

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Programme:	International Foundation Certificate: Music & English
Awarding Institution:	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Teaching Faculty:	Faculty of Music
Type of study:	Full-time
UK Credits:	120
ECTS:	60

OUTLINE

Summary Description

The International Foundation Certificate: Music & English programme is a one year academic preparation course designed for aspiring musicians who wish to develop their musical skills and techniques through a dedicated programme of study rooted in practice-based activity, as well as to significantly enhance their skills in the use of the English language.

The programme provides opportunity for students to access high-quality conservatoire study and may provide an entry route to further specialist/vocational training (e.g. undergraduate degree programmes within the conservatoire or wider higher education sectors, particularly within the UK) or a platform for a dedicated period of personal study with a vocational focus alongside English language skill development. In doing so it aims to equip students with secure executant skills as performers or composers. Importantly it also prepares students to undertake English Language assessment at the level required for entry to undergraduate level study within the UK, and to introduce them to the UK education system so that they are fully prepared for undergraduate degree level study.

The International Foundation Certificate is of one year's duration (10 months) with additional pre- and/or post-study language tuition also available (additional pre-sessional study may be required for some students, following initial assessment). On completion of the programme students will be able to create and/or perform music as an instrumentalist, vocalist or composer and to communicate in English at a level appropriate to entry to conservatoire BMus or university music study within the UK. Students will have enhanced their performance/composition skills in their Principal Study discipline, and attained English Language skills at a level that will enable access to diverse further training routes in music.

Through the Professional Studies module students will develop their instrument/voice-specific performance &/or composition skills alongside practical study in areas that support their fluency and their internalised and embodied perceptions of music. This includes 1-1 lessons, Departmental Classes, Performance Workshop, Alexander Technique, Generative Techniques and an Audition Class. They will also develop collaborative skills through participation in the Conservatoire's renowned CoLab festival. Their other core learning will take place within the Integrated Skills in English module which will provide both general and music-specific English language acquisition opportunities together with the opportunity to enhance their general academic skills through a critical thinking seminar. Complementing study within these two modules, students will also engage in enhancement activities designed to develop their appreciation of professional and educational settings of music practice, and support the early development of professional skills in music, enabling students to develop as effective learners within the context of UK higher education. Students will maintain a personal development portfolio of

key documents in their progress through the programme and will have termly tutorials to review these documents and discuss their progress.

The programme aims are:

- To enable aspiring musicians to further develop their musical skills and techniques through a dedicated programme of study rooted in practice-based activity.
- To permit students – whose English language &/or performance/composition skill level does not yet entirely meet the requirements for undergraduate study – access to high-quality conservatoire study and preparation for entry to further specialist/vocational training within the UK (e.g. undergraduate degree programmes within the conservatoire or wider higher education sectors) or to provide a platform for a dedicated period of personal study in their musical discipline and in the English language.
- To offer a performance/composition training that not only foregrounds technical and notational fluency, but also develops interpretative and communicative coherence, bodily awareness and skills in managing the performance experience.
- To enable students' general English language acquisition and proficiency through the development of personal learning strategies and skills that complements their emerging skills as musicians.
- To create a learning environment that encourages risk and nurtures creativity and innovation reflecting, where possible, cutting-edge thinking about musical performance/composition and language acquisition learning from around the world and taking advantage, where appropriate, of advances in digital technologies.

What will I be expected to achieve?

Knowledge and understanding - on successful completion of this programme, a student will be able to demonstrate:

- knowledge of the core technical and musicianship skills that support performance/composition;
- an early appreciation of a range of evolving artistic and professional contexts;
- understanding of a wide range of vocabulary and grammar in English, and the ability to utilise the English language at a level commensurate with entry to undergraduate study in the UK;
- responsiveness to HE self-directed learning processes;
- preliminary knowledge of, and strategies for maintaining, musicians' health and well-being.

Skills - on successful completion of this programme, students will be able to:

- perform and/or compose fluently with secure technique at a standard commensurate with entry to undergraduate study in music;
- take personal responsibility for the development of their emerging musical personality;
- make connections between core musical knowledge and skills and performance activities;
- read, listen, speak and write effectively in the English language in a variety of general, academic and musical contexts, drawing upon a range of sources and utilising the English language at a level appropriate for entry to undergraduate study;
- apply appropriate organisational skills, and evaluate different approaches to problem solving in their studies;
- demonstrate accurate, reliable and coherently structured communication and presentation.

Values and attitudes - on successful completion of this programme, students will have:

- appropriate understanding of, and ability to apply, the English language in relation to study and performance contexts in music;
- an embryonic understanding of, and respect for the dynamics involved in collaboration, teamwork and leadership;
- an emerging understanding of personal responsibilities in artistic and academic domains
- respect for life-long learning processes and the ability to initiate their own development through structured opportunities.

How will I learn?

Learning takes place through a blend of formal tuition, experiential learning and personal study. Musical skill development and English language acquisition is equally balanced throughout the programme, and opportunities will be sought wherever possible to intermix learning across these two areas of study.

Instrumental / composition / vocal tuition consists of individual lessons, group classes, rehearsals, workshops and seminars, with some masterclasses also available for observation. Students will develop and contextualize their learning from individual lessons within a broad range of solo, small group/chamber and large ensemble activities, including access to, on audition, the Chapel and Chamber Choirs, Jazz Choir and various orchestras and ensembles. Visiting artists, ensemble directors and lecturers will expose students to a variety of views and approaches current within the profession. CoLab is an integral element of performance studies and is a ring-fenced period of the academic year where students from across the institution work together to create and develop creative projects and where artistic risks and innovation are encouraged.

Tuition in English language and associated academic study skills is delivered in small tutorial groups, where practical experience of communicating with others – members of the local community as well as fellow students – is blended with the development of vocabulary and grammar knowledge and understanding to develop fluency and the ability to consistently apply learning in practice. Where possible and appropriate, English language lessons will integrate opportunities for musical learning. The programme aims to enable students to develop independence strategies in support of lifelong learning, and tutors will regularly encourage reflection and the formulation of specific personal targets for learning.

A number of elements of the programme will involve study with another student or students in a collaborative way. Collaboration is considered to be at the heart of professional artistic life and as such, opportunities such as these represent valued learning experiences.

This programme assumes 1200 learning and teaching hours, with around 510 hours contact time. Contact time is defined as tuition which is delivered by a tutor. It includes performances, individual tuition, larger group tuition, seminars, tutorial, departmental & academic classes, directed rehearsals, masterclasses, competitions and supervised study. Contact and self-study time is itemised in module descriptions, although rehearsal and performance contact time will vary according to the professional study discipline. Self-study is supported by Moodle, the Conservatoire's virtual learning environment, and students will be expected to regularly upload material to their personal development portfolio. Learning is also supported by the award winning Jerwood Library of the Performing Arts and academic study skill support from the Learning Enhancement Unit where needed.

How will I be assessed?

Overview

There are a range of assessment methods across the credit-bearing elements of both aspects of the programme. Within the Professional Studies module, as far as possible, these mirror challenges encountered in professional musical contexts. Assessments within the Integrated Skills in English

module fulfil the requirements for assessment of English Language at CEFR B2 (ISE – Integrated Skills in English B2).¹

Assessment activities undertaken within the programme include both formative and summative tasks (including mock English language examinations), offering students detailed feedback throughout their programme of learning in addition to summative assessment activities which provide gradings with justifications for these gradings both to the student and the institution. Throughout, the programme design views assessment primarily as a learning rather than a grading tool, and students will undertake regular formative tasks in lessons and seminars.

The Professional Studies module is assessed through a short pass/fail technical test and an end of year recital; the Integrated Skills in English module is assessed through reading, writing, speaking and listening tasks administered by Trinity College London (ISE – Integrated Skills in English B2). The International Foundation Certificate: Music & English thus provides ideal preparation for application for study at undergraduate level within the UK, where the English language entrance requirement is at CEFR B2 (ISE – Integrated Skills in English B2) / SELT in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

What do I have to do to pass?

To pass you need to satisfactorily PASS (40%) each of the modules that constitute the programme, which effectively means you must achieve a grade of D- or above, as defined by the Programme Generic Grade Descriptors for the Professional Studies module and achieve a PASS grade (Listening 2; Speaking 8; Reading 15; Writing 14) within the TCL ISE examination for the Integrated Skills in English module. There are provisions to retrieve a failure: please see further details about these in the section on Assessment Regulations. All assessments taken within the International Foundation Certificate: Music & English programme must be passed.

To complete the programme students must attain a pass or better for each module. Please see the full version of the regulations, the TL generic grade descriptors and the TCL skills development tables and rating scales for further information concerning where grade thresholds allow retaking of assessments for a pass mark.

What award can I get?

Successful completion of this programme will lead to the International Foundation Certificate: Music & English. All awards are decided on the overall aggregate of the two programme modules calculated as a weighted average.

Foundation Certificate:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	4	120	100%

Class	% required
With Distinction:	70
With Merit:	60
With Pass:	40

¹ Equivalent to IELTS for UKVI B2 or IELTS 5.5.

CONTENT

What will I study?

The programme runs across three terms (Sept to July) with additional pre-sessional and post-sessional English Language development and enhancement activities available to students as required. Most Professional Studies teaching takes place during the Autumn and Spring terms to allow students adequate self-study time to prepare for the final recital and deepen their English Language skills during the Summer term. The formal credit framework is as follows:

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Professional Studies	tbc	60	Core	No	4
Integrated Skills in English	tbc	60	Core	No	4 (ISE B2)
Total Credits:		120			

The Professional Studies module includes 1-1 lessons, departmental classes, Alexander Technique, CoLab, audition class, performance workshop and generative techniques.

The Integrated Skills in English module includes small group tutorials, practical project tasks, and chamber music coaching.

Please see module specifications for detailed description of module content.

Outside of the formal programme structure students will take a class in critical skills, visit a professional rehearsal, give a concert in a local school and set-up and run one or more public cohort concerts.

ADMISSIONS

Entry requirements

Entry to the programme:

Trinity Laban places greater emphasis on its own audition process than on formal qualifications. The programme is aimed at students considering entry to undergraduate study at conservatoire or university, and places are offered to candidates who demonstrate the potential to reach that level within the year. As a guide, Trinity College London (TCL/ABRSM) Grade 8 or equivalent would be the minimum expected level of entrance to the programme, although this is not a pre-requisite. All applicants should note that Trinity Laban will not consider applications for deferred entry.

The programme accepts students in all Western Art Music instruments and voice (NB this programme does not accept jazz students). The International Foundation Certificate: Music & English has an English language entrance requirement of CEFR B1 (ISE I - Integrated Skills in English B1 or IELTS Level 4.5 in all 4 areas). For Tier 4 purposes the IELTS will need to be the specific IELTS for UKVI test.

Audition Requirements:

Performance: Applicants must prepare two contrasting pieces of their own choice, written for their principal study instrument or voice, and lasting no longer than 15 minutes in total. Applicants may be

required to take a short sight-reading and/or playing-by-ear test, but are not expected to have prior experience of improvisation.

Composition: Applicants must submit a portfolio of between 3 and 6 compositions in advance. Any styles are acceptable and unfinished works may be included. The portfolio must illustrate the applicant's ability to produce notated scores and recordings should be submitted where possible. Portfolios will normally be assessed by the Head of Composition and an additional relevant member of staff, who will then conduct an interview with applicants which will take the form of a discussion about the applicant's compositions, interests and ambitions.

Composition applicants will also be asked to perform a prepared piece of 2-3 minutes of their own choice in length in a style and on an instrument of their choice (including voice) and they may also be asked to improvise.

Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate the following through the application, audition and interview:

- a level of technical competence and fluency appropriate to foundation level performance/composition study;
- a nascent but clear artistic identity as appropriate for ongoing conservatoire study;
- The motivation for in-depth detailed development of performance/composition skills;
- The capacity for independent, critical and reflective judgment;
- The ability to organise and communicate ideas effectively.

CAREERS

Alumni profiles can be found on the website: <http://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-profiles?tag=2089>

Comprehensive careers support is available for all Trinity Laban students and recent graduates, supported by a dedicated Careers Coordinator and our careers website: www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/student-experience/careers

STUDY ABROAD / WORK PLACEMENTS

Study Abroad options

Not Available

Placement options

Not Available, however all Faculty of Music students may elect to participate in placements within Learning & Participation (Music) projects as available.