



The audition process enables the Conservatorium of Music to gather significant information before admitting applicants to undertake music pathways at UWA. Equally important, the process provides an opportunity for applicants to learn more about the Music courses offered at UWA and Conservatorium staff.

As part of applying to study Music at UWA, there are a number of processes and information collection points. While all of these are essential, the most important – and the only one that must be undertaken – is the audition.

What will happen in the audition

Prior to the audition, you will be asked to prepare two contrasting pieces – please also remember to bring a copy of your music for the members of the audition panel. Upon entering the audition room, the members of the audition panel will ask you to tell them the titles of the prepared works, as well as asking you to select which piece you would like to play first. Given the time constraints for each audition, it is likely that you will only have the opportunity play a portion of each piece. With this in mind, therefore, you might decide to start at a point before the part you want the panel to hear. If the members of the audition panel ask you to stop playing at a certain point, this does not mean that the performance is going badly. Being asked to stop while playing is not an indication of anything except a lack of time in the audition process.

Following, the panel may want to hear all or part of the second piece. Again, please be prepared for the fact that the members of the audition panel will probably ask you to stop playing somewhere during the performance.

After the performance component of the audition, you will undertake a very short aural quiz, followed by a brief discussion with the panel. During your audition, one of the panel members will also look at your prepared portfolio.

The whole audition process may take as little as ten minutes. The length of the audition, however, is no indication of its success. Our staff members have considerable experience when it comes to listening to students and, more importantly, hearing the potential of a student. Therefore, they do not need a long time to reach a fair decision.

Do I need an accompanist?

The decision is entirely up to you. We have found that for most players, the provision of an accompanist makes little difference to the decision of the committee. Due to the special nature of vocal auditions, we provide an accompanist for the voice auditions. However, you are free to use your own accompanist if you wish. Note that the first audition dates will align roughly with ATAR practical exams. Some accompanists will be unavailable for these dates, and we are very comfortable for performers to audition without accompaniment.

I play percussion. Is that different?

For percussionists, the audition is a little different. You will play material that you have prepared, perhaps on Tuned Percussion, snare, mixed percussion or kit, and then will be asked to demonstrate some rudiments of percussion.

What is the portfolio and what do you do with it?

In addition to performing as part of the audition, students are asked to bring a portfolio containing samples of their current work. For instance, audition panel members would like to see examples of academic writing, musical exercises and/or compositions, music certificates and other supporting documentation. A member of the audition panel will look at the documents during the audition process. As part of the portfolio, we would like to see whatever you have done during the course of your studies. However, if you do not have any such examples, we can make a decision without them.

What is the aural quiz?

The aural quiz is undertaken as part of the audition. Its purpose is to assist the audition panel members to determine each applicant's level of musicality, as well as provide the panel with an indication of an applicant's musical training. The aural quiz is very short, and will only last a couple of minutes. An example test is available on the audition booking site for you to look at prior to your audition.

I was really nervous. Can I audition again?

Everyone who auditions is nervous. As experienced musicians, however, the panel members are used to seeing nervous students audition. Even if you are nervous, be assured the panel will probably have an accurate view of your musical ability. However, if due to nerves you believe the audition does not provide the panel members with an accurate indication of your musical ability, there may be some remediation. Contact the Conservatorium of Music for more information.

Do I need an audition to play in an ensemble?

Some ensembles are confined to Music students; some ensembles are available to students from across the University, subject to passing an audition; others are available without any audition.

I'm interested in composition – do I still need to audition?

Yes, we still ask you to audition on your chosen instrument or voice. In addition to your audition, you should submit a composition portfolio (in advance of the audition if possible) and we will arrange you an interview with our composition coordinator.

I'm an international applicant – how do I audition?

You will need to provide a recorded audition either via Dropbox, USB, Youtube or DVD. You should perform two contrasting pieces on your instrument or voice in a single take (do not edit the recording afterwards). You'll also need to provide a certified letter stating the authenticity and date of the recording. Once you arrive at UWA, you may be asked to do a separate informal audition. If you are interested in composition, also provide a portfolio.

Can I defer my place in music?

If you are planning a gap year or will not be taking up your place within six months of your audition, you will need to successfully re-audition before being offered a place. It is up to applicants to ensure they retain a high standard of performance until entry into the Conservatorium of Music.