



In-person Audition Guidelines

BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance (Keys) & Music Production

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/interviews are one to one with a BIMM Institute Assessor and will last 1 hour. This is your opportunity to tell us about you and show your skill set for the course of interest. There are three parts to your joint honours audition:

1. Performance Audition – Keys
2. Theory & Sight Reading – assessor discretion/optional (please see notes in this section)
3. Music Production Portfolio Submission

During your audition you will have the opportunity to ask questions about the course, provide details on your musical background such as recording/performance experience, and discuss genres you have a keen interest in. Your assessor will also explore with you what you hope to gain from your studies and discuss your musical aspirations.

Please note that this will be split across two auditions/interviews; one for Keys and one for Music Production. The BIMM Admissions team can discuss this with you.

1. Performance Audition - Keys

You must prepare a song to perform. 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

You can perform your song solo or to a backing track. If you wish to perform with a backing track, please bring this with you along with any other effects that you require.

We will have a keyboard for you to use for your audition. You are welcome to bring your own but just bear in mind that this will take up time in your audition. If you are planning to use any pedals, please make sure you bring any extra leads you will require and an English power supply or a travel adapter if they are not battery powered.

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 – Techniques & Theory

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

- Major and minor scales
- Major, minor, major 7th, minor 7th, dominant 7th chords
- Create a keyboard part for the following chord sequence, varying the part with each repeat (using different chord voicing and/or melodic lines)



If these exercises are demonstrated successfully, your assessor may request some additional examples, such as:

- Diminished, half-diminished and 9th chords
- Modal scales
- Harmonic and melodic minor

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

2. 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.

3. Music Production Portfolio Submission

You must submit two example of your Music Production work please be sure that:

- Your track is at least 3 minutes long
- You have programmed and mixed the track yourself
- Any recorded elements have been managed by you (studio collaborations are permitted)

You do not necessarily have to have played any of the instruments recorded however, you will be expected to discuss your demos in depth with the assessor such as mixing and producing techniques. Your demos will be marked on:

- Quality of sequenced material
- Ability to explain your work
- Quality of recorded material (if applicable)
- Quality of mix and arrangement

In support of your production work, please submit screen-shots showing applicable aspects of your work-flow via the Supporting Material form on page 2 of these guidelines - for ease of upload a sharing a weblink we recommend using the image file sharing website [imgur](https://imgur.com/). This could include chain signals, arrangement views, mixing, programming, synthesis, audio recording etc.

Your inspiration production submission

The assessor will want to discuss with you what production styles and techniques you find interesting and inspiring so, for this reason please include a link of one of your favourite productions on the submission form. This could be a production with a music element that you really like, a track where you feel that mixing or programming is interesting or simply just really good!

This piece can be a song, or music from a game or film – there are no limitations but please be aware this piece should be the work of an established artist or industry professional and not your own. You may also provide a track where you have questions on the production but please be prepared to discuss your own view on why you find the track's production or technique interesting.

Submitting your Supporting Material - Production Portfolio

To submit your supporting audio, video or image material, please upload to one of the following sites:

- Soundcloud
- Spotify
- YouTube
- Vimeo
- Imgur

When your material has been uploaded, please include a link to each audio/video/image in the below form. You need to complete this by the deadline given to you. Late submissions may not be considered. We cannot download your demos, please do NOT send us links to WeTransfer or email attachments. Please use the submission form below only.

Please use the submission form below only. Your supporting material can also be brought in a suitable audio format on a USB stick. If supporting material is on your phone, please ensure your device has a standard headphone jack or a lead connector. You are welcome to bring DAW project files but only if you bring them on your own laptop. Screen shots showing applicable aspects of your work-flow such as mixing, programming, synthesis, audio recording etc. must be readily available in a folder on the same USB stick with your portfolio. We will not view pictures on social media.

Your Links - Production Portfolio

You MUST complete the form below. This is where you can provide information and links ready for your audition or interview. Once this has been filled in please double check that the links work. You will then need to save and name the document in capital letters with your full name followed by the word 'PORTFOLIO' E.g. JAMESSMITHPORTFOLIO
Please return this via email only to admissions@bimm.ac.uk.

FULL NAME

Name of production piece #1

Link to production piece # 1:

Name of production piece #2:

Link to production piece # 2:

File name of work-flow images:

Link to images:

Name of production that inspires you:

Link to inspiration piece: