Music Performance and Production Audition and Interview Guidelines

UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music Performance & Production – September 2026 Entry

Thank you for applying to join our Music Performance & Production course starting in September 2026. We know you might be feeling both nervous and excited, and that's completely normal. These guidelines are here to help you prepare, let you know what to expect on the day, and explain what happens next.

Take some time to read through everything, and if you have any questions, feel free to get in touch.

Accessibility and Support

We want the application process to be accessible to everyone. If you have a disability or specific requirement, we can make reasonable adjustments to support you. Please contact Julie Humphreys at **admissions@lipasixthformcollege.org** to discuss your needs.

This information is also available in other formats—let us know if that's something you require.

What to Expect on the Day

Your audition and interview are designed to help you present your skills and creativity in the best way possible.

Here's what your day will look like:

Arrival and Registration

- You'll start by signing in at reception when you arrive.

Session A: Group Workshop

- This workshop gives you a feel for what it's like to be in a performance class at LIPA Sixth Form College.
- We'll send the track you will be working on in this session two weeks before your audition - practise this so you're confident and ready to contribute on the day.

Session B: Audition and Interview

- You'll be collected from your holding room by a member of the panel. You will then perform your chosen piece and have a short interview.

- Your audition and interview will take 10 - 15 minutes in total.
- Once you've completed both, you're free to leave.

The Audition: Performance Piece

You'll perform one live piece, either:

- A song you've created yourself (2-3 minutes in length),

  or

- A song or part of a song by another artist (2-3 minutes in length).

Performance Guidelines

- Your piece must be performed live and from memory.
- If you're performing a solo acoustic guitar or piano piece, you can perform it without a backing track. For all other performances, including vocals, you'll need a backing track. No acapella performances.
- The maximum any song should be is 3 minutes in length.

Backing Track Information

Backing tracks can be played from:

- A phone with a 3.5mm headphone connector (**bring an adaptor if needed**).
- A USB with the track in .wav or.mp3 format.

Important: If your device requires a headphone adaptor, you must bring it with you as we do not provide adaptors.

Tips for Preparing Your Performance

- Choose a style that shows your skills and potential while feeling natural for you.
- Pick a piece that you enjoy performing—it will help you connect with your audience.
- Don't try to copy another artist—use your own style and express yourself.
- Show us you at your best but don't risk complicated techniques if you are not competent at them.
- Practise performing for a friend or teacher and ask for feedback.

The Interview

Your interview will have three main questions:

About your performance piece:

- Why did you choose this piece?
- How did you prepare for it?
- How do you think it went, and what did you learn from performing it?

About you:

- What is your ambition?
- How will LIPA Sixth Form College help you achieve it?

Tips for Preparing Your Interview

- Make notes on the questions so you can organise your thoughts.
- Think about what makes you unique - why do you want to study at LIPA Sixth Form College, and what can you bring to the course?
- Practise your answers with someone or in front of a mirror to feel more confident.
- Review your application form and be ready to talk about anything you've included.
- Relax and be yourself - we want to know about the real you.

What to Wear

- Wear something you feel comfortable performing in.

What We Provide

- **Guitarists:** Guitar amplifiers.
- **Drummers:** Drum kits with cymbals.
- **Pianists:** Digital pianos.
- **Vocalists:** Microphone.
- **General:** PA system for use with all performers.

What to Bring

- If you're using an instrument we don't provide (like a guitar), bring it along.
  - **Guitarists:** Bring your guitar, strap, jack lead, and any other accessories (e.g., capo, pedals and Tuner).
  - **Drummers:** Bring your drumsticks.

- A device or USB to use as playback for your backing track, details of which are highlighted above.

What Happens Next?

The panel will consider four things:

- Your audition.
- Your interview.
- Your participation in the group workshop.
- Your application form (including predicted GCSE grades).

You will receive a decision email from us in March 2026 which will state the outcome of your audition and interview.

The best of luck for your auditions. Remember, preparation is key. If you have any questions, contact Julie Humphreys at admissions@lipasixthformcollege.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

I am a multi-instrumentalist. Can I perform Session A on one instrument and Session B on another?

No, you must use the same instrument for both Session A and Session B. If you are offered a place on the course, a principal instrument will be assigned to your name, which will remain consistent throughout your studies.

I am a vocalist who accompanies myself on another instrument. Is this allowed?

Yes, you are welcome to accompany yourself on another instrument during your audition.

What are the models of the guitar and bass amplifiers provided?

You will be using a Black Star ID Core 100 or, in some instances, an Orange Crush Pro 60 for guitar amplifiers. Bass players will use an Orange Crush 100 bass amplifier.

I can't find a guitarless/drumless/bassless version of the track I am looking to perform. Is it ok to use the original track?

No, please provide a backing track that does not have the part you are going to perform on it. There are apps available to remove parts such as Moises, or you could purchase a track

from [www.karaoke-version.co.uk,](www.karaoke-version.co.uk) where you can mute the instrument you would be performing on.