

Introduction: A goal without a plan is just a wish

This pre-enrolment task aims to do two things: to help you think about your goals in the short, medium and long term, and how to work effectively towards them; and to give us a sense of who you are and what you want out of your time at RCS. In completing the task, we ask you to think about what you want to get out of this year, what you hope to get out of the BMus course as a whole, and how to start planning and preparing yourself to be a successful student and a successful musician.

The pre-enrolment task takes the form of a self-assessment. This is a sort of snap shot of where you are at the moment, and what you hope to get out of the year. This is not a formal assessment – you will get some feedback on it but you won't get a mark for it and you cannot fail it. We do expect you to complete it to the best of your ability as part of your induction into life and work at RCS, and it feeds into an assessment later in the year. At the end of each year of the course, as part of your Principal Study module you write a formal, assessed commentary on your development so far and your plans for the following year. When it comes to writing your assessed commentary, this self-assessment task should be useful in enabling you to see how far you have come in your musical development and thinking over the course of the year.

The preparation leading up to the self-assessment asks you to think about a series of specific things in three separate guides: 1) organizing your time to get the most out of this year; 2) keeping motivated and building your confidence; and 3) becoming independent and taking responsibility for your own development by understanding your strengths and the areas in which you need to improve. Please note that there are different guides for the first section (organizing your time) that are specific to your pathway, so make sure you read the right one!

Technical instructions for completing the self-assessment

Don't feel you have to do all the reading and complete the self-assessment at once – take your time with it over the next few weeks. We would recommend that you write your responses to the various questions in a document (there is a template available in the Level-Up materials), and then copy and paste them into the Form, as you might lose your work if you click away from the web-page without saving your answers. You should complete the self-assessment online here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/0w2NTN0Kqy>

You should be able to complete this without needing your network ID or Microsoft software, but do remember that before you start your studies, you should download your free copy of Office 365 (which includes Word, Powerpoint and Outlook) here:

<https://www.rcs.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Office365-Pro-Plus.pdf>

A particular resource used in the original design and preparation of this task was the following book, based on research done at another Conservatoire, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama: Susan Hallam and Helena Gaunt (2012) *Preparing for Success: A Practical Guide for Young Musicians*, London: Institute of Education, University of London.