

BA (Hons) in Music Education



(for entry in September 2020)

“This course fills an important gap in offering the next generation of music teachers and leaders an invaluable stepping stone into the contemporary music education world. Trinity Laban’s track record of high quality, innovative practice will ensure this course meets the needs of a wide range of practitioners thereby equipping them to meet the challenges of the developing and ever-changing music education landscape.” (Peter Hayward, Chief Executive, Lewisham Music)

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Studying Music Education at Trinity Laban

Trinity Laban is a leading conservatoire for professional music and contemporary dance training. Our innovative courses, exciting performances and ground-breaking social inclusion work make us a leader when it comes to creative artistic practice.

As the first UK conservatoire to have a dedicated Music Education department, Trinity Laban has long been a pioneering force in the subject. To study Music Education at Trinity Laban is to be part of a dynamic community and an exciting and constantly changing professional world. We work closely with local schools, music hubs, and arts and voluntary sector organisations, and offer a wide variety of mentored placements together with our renowned Learning & Participation Department.

Other than the BA in Music Education, we offer four postgraduate and professional development Music Education programmes with over seventy students and we regularly host talks and industry-wide conferences. Our experience in training music educators includes our Master's degree in Music Education & Performance, the PGCE Musicians in Education programme in partnership with University of Greenwich, our Teaching Musician professional development programmes and Teach Through Music, a professional development course for Key Stage 3 classroom teachers. We also support teacher development through modules within degree programmes, short courses and events.

The BA (Hons) in Music Education

If you're interested in learning more about music, discovering how to lead learning in and through music and developing your performance skills, the BA (Hons) in Music Education was designed for you. This three-year, full-time programme puts 60 days of placement-based learning at the heart of the student experience and prepares graduates to work across many contexts, from studio or classroom teacher to community music. The aim is that you leave having become accomplished as an educator and an instrumentalist, vocalist or composer and 'profession-ready', enabling you to progress to employment or onto a specialist one-year QTS programme.

Alongside the practical teaching, leading and musical skills developed during the programme, you will learn about the role of the musician across the contemporary education landscape. The vast range of learning opportunities provided by the BA (Hons) in Music Education allows you to develop a rich appreciation of UK and international teaching practices and philosophies. During your studies, you will also develop technical, collaborative, creative and entrepreneurial skills which will support you as you embark on a professional career.

Through it all, our expert staff will encourage you to develop research informed knowledge, adopt music as your primary language of engagement and develop a high-quality reflective practice.

Learning within a community of practice

The BA MusEd offers the opportunity to become part of, and learn within, a diverse cohort of musicians and educators. Some classes or projects are shared with Trinity Laban BMus and BA Contemporary Dance students, giving you the chance to form communities and build relationships with those training as performers. You will network and share learning with other practitioners and employers working across a variety of settings, and will experience around 60 days on placements. This will include opportunities to engage with Trinity Laban's [Learning and Participation](#) programme, which offers a range of innovative outreach schemes, community projects, and out-of-school learning activities.

Entrance Requirements

The BA in Music Education is open to students from any Western music genre background and specialising in any instrument for which a suitable teacher can be found. We select students on the basis of interviews and auditions which are due to take place in February or March 2020 for those starting the course in September 2020.

The following are required:

- An ability to articulate your own independent views on the processes of music teaching and learning;
- Fluency on instrument or voice, to be demonstrated at audition (as a guide, we look for the level of fluency commensurate with Grade 8 standard in your chosen Principal Study instrument, although we recognise that grade exams are not appropriate for all types of applicant). Composition is accepted as a principal study and will be considered by a portfolio submitted in advance, but a performance fluency would still be expected at interview;
- 3 A level passes at BBC (equivalent to a minimum of 112 [UCAS tariff points](#)), of which one should normally be in music, music technology or the performing arts;
- BTEC Extended Diploma at levels DMM or
- BTEC Level 3 Diploma at D*D*
- In addition, applicants will normally have 5 GCSEs (or equivalent level 2 qualification) including English Language and Maths at Grade C / Level 4 or above;

International qualifications will be considered for NARIC equivalency to the above.

For applicants whose first language is not English, an IELTS score of 6.5 overall (or equivalent) is required, although IELTS 6.0 in all four areas can be accepted. English for Academic Purposes support is available for all students whose first language is not English; students who need this support can be referred by their Programme Leader.

We welcome applicants who do not have access to the standard entry requirements. Experience and previous training are considered via a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process. They would be required to complete an additional form and submit documentary evidence to be considered via this route.

Non-UK/EU/EEA students will be required to provide evidence of their eligibility to study in the UK. This programme is eligible for Tier 4 visas.

In order to be eligible for further training leading to Qualified Teacher Status in the UK after this programme, applicants will need to meet the [Department for Education minimum requirements](https://www.getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/eligibility-for-teacher-training) (getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/eligibility-for-teacher-training).

A successful applicant will demonstrate, through their application, audition and interview:

- evidence of commitment to arts education practices;
- fluency of technique on your principal study (instrument/voice/composition) and high levels of care for musical discourse;
- an appropriate grasp of performance practice issues relevant to the repertoire they have performed or an appropriate grasp of stylistic and formal issues relevant to the compositions they have presented in their portfolio;
- confidence and clarity in presenting, manipulating and rehearsing musical materials;
- a capacity for independent, critical and reflective thought;
- intellectual curiosity and strong motivation and potential for personal development;
- an ability to organise ideas and communicate them effectively.



Programme Structure

Yr3:	Musical Practices (25)	Personal Project (25)	Music Pedagogies (40)	Elective (30)		
Yr2:	Musical Practices (35)	Academic Studies (25)	Music Pedagogies (30)	Music Tech in Education (20)	Elective (10)	
Yr1:	Musical Practices (45)	Academic Studies (25)	Music Pedagogies (30)	Musical Directions (20)		

The **Musical Practices** modules allow you to develop a wide variety of performance skills relevant to music education clustered around a focus on Principal Study technique and interpretation. The programme philosophy is centred on musical behaviour as the target language of communication, and so we aim to give you a broad and skilled musicianship which you will show in both performance and participatory practices. Assessment will be weighted towards performance skills, although a viva will also allow you to demonstrate your abilities in other areas.

The **Music Pedagogies** strand will connect you to a variety of generic and music-specific pedagogical theories and allow you to apply them through in-depth placements. These placements will be for 60 days over the course of the programme; four weeks within the first two years, followed by an extended placement in the third year. Placements will be offered in a variety of contexts, including community music, and we will encourage all students to ensure that they gain experiences in a range of settings. You will be mentored during all of your placements, and you will be expected to plan, teach and reflect on your experiences in your final setting.

Academic Studies consists of two connected strands in the first two years: applied musicianship and musicology. The first of these will connect music theory, aural skills and composition, whilst the second will focus on historical and contemporary musical meaning. In the third year, you will be able to use the research skills you have developed during the course to undertake an innovative personal project.

The **additional modules** on the programme include a first-year module (Musical Directions) in which you will learn practical music leadership skills and link them with wider discussion about music sociology. In the second year, you will look at both recording and generative uses of music technology in education. In addition, there are two electives taken with students on the BMus and chosen from a wide variety of subjects. Typical elective titles are:

Analysis for Performance; Arranging; Composing for Media; Conducting; Creative Leadership; Critical Popular Music; Digital Musicianship; Essential Performing Practice; Improvisation and Interpretation; Instrumental/Vocal Teaching; Introduction to Music Psychology; Music, Gender and Sexuality; Opera & Theatre; Traditional Music and Contemporary Folk.

Practical Learning Opportunities

Performance Learning

All students take a **Musical Practices** module each year. This offers broad practical musicianship training, involving one-to-one teaching in your Principal Study discipline (instrument/voice/composition) and additional practical learning. At the heart of this is 15 hours of individual tuition per year with one of Trinity Laban's performance or composition staff. In addition, the module involves learning a variety of participatory and performance practices which are commonly used in schools, such as the Kodály Method, Dalcroze Eurhythmics, vocal skills, band instruments, rhythmic awareness, performance workshop, West African drumming, improvisation, samba, song-writing and choral leadership.

All students will take part in the undergraduate choir in their first year, and in Trinity Laban's annual CoLab Festival. You can also audition for other ensembles to the college ensembles, and some students may also be able to participate in department-specific performance classes.

Placement Learning

All students will experience placements in primary, secondary, instrumental/vocal and community settings in their first two years. You will be able to choose where you undertake your final-year extended placement.

Year 1: One week 'taster' placement in groups with partner organisations across multiple contexts. Not credit-bearing.

Year 2: One placement per term (with possible exchanges abroad). These will typically be one day per week for half a term. The intention is to permit as broad a range of contextual understanding as possible, with all placements in demonstrably different contexts. All placements will be Pass/Fail elements of the Music Pedagogy module, with documentation and reflection. Not credit-bearing.

Year 3: One extended placement for two days a week across two terms. The intention is that over the course of the placement, students devise, deliver, assess learning and evaluate a scheme of work or project in their host partner. This placement will form a central part of the third year with credit-bearing assessment carried out by the host mentor, and with a reflective report forming the bulk of the assessment.

Placements will take place with trained mentors from a range of partner organisations, which include Lewisham and Lambeth Music Services, Junior Trinity and Trinity Laban's own Learning & Participation programme. These organisations cover a wide range of formal school and music service lessons and ensembles but also non-formal, expert-led settings in which young people lead their own music-making, and may include settings such as music in healthcare or with the elderly and work with vulnerable participants or those with special educational needs or disabilities.

Teaching and Student Support

Staff in Trinity Laban's Music Education Department are leaders in their field, with published research and extensive experience of teacher training in the UK and internationally. Most staff also maintain an active music teaching and performing career alongside their research. Our world-class performance teaching staff play with leading chamber ensembles and orchestras, sing with opera companies, and are renowned composers and acclaimed recitalists. This extensive in-house expertise is enhanced by an international cast of visiting artists and mentor ensembles. Adding to the rich diversity of academic and performance staff, you will also be taught by those working in music education settings and by visiting specialists.

Learning on the BA in Music Education takes place through a combination of formal tuition, experiential learning and personal study. Seminars enable you to blend practical experience with theoretical knowledge, which you then put into practice on placements, which are at the heart of the programme. You will observe and be mentored by experienced teaching staff and community musicians throughout your studies.

Seminar and placement learning are reinforced by your own regular personal reading and our dynamic Virtual Learning Environment, encouraging you to develop independent strategies for lifelong learning. You will work closely with our renowned Learning & Participation Department team, who will support your placement learning and who offer a wide variety of creative projects. Tutors will regularly encourage you to reflect on your learning, and you will use an e-portfolio to document and share your progress.

Specific modules or components in the programme may involve collaborative study with another student or students (e.g. with other musicians, dancers or other artists). We believe that collaboration is central to the education profession and as such, opportunities such as these are highly valuable learning experiences.

Student Support

There is a huge amount of support offered to students, from termly tutorials through to specialist interventions from the Centre for Educational Futures and our Student Services team. Regular, personalised, in-class feedback is at the heart of the learning process and we place great pride in the quality of the student-teacher relationship right across Trinity Laban.



Assessment and Learning Resources

The diversity of skills expected of the professional music educator is reflected in the wide variety of ways you will study and be assessed. These include performance examinations or composition portfolios, coursework portfolios, seminar presentations, essays, viva voces, planning and reflective writing, practical teaching skills and a personal project. Many modules use strategies such as Pass/Fail forum tasks to help you prepare for assessments as you progress through a module.

For each module, you will submit work to be formally assessed, and will receive detailed feedback through our online Virtual Learning Environment. In addition, you will receive regular and on-going feedback from staff through seminars, online forums and one-to-one supervision.

Trinity Laban's programmes are supported by Moodle, our Virtual Learning Environment. You will also have access to our award-winning Jerwood Library to borrow books, sheet music and recordings and to access e-journals, online music catalogues and other resources. Where possible, reading list texts for this programme are available as e-books. You will also be able to take advantage of the college's on-site music technology resources and to MS Office 365.

Fees

Please see the [music fees page](#) of the website for details.



Applying

Timeline for entry in September 2020

1. Email admissions@trinitylaban.ac.uk to enquire or receive application details
2. Applications open September 2019
3. Auditions are held in February or March 2020, although late audition opportunities may be available in certain circumstances

Application Process

All applications must be made through UCAS Conservatoires by visiting ucas.com/conservatoires. An application fee will apply. Have a look at our [application pages](#) for further details on how to apply.

After you have auditioned we will assess your experience against the relevant entry requirements. As well as providing information about your qualifications and any employment experience, you are asked to attach a personal statement and CV to outline any other relevant experience you may have and your reasons for wishing to enrol on the programme. We will also ask for two references and a recent photograph (head shot).

The Audition:

The audition day will consist of the following elements:

- a short performance on your Principal Study instrument or voice (composers should upload a portfolio to Embark in advance, but will also be expected to play);
- an interview with the Programme Leader;
- a group practical task – applicants should prepare to teach a short (four-minute) musical activity to the group, who will have only voices and hand percussion available. This could be a song arrangement, a body percussion exercise, a vocalised beat box pattern, a percussion pattern etc., and could also involve movement and improvised sections
- international students may audition by uploading recorded materials to Embark followed by a Skype interview, teaching the panel a musical activity

We are very happy to provide alternative application formats are available on request.

Enquiries

To discuss your eligibility or programme content contact the admissions office at admissions@trinitylaban.ac.uk or on 020 8305 4402. You can also contact the Programme Leader, Tim Palmer, at t.palmer@trinitylaban.ac.uk or on 020 8305 4383.

Validation

The BA in Music Education is validated by Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance and delivery is subject to achieving minimum enrolment numbers.



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