enrolment exercise that we ask you all to do before things officially begin in September, and some useful information about the course and how things work at RCS is to be found within that. You can find that back on the main page, in the “Level Up” materials just underneath the link to this letter. Once you have begun matriculation (from August 28th onward), you should read through the Level up guides and complete the exercise by September 25th (the start of Welcome Week)

Finally we would like to wish you the best of luck for the start of your course. You are now a part of the RCS community, and we look forward to working with you as you develop and grow as musicians.

With best wishes,

Steve, Sam and Brianna