



In-person Audition and Interview Guidelines

BA (Hons) Songwriting and 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 six parts to your joint honours audition:

1. Performance Audition - Songwriting
2. Theory & Sight Reading – (assessor discretion/optional please see notes in this section)
3. Your Songwriting demo
4. Your Music Production demo / inspired production
5. Submitting your Supporting Material - Production and Songwriting Portfolio
6. Music Production & Songwriting portfolio submission form

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.

1. Performance Audition - Songwriting:

You must prepare an original song to perform live. The song must be different from the song you submitted as your recorded demo. The course is both theoretical and practical therefore within the audition your assessor will be looking for both a satisfactory level of songwriting proficiency and performance ability or aptitude. In terms of musical accompaniment, applicants are welcome to use either a live instrument or a backing track. If using a backing track this must differ to what you provide as your demo submission (see below).

Please ensure you have ready:

- Your own instrument of choice. We will have amps and leads for you to use for your audition as well as a keyboard if needed. 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.
- If using a backing track, please ensure it is your own original composition/production and you were involved in the production process. This must be on a suitable device with a standard headphone jack or lead connector.
- Lyric sheets, notebooks or workbooks (if applicable to share via the chat function).
- Anything else that supports your creative process.

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

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. Your Songwriting Demo:

We also require you to submit in advance a multi-track demo recording of a fully realized song. Your demo:

- Does not have to be mastered.
- Should have at least two tracks on the demo creating the whole song.
- Should be different to the song you will perform live in the audition.

A multi-track recording can constitute as a 'live' demo recorded in a studio arranged by the candidate OR a D.A.W. home demo that clearly shows arrangement and programming skills.

4. Your Music Production demo / inspired production

You must submit one 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, we strongly recommend submitting screenshots 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. This could include chain signals, arrangement views, mixing, programming, synthesis, audio recording etc.

Your Inspirational Production Piece

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.

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

5. Submitting your Supporting Material - Production & Songwriting 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.

6. Music Production & Songwriting portfolio submission form

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 Songwriting Demo

Link to Songwriting Demo

Name of Production Demo:

Link to Production Demo:

File name of work-flow images:

Link to images:

Name of production piece that inspires you:

Link to production piece that inspires you: