



University of Ottawa

Ottawa, Ontario

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Overview

Ways to Study

[Undergraduate music programs](#) are offered through the School of Music, and represent a variety of disciplines and interests, including performance, arts administration, education and piano pedagogy. There are a breadth of [performance opportunities](#), both solo and in ensembles.

Please use this link to read more about the [School of Music](#) at the University of Ottawa, and check out the [Music Students' Association](#)!



Location, Location, Location

The School of Music is located in uOttawa's downtown campus, in Pérez Hall. This building is home to the School of Music's concert hall, its music library and practice rooms. The campus is within a quick walking distance to Byward Market and the Rideau Centre, and provides easy access to many other Ottawa staples.

Life on Campus

Students at uOttawa can access a variety of [recreational athletic activities](#) and amenities, as well as participate in [clubs](#) exploring a variety of interests. This includes groups for fans of [electronic music](#), an [a capella club](#) and community groups including a [volunteer piano program](#) and the [Music Students' Association](#).

Programs

Bachelor of Music

Students entering the auditioned [Bachelor of Music \(BMus\)](#) take a [core set of practical and academic courses](#) for the first two years, specializing more in upper years through a specific degree profile. All programs require study of a primary instrument and participation in ensembles. Students take core theory, history and skills courses, as well as electives in both music and other subjects. All students take a workshop course on essay writing, as well as at least one course in French (students who pass a proficiency test or a music course offered in French are exempt). Each sector also has its own program requirements that differ between [instruments](#) and profiles, usually relating to lessons or ensemble courses (scroll down on each linked profile page's program requirements for instrument requirements).

Profiles

- [Arts Administration](#)
 - This profile prepares students to work on the administrative side of arts and music. Courses cover both organizational practice in the arts and culture industries, and specific areas of focus such as theatre and contemporary art. Students additionally receive a practicum in a professional setting.
- [Composition](#)
 - Students in this profile take courses in compositional techniques, orchestration and advanced studies in music theory. There are regular opportunities for student works to be performed in concert, and access to electronic music equipment.
- [General](#)
 - This profile is the most flexible, with requirements in theory and Canadian music, rounded out with music electives of the student's choice, letting them customize their program around their interests!
- [Music Education](#)
 - Students receive instruction on teaching practice, conducting and techniques on teaching a variety of instruments. This profile also offers courses on wellness, pedagogy and psychology as part of their requirements.
- Musicology/Theory (Note: Website link is broken on their page.)
 - Emphasizing academic study, students are able to focus their interests in either musicology or theory. Students have the option to conduct a research project with help from a faculty member in fourth year.

- [Performance](#)
 - Students who successfully audition into the performance profile continue with advanced lessons, conduct recitals in their upper years, perform in ensembles and may participate in chamber music. The other aspects of this degree are flexible, though have some requirements for theory and other academic courses.
- [Piano Pedagogy](#)
 - Available only to piano students, this profile prepares students for teaching piano, with a focus on approaches to piano teaching and broader music education courses. It features a practicum in which students teach under supervision, and provides opportunities to conduct an original research project.

BMus/Honours Bachelor of Science with Major

In this 5-year [double degree program](#), students interested in both music and the sciences are able to take a [joint degree program](#) in which students receive both a BMus and a Bachelor of Science (BSc). This program requires an audition and the meeting of admission requirements for both the BMus and BSc. Students can major in Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geology, Mathematics, Physics or Statistics. They enter a music degree profile at the end of third year, rather than second, to allow space in their schedule for the BSc requirements.

Bachelor of Arts (Music)

A [non-auditioned Bachelor of Arts](#) (BA) in music, students study music as an art form, with a [flexible course schedule](#) that features skills courses, core history and theory courses, and room for electives. There is additional focus on the study of the arts, and the program does not feature private instruction or ensemble opportunities. [These are the credit requirements](#) to get a major in a BA.

Major in Music Studies

This [major](#) in the BA program allows for a similar broad-scale study of music, though provides opportunities for the study of a primary and/or secondary instrument, as well as participation in an ensemble. Taking these [courses](#) requires an audition. Students may undertake a guided research project or practicum in administrative settings in upper years, or focus on music education.

Music Minor

[Students in other degree](#) programs take a [smaller selection of courses](#) outlined by the university, including community singing, music education and criticism courses.

Admissions Requirements

Course Requirements

BMus and BA courses require [6 approved 4U and/or M level courses](#) including an English or Français 4U course, depending on your primary language, for admission. The minimum average for all these programs is in the mid 70s.

BMus/BSc Double Degree

Students applying to this program are expected to have a minimum average in the low 80s. As part of their top 6 courses, and in addition to English or Français 4U, they must take the prerequisites for their chosen science major. All BSc programs have Advanced Functions and Calculus and Vectors 4U as a prerequisite. Two 4U courses from Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Earth and Space Science are also required. A strong background in biology, chemistry and physics is recommended.

Audition

Entrance to the BMus program in the School of Music requires an audition, as will the BA major in Music Studies if you choose to take lesson courses. All auditions will be followed by an interview with a faculty member to get to know you and for you to ask questions about studying at the University of Ottawa. The audition fee is **\$50**.

Audition Requirements

Bachelor of Music Audition Requirements

Audition requirements differ between each instrument ([brass and winds](#), [guitar](#), [percussion](#), [piano](#), [strings \[including harp\]](#) and [voice](#)). Often requirements are outlined to be around RCM Grade 8 level of repertoire and technique, and will feature sight reading. Piano students are expected to audition at Grade 9 level. *Note that those applying to the BMus/BSc are expected to demonstrate an “exceptional” level of ability, as determined by the audition panel, for admission. This is likely to demonstrate a capacity to succeed whilst enrolled in two degrees.*

Audition Form

After you apply, you will need to fill out information through the school's [Audition Form](#). This includes your contact information, the instrument(s) you will audition on and your musical background, contact information for two references and which program you are applying to.

Thank you for reading this guide! Check out our [other guides](#) for more information on post-secondary programs and schools!

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