

PGCE in Music with Specialist Instrumental Teaching Guidance for Wind, Brass and Strings Applicants

Your RNCM audition consists of the following components:

Performance

Perform two contrasting pieces of your own choice of post Grade 8 standard on your first instrument lasting no more than 5 minutes each. Playing from memory is optional, but encouraged where possible, since this often enhances performance.

Creative Task

Either:

Take a particular musical concept (e.g. subdivisions of the beat, dynamic contrast, rests) as your starting point. Compose or choose a piece of music lasting about half a minute to illustrate it. Devise a series of activities suitable for introducing it in a group lesson with 3 students of about grade 1 standard.

Or:

Choose or compose / improvise a simple piece roughly 16 – 32 bars in length. Show how you would develop a series of activities for a group of 4 students who have been learning for about two years, focussing on the development of ensemble skills.

Please allow 5 minutes for this activity. A piano and CD player will be available. If any of the activities require resources (such as rhythm cards, picture stimuli, pre-recorded accompaniments), including original ones created by you, please bring these with you to the audition. You are strongly encouraged to explore work both on and away from the instrument, including vocal and movement work.

Vocal Task

Sing a short unaccompanied song of your choice. At an early stage in the course you will be required to use your voice in a classroom situation. The purpose of this task, therefore, is to allow you to demonstrate vocal confidence rather than for us to assess evidence of prior training and / or experience.

Interview and discussion with the audition panel

This is a chance for you to put forward your reasons for wanting to join the course, your experience with young people to date, and your knowledge of the issues surrounding instrumental teaching in the UK. The panel will ask questions based on your application form, your creative task, and anything which arises during the interview itself. At the end there will be an opportunity for you to ask any further questions you may have about the course.

General notes

Throughout the audition you should demonstrate your own musicianship and high level of technical competence on your first instrument. The repertoire you choose should allow you to do this. The audition panel is seeking to select candidates who are creative and imaginative musicians with excellent communication skills.