

## ABRSM qualifications and university study – UK and international

We've made every effort to ensure that the information in this guide is correct. However, please check the relevant university website for the most up-to-date information.

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### UK undergraduate courses in Music that accept ABRSM qualifications with or in place of A level music (2025)

University	Course	Qualification
Bangor University	BMus (Hons) Music	Music A level grade B, or ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory or Grade 7 practical
Durham University	BA (Hons) Music	Music A level or ABRSM Grade 6 Music Theory
Kings College London	BMus (Hons) Music	Music A level or ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory
Newcastle University	BA (Hons) Music BA (Hons) Contemporary and Popular Music	Music A level with ABRSM Grade 8 Performance (BBB offer) or ABRSM Grade 8 performance (ABB offer)
Queen's University, Belfast	BMus (Hons) Music	Music A level or an offer of BBB with Grade 6 Practical and Grade 5 Theory
University of Birmingham	BMus (Hons) Music	Music A level or ABRSM Grade 6 Music Theory or Grade 8 performance
University of Bristol	BA (Hons) Music	Music A level or Grade 6 Practical, Performance or

Music Theory with AAB in other A levels

University of Cambridge	BA (Hons) Music	Music A level and/or ABRSM Grade 8 Music Theory Merit or above
University of Leeds	BMus (Hons) Music	A level Music or ABRSM Practical Grade 8 Distinction
University of Liverpool	BA (Hons) Music	A level Music or ABRSM Grade 8 Music Theory
University of Manchester	BA (Hons) Music	Music A level or ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory
University of Nottingham	BA (Hons) Music BA (Hons) Music and Music Technology	Music/Music Technology A level or ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory
University of Oxford	BA (Hons) Music	Music A level grade A or ABRSM Grade 7 Music Theory or above
University of Sheffield	BMus (Hons) Music	Music A level or ABRSM practical/performance and Grade 5 Music Theory
University of Southampton	BA (Hons) Music	A level Music or ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory
University of Sussex	BA (Hons) Music BA (Hons) Music Technology	A level Music/Music Technology grade B or ABRSM Grade 7 Music Theory or practical
University of York	BA (Hons) Music	Music A level or ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory and Grade 8 performance

## UK undergraduate courses in Music where ABRSM qualifications are mandatory or recommended

University	Course	Qualification
Abbey Road Institute	Advanced Diploma in Music Production and Sound Engineering	ABRSM Grade 1 Music Theory preferred
Kings College London	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 8 needed to enroll on performance modules and access individual tuition at the Royal Academy of Music
Leeds Arts University	BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance	ABRSM Grade 8 standard in practical study and ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory standard required
Leeds Beckett University	BA (Hons) Music Production and Performance	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory required
Leeds Conservatoire	BA (Hons) Classical Music BA (Hons) Popular Music BA (Hons) Jazz	ABRSM Grade 8 the expected standard for singers and instrumentalists. ABRSM Grade 6 the expected standard for songwriters and composers.
Liverpool Hope University	BA (Hons) Music Production BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Theory recommended
London Performing Academy of Music	BMus (Hons) Music Performance	ABRSM Grade 5 keyboard skills recommended
Middlesex University	BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory recommended
Nottingham Trent University	BA (Hons) Music Performance	ABRSM Grade 5 Practical/Performance
Royal Academy of Music	BMus (Hons)	ABRSM Grade 8 or ARSM performance. ABRSM Grade 5 keyboard standard desirable. Knowledge of ABRSM Grade 6 Music Theory desirable.
Royal Northern College of Music	BA (Hons) Popular Music	Must have a level of theoretical knowledge equivalent to ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory.

	BMus (Hons)	ABRSM Grade 8 standard minimum
Shetland Arts	BA (Hons) Applied Music	ABRSM Grade 7 on first instrument or equivalent with grade 5 theory
St. Hugh's College, University of Oxford	BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 keyboard or above required
The Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts	BA (Hons) Popular, Contemporary and Commercial Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory expected to be achieved before entry
The Open College of the Arts	BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory preferred
University of Aberdeen	BMus (Hons) Music Education	ABRSM Grade 8 standard required to take the mandatory Performance Studies module
University of Chester	BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance	ABRSM Grade 8 preferred
University of Edinburgh	BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 8 required to enroll on Performance 1 module
University of Glasgow	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 8 Merit as a minimum in practical study. ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory standard required
University of the Highlands and the Islands	BA (Hons) Applied Music	ABRSM Grade 7 practical and Grade 5 Music Theory as an additional entry requirement for performers
University of Leeds	BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 7 Distinction/Grade 8 Merit required to study performance
University of Surrey	BMus (Hons) Creative Music Technology BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory recommended

## UK undergraduate scholarships requiring or benchmarking ABRSM qualifications

University	Scholarship	ABRSM qualification
<a href="#">Bangor University</a>	Rosie Skelton Scholarship	ABRSM Grade 7 standard as a minimum. Violinists only
<a href="#">Bournemouth University</a>	Music Scholarship	ABRSM Practical Grade 8 and A level music (C or above) or Grade 8 Music Theory
<a href="#">Brunel, University of London</a>	Music Awards	ABRSM Grade 7 standard as a minimum
<a href="#">Heriot-Watt University</a>	Music Scholarship	ABRSM Grade 8 is the required standard
<a href="#">Homerton College, Cambridge</a>	Accompanist Scholarship	ABRSM Grade 7 Piano minimum
<a href="#">Jesus College, Cambridge</a>	Organ Scholarship	ABRSM Grade 8 standard a minimum
<a href="#">Keble College, Oxford</a>	Music Scholarship	ABRSM Grade 8 minimum
	Choral Scholarship	ABRSM Grade 8 standard
<a href="#">Imperial College</a>	Ash Music Scholarship	ABRSM Grade 8 Distinction
<a href="#">Magdalen College, Oxford</a>	Organ Scholarship	ABRSM Grade 8 standard a minimum
<a href="#">New College, Oxford</a>	Instrumental Award	ABRSM grade 8 standard as a minimum
<a href="#">Oriental College, Oxford</a>	Organ Scholarship	ABRSM Grade 8 standard as a minimum
<a href="#">Royal Holloway, University of London</a>	Instrumental Scholarship	ABRSM Grade 8 Distinction/Merit standard minimum
<a href="#">University of Aberdeen</a>	Derek Ogston and Margaret Carlaw Music Scholarship	ABRSM Grade 8 standard

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<a href="#">University of Bristol</a>	Vice Chancellor's Music Scholarship	ABRSM Grade 8 minimum
<a href="#">University of St Andrews</a>	Instrumental Scholarship	ABRSM Grade 8 standard as a minimum
<a href="#">University of Warwick</a>	Music Scholarship	ABRSM Grade 7/8 minimum level of attainment

**UK universities that accept ABRSM grade 6 – 8 (RQF L3) in their UCAS tariff points offer towards an undergraduate degree**

University	Teaching Excellence Framework Rating	Caveats
<a href="#">Anglia Ruskin University</a>		Some courses may have specific stipulations
<a href="#">De Montfort University</a>		n/a
<a href="#">Falmouth University</a>		n/a
<a href="#">Liverpool Hope University</a>		n/a
<a href="#">Norwich University of the Arts</a>		n/a
<a href="#">Nottingham Trent University</a>		Must have 2 A level equivalent qualifications in addition

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[Solent University](#)



UCAS points must be taken from the highest grade achieved only.

[Teesside University](#)



Can be used towards any UCAS tariff requirements. Some courses may have specific subject requirements that also need to be met

[University for the Creative Arts](#)



n/a

[University of Chester](#)



8 UCAS points in total, in addition to 3 A levels

[University of Gloucestershire](#)



n/a

[University of Greenwich](#)



n/a

[University of Hull](#)



n/a

[University of Lincoln](#)



n/a

[University of Plymouth](#)



Accepted towards the UCAS tariff offer for the majority of undergraduate degrees

[University of Sunderland](#)



Some more specialised degrees may look for qualifications more specific to the degree subject

[University of West London](#)



n/a

[University of Westminster](#)



n/a

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[UWE Bristol](#)



n/a

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[University of Winchester](#)



Maximum of 32 points per applicant

## UK universities that accept ABRSM grades 6-8 in their UCAS tariff points offer for an undergraduate music degree

University	Degree(s)	Points required
<a href="#">University of Hertfordshire</a>	BSc (Hons) Music Composition and Sound for Film and Games	112-120
	BSc (Hons) Songwriting and Artist Development	
	BSc (Hons) Music Production and Promotion	
	BSc (Hons) Audio Engineering	
	BSc (Hons) Live Sound, Lighting and Performance Technology	
<a href="#">University of Huddersfield</a>	BMus (Hons) Music	104-120
	BMus (Hons) Music Performance	
	BMus (Hons) Popular Music	
	BMus (Hons) Music Technology and Composition	
	BA (Hons) Music and Sound for Screen	
<a href="#">University of Salford</a>	BA (Hons) Creative Music Production	
	BA (Hons) Creative Music Technology	120
	BA (Hons) Popular Music and Recording	

## UK Credit Transfer

University	Recognition
<a href="#">The Open University</a>	Level 4, 5 and 7 qualifications may be considered for credit transfer
<a href="#">University of Chichester</a>	ABRSM FRSM in any discipline transfers 60 credits onto either the MA in Music Education or the MA in Music Performance

## International universities where ABRSM qualifications are mandatory, recommended or gain credit

University	Degree	ABRSM qualification
<a href="#">University of New South Wales</a> Australia		ABRSM Grade 8 Distinction gains 1 ATAR point. ABRSM ARSM Performance gains 3 ATAR points. ABRSM LRSM Performance gains 5 ATAR points.
<a href="#">Asia Pacific International University transferring to Avondale University</a> Australia	Bachelor of Arts Music Major	ABRSM Grade 5 Theory required for admission onto the Avondale Program for the final 5 semesters of the degree (first 2 years to be completed at Asia Pacific)
<a href="#">University of the Bahamas</a> The Bahamas	BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory or GCSE grade B.
<a href="#">Barbados Community College</a> Barbados	Associates Degree in Music	Written test and audition at the standard of ABRSM Grade 5
<a href="#">The University of West Indies</a> Barbados	BA (Hons) Music with Education	ABRSM Grade 7 pass
<a href="#">Brock University</a> Canada	BA (Hons) Music BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory accepted in place of Theory Placement test.

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<a href="#">Burman University</a> Canada	BA (Hons) Music BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM grades indicate audition levels by instrument.
<a href="#">Memorial University of Newfoundland</a> Canada	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory gains exemption from the Theory Assessment
<a href="#">University of Alberta</a> Canada	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM standard required varies between Grades 6-8 depending on choice of instrumental study. Check website for specifics.
<a href="#">University of Calgary</a> Canada	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory satisfies the theory entrance exam requirement.
<a href="#">University of Toronto</a> Canada	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory meets the entrance theory prerequisite requirement for all classical programs
<a href="#">University of Waterloo</a> Canada	BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 7 equivalent standard required.
<a href="#">The American University in Cairo</a> Egypt	BMA in Music Performance	Scholarships and fee reductions for ABRSM certificate holders. Contact the music department for more information.
<a href="#">Hong Kong Baptist University</a> Hong Kong - SAR of China	BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 8 Practical/Performance and Grade 5 Music Theory required
<a href="#">The Chinese University of Hong Kong</a> Hong Kong - SAR of China	BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 8 standard as a minimum.
<a href="#">The Education University of Hong Kong</a> Hong Kong - SAR of China	BMus (Hons) Music Education	ABRSM Grade 8 exam is listed as a scholarship requirement. ARSM and LRSM candidates 'looked upon favorably'.
<a href="#">Kabarak University</a> Kenya	BMus (Hons) Theory and Composition	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory and/or Practical as a minimum.
<a href="#">Technical University of Kenya</a> Kenya	Diploma in Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory and/or Practical
<a href="#">University of Macao</a> Macau - SAR of China	All courses	ABRSM certificate holders of Grade 5 and above gain access to the Preferential Admission Scheme.
<a href="#">School of the Arts, Universiti Sains Malaysia</a> Malaysia	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory required.

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<a href="#">University of Malaya</a> Malaysia	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory required as a minimum
<a href="#">University of Putra Malaysia</a> Malaysia	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory required.
<a href="#">University of Mauritius</a> Mauritius	BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 8 Practical standard required
<a href="#">Utrecht University - University College Roosevelt</a> Netherlands	Music Performance Track	ABRSM Grade 8 standard minimum required for admission to the Music Performance track.
<a href="#">University of Auckland</a> New Zealand	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM exams can satisfy entry requirements – contact the music department for more information
<a href="#">Victoria University of Wellington</a> New Zealand	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory required as a prerequisite for entry onto MUSC166 module
<a href="#">University of Otago</a> New Zealand	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 8 standard required for entry onto MUSI141 Performance 1 Paper
<a href="#">University of Waikato</a> New Zealand	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory accepted as an alternative entry requirement.
<a href="#">Mountain Top University</a> Nigeria	BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Practical required as a minimum
<a href="#">University of Ibadan</a> Nigeria	BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 6 Practical required
<a href="#">Maynooth University</a> Republic of Ireland	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 6 Practical standard required as a minimum
<a href="#">Royal Irish Academy of Music</a> Republic of Ireland	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 8 Practical equivalent standard required
<a href="#">University College Dublin</a> Republic of Ireland	BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory advised if no access to Leaving Certificate in Music grade H4
<a href="#">Aureus Conservatory</a> Singapore	Professional Certificate in Music Education  Diploma in Music (2 years)  Professional Certificate in Piano Pedagogy  Certificate in Keyboard	At least ABRSM Grade 8 Practical and ABRSM Grade 5 Theory or equivalent

## Studies

<a href="#">Singapore Bible College</a> Singapore	Master of Church Music in Ministry Leadership	ABRSM Grade 8 pieces or similar standard recital recording
	Master of Church Music in Choral Conducting	ABRSM Grade 8 pieces or higher (or similar) standard recital recording
	Master of Church Music in Composition	ABRSM Grade 5 pieces (or similar) recital recording
<a href="#">University of Pretoria</a> South Africa	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Practical Grade 7 and Grade 5 Music Theory standard required.
<a href="#">University of South Africa</a> South Africa	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 6 Music Theory entry requirement
<a href="#">University of Witwatersrand</a> South Africa	MMus Master of Music	LRSM Performance standard required
<a href="#">University of the Southern Caribbean</a> Trinidad and Tobago	BA (Hons) Music	ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory and ABRSM Grade 2 Practical required
<a href="#">American River College</a> USA	A.A. in Music A.A.-T. in Music	ABRSM Grade 7 or Grade 8 in Music Performance or Practical Music – one semester each of applied credit.  ABRSM Grade 7 Music theory gains credit for Basic Musicianship (Music Fundamentals) – part of the general elective sequence.
<a href="#">Andrews University</a> USA	BMus (Hons) Music	ABRSM grades 6, 7 and 8 Music Theory exams earn either 4, 8 or 12 music equivalency credits respectively.  ABRSM grades 1 – 4 exams in piano performance meet piano proficiency requirements for non-keyboard majors. Check the <a href="#">website</a> for specific details.
<a href="#">Berklee Online</a> USA	BMus (Hons) Music Performance	ABRSM Grade 6 – 8 qualifications evaluated for undergraduate level credit

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<a href="#">Florida Gulf Coast University</a> USA	General Elective or Music Equivalency credit	ABRSM Grade 8 Practical/Performance or ABRSM ARSM in Performance may gain credits. Contact FGCU for more information.
<a href="#">Harvard Extension School</a> USA	Bachelor of Liberal Arts Transfer Credit	ARSM/LRSM in Music Performance transfer 8 studio arts credits.
<a href="#">Indiana University Bloomington</a> USA	MUS-S 140 MUS-UN 100 MUS-P 100 MUS-UN 100 MUS-UN 100 MUS-UN 100 MUS-UN 100	ABRSM Double Bass Grade 8 earns 6 credits ABRSM Flute Grade 8 earns 6 credits ABRSM Piano Grade 8 earns 6 credits ABRSM Theory Grade 8 earns 6 credits ABRSM Cello Grade 8 earns 6 credits ABRSM Violin Grade 8 earns 6 credits ABRSM Singing Grade 8 earns 6 credits
<a href="#">James Madison University</a> USA	MUS 141	ABRSM Grade 6 Music Theory gains 3 credit hours
<a href="#">Liberty University</a> USA	Graduate Transfer Credit	FRSM qualifications may transfer for Masters Eplus credit - enquire upon application
<a href="#">Ohio State University</a> USA	Graduate Transfer credit	FRSM qualifications may transfer up to 6 transfer credits upon acceptance onto a Music Masters course.
<a href="#">Rider University</a> (Westminster Choir College) USA	Graduate Transfer credit Undergraduate elective credit	FRSM diplomas transfer 6 credits to any listed Masters degrees. ABRSM Grade 8 Practical or Performance earns up to 3 credit hours.
<a href="#">Southern Utah University</a> USA	Music elective credit	ABRSM Grade 8 exams may be eligible for credit upon satisfactory completion of audition - contact the music department directly.
<a href="#">The New School</a> USA	Elective credit	ABRSM Grade 6 - 8 qualifications and above receive 8 credit hours

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<a href="#">The University of Alabama at Birmingham</a> USA	Elective credit	ABRSM Grade 8 Practical and Music Theory up to 3 credit hours. ARSM Performance diploma up to 3 credit hours
<a href="#">University of Central Arkansas</a> USA	Elective credit	ABRSM Grade 8 Practical may be eligible for up to 3 credit hours (evaluated on a case-by-case basis)
<a href="#">University of Kansas</a> USA	Music credit	ABRSM Grade 8 Music Theory earns 3 credit hours ABRSM Grade 8 Practical Piano earns 3 credit hours
<a href="#">University of La Verne</a> USA	Elective credit	ABRSM Grade 8 and ABRSM ARSM may be eligible for 3 credit hours
<a href="#">University of Michigan</a> USA	Elective credit	ABRSM Grade 8 Practical in any instrument or Grade 8 Music Theory earns up to 3 credit hours
<a href="#">University of Nevada - Reno</a> USA	Elective credit	ABRSM ARSM in Practical/Performance may be eligible for transfer credit
<a href="#">University of Southern California</a> USA	Elective credit	ABRSM Grade 8 Practical/Performance or ARSM in Music Performance may be eligible for elective credit
<a href="#">University of Utah</a> USA	Music elective credit	ABRSM Grade 8 exams may be eligible for credit upon satisfactory completion of audition - contact the music department directly
<a href="#">Utah State University</a> USA	Music elective credit	ABRSM Grade 8 exams may be eligible for credit upon satisfactory completion of audition - contact the music department directly
<a href="#">Utah Tech University</a> USA	Music elective credit	ABRSM Grade 8 exams may be eligible for credit upon satisfactory completion of audition - contact the music department directly
<a href="#">Utah Valley University</a> USA	Music elective credit	ABRSM Grade 8 exams may be eligible for credit upon satisfactory completion of audition - contact the music department directly

# ABRSM

[Washington State University](#)  
USA

Music elective credit

ABRSM Grade 8  
Practical/Performance in any instrument and ARSM  
Performance Diploma up to 3 credit hours for MUS 1XX (ARTS)

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[Weber State University](#)  
USA

Music elective credit

ABRSM Grade 8 exams may be eligible for credit upon satisfactory completion of audition - contact the music department directly.

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[Wesleyan College](#)  
USA

Admission requirements

LRSM in Music Performance can serve as a pathway for entry onto the graduate music program. FRSM in Music Performance holders can transfer up to 6 credits onto the graduate music program

Transfer credit