

# Student Awards

## Scholarships and bursaries

*'Music is the greatest thing to happen to me. As someone from a modest background in Oldham, knowing there are people who give musicians like me the chance to grow and take off into the world, is humbling. My time at the RNCM has shaped me not just as a musician, but as a human being. None of it would have been possible without my scholarship.'*

*Ellis Howarth, BMus student*



# The Royal Northern College of Music

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Based in Manchester, the RNCM is an international conservatoire which trains outstanding young musicians to the highest professional level.

We are extremely proud to have received the highest Gold status in the most recent Teaching Excellence Framework, and we are the UK's leading conservatoire for research.

Each year, the RNCM welcomes over 900 students from 60 different countries who go on to shape influential careers in music performance, education and research. Our alumni are among the most eminent in the music profession - RNCM graduates make up 47% of the North West's orchestras and 18% of professional orchestra members in the UK and Ireland.

We are committed to ensuring every young person who comes to the RNCM has the opportunity to create an incredible future, inspired by music, and is fully and flexibly supported during their time at the College. We are dedicated to providing innovative, inspiring training and supporting the health and wellbeing of our students at this crucial time in their lives.



## Named Awards at the RNCM

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Financial support is the most important way that the RNCM can support outstanding musical talent, enabling young musicians to achieve their potential, forge sustainable careers and shape a thriving live music industry. Named Awards are allocated to an outstanding student and/or one who is facing the immense financial burden of music training. They are essential in attracting and retaining excellent musicians who train to the highest standard to then enter the classical, pop and wider music industry.

Many students find it extremely difficult to meet the costs of their study, which puts them under considerable stress. For some, these costs prove beyond them, meaning they are unable to raise sufficient funds and have no alternative but to turn down their place or leave their training part-way through. We are seeing these financial pressures impacting students more than ever, as they face the soaring cost of living. Financial support remains crucial for many and is a critical factor in making their studies, and future career, achievable.

Each year, the RNCM distributes around £1.2m in student support through Named Awards, provided by donations from individuals, charitable trusts, legacy gifts and funds from our Student Awards Fund to ensure musical talent is not held back by financial need. However, even this significant sum does not come close to meeting genuine need.

We have considerably less funds available for financial support than London conservatoires with more mature endowments and London networks. We therefore continue to prioritise fundraising efforts on student support to enable us to assist our most deserving, talented and needy students and ensure we have a thriving, accessible and diverse community at the College.



# Opportunities for giving

The table below demonstrates the approximate annual fees (without living costs) that music students face. The minimum Award distributed is £5,000 and an annual gift of £10,000 or £20,000 can be used to support a significant proportion of costs for a student. All Awards make a meaningful difference.

Undergraduate student fees BMus (per year, 3-4 years)		Postgraduate students fees, MMus (per year, 1-2 years)	
UK	International	UK	International
£9,250	Up to £26,000	£14,500	Up to £32,000

In addition, the estimated annual living costs in Manchester for 2022/23, including accommodation, food, bills, transport and essential expenses, are £11,055 for undergraduate students and £13,955 for postgraduate students (across 52 weeks).

**Unrestricted Awards** are a powerful and helpful way for the RNCM to ensure that support is given in an area of greatest need at the time it is distributed. This may be for example to encourage applicants for 'endangered instruments' such as the viola, tuba or double bass, where we have very little applicants and are at risk of 'dying out', but are essential for orchestral music. Or they may support students who are in desperate need of a bursary award.

**Restricted Awards** add a preference, for example for Postgraduate student, an Undergraduate Student, or a student of a specific Schools of Study.

**Endowed Awards** are the most significant way to not only support a vast number of music students of the future, but also to ensure the legacy of your gift in perpetuity. All gifts over £100,000 are endowed and invested in a high interest investment portfolio (managed by Waverton Investment in a green and ethical fund). This then generates c5% interest a year and ensures that the Award lives on forever:

- £100,000 - generates one Award valued at £5,000 every year to support one student
- £200,000 - generates £10,000 a year and could support one large or two regular Awards every year



## How it works

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A minimum donation of £5,000 enables you to name an Award for a year - for yourself, your organisation or perhaps in memory of a loved one.

Students are matched to their Awards through the summer by members of the RNCM Student Awards Committee, a cross-College group comprising representatives from the Registry, Student Finance, Development and Performance teams. Students are identified amongst those who meet three key criteria:

- Evidence of musical excellence and potential
- Evidence of challenging financial circumstances
- Evidence of entrepreneurialism

Once the matching process is complete, supported students are introduced to their donors at the beginning of the autumn term. You will receive an introductory letter from your student, as well as a mid-year update and end-of-year report. This process ensures that donors can follow the student's progress, and witness first-hand the transformative impact their support can have on the life of a young musician. Many donors regularly attend performances by their sponsored students and find the experience of following an individual journey extremely rewarding. Other donors wish for less contact – we work with our family of donors in ways that work for them.



# Contact us

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Thank you for considering this proposal.

With your assistance we can continue to support and offer places to the most exciting and talented young musicians based on their ability and passion, not their financial means. We are delighted to present these options for support and look forward to discussing ideas in more detail.

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