



In-person Audition and Interview Guidelines

BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance (Drums)

This guide will help you prepare for your in-person Audition or Interview. It is important that you read each section to give yourself the best chance of obtaining a recommendation for the course.

Please also refer to our handy checklist to ensure nothing is missed and you are best prepared.

BIMM Institute - Core Values

We here at BIMM Institute believe in empowering our students, and encouraging creativity regardless of Gender, Race, Religion, Age or Disability.

We are a community of creatives with a passion for Music, so what does it take to be part of BIMM Institute?

As a BIMM Institute student you will be creative, collaborative, innovative, professional and continue to push the boundaries of the Music Industry.

What to expect

Auditions and interviews are one to one with a BIMM Institute Assessor and will last up to 1 hour.

During your audition or interview you will have the opportunity to ask questions about the course, demonstrate your skill set and experience, discuss all aspects of the industry and why this course and area of the music industry excites you. Your assessor will also explore with you what you hope to gain from your studies and discuss your aspirations.

Your Prepared Performance

You must prepare a performance in advance of your appointment. It should be around 3-minutes long and can be an original piece or a cover. Please be sure you select a song that:

- You feel comfortable with
- Demonstrates your technical ability
- Represents you as a performer

Performance to a suitable backing track is preferred. Please ensure this is set up in advance and able to be played from a suitable device. The backing track must be a “drum-less” version but may include a click track.

We will provide you with a drum kit and breakables to use in your audition. Please bring your own sticks with you. If you are intending to use any additional equipment i.e. double kick pedal, sampling pads etc. then please consider the set-up time involved. Remember, you only have an hour with your assessor.

Styles Knowledge Performance

You will be asked to demonstrate your stylistic knowledge across genres. These should be different styles to your prepared piece and do not require a backing track. You can choose which styles you play but try to showcase a different aspect of your playing.

Examples include (but not limited to): ROCK, POP, BLUES, PUNK, FUNK, SOUL, METAL, REGGAE, LATIN, JAZZ and DRUM & BASS.

You must pick from TWO of the above examples playing each at any preferred tempo for approximately 16 bars each.

*****more information on next page*****

Instrument Skills - Technique

Your assessor will ask you to demonstrate the following exercises below. We recommend you become familiar with:

- Single stroke roll (16th notes/semiquavers) - 100-160 bpm (assessor discretion)
- Double stroke roll (16th notes/semiquavers) - 100-140 bpm (assessor discretion)
- Paradiddle (16th notes/semiquavers) - 100-140 bpm (assessor discretion)
- Straight pop groove with metronome at 100bpm OR shuffle groove with metronome at 80bpm

You may also be asked to demonstrate the following:

- Paradiddle-diddle - (assessor discretion)
- Five-stroke roll - (assessor discretion)
- A groove demonstrating use of 4-way coordination (any preferred tempo)

These are not integral to the overall recommendation; however, they can strengthen your audition.

Please note regarding your theory & sight reading

You will be asked to work through some sight reading and music theory-based exercises in order to gauge your musical knowledge and aptitude.

THEORY - You will be asked to demonstrate your understanding/level of music theory knowledge. If appropriate, you will be asked some questions on time signatures and intervals.

SIGHT READING - You will be asked to demonstrate your understanding/level of notation reading. If appropriate, you will work through a short sight-reading piece with the assessor.

It is important to note that successful completion of your audition **does not** rely on these elements. We look at all aspects presented by applicants when deciding on making the appropriate course recommendation.