BOURNEMOUTH & POOLE COLLEGE MUSIC
STUDIO | LIVE | INDUSTRY

Bournemouth & Poole College

Your Music interview

Please read the information below carefully so you arrive prepared for your interview. If you are unprepared, we may need to reschedule your appointment.

What to expect and prepare

Your interview is a chance to share your interest in music, show us your current skills and discuss what you would like to achieve.

Our courses include the study of **music performance and production**. You may already play an instrument, sing, create music using software, or just be starting out. We will consider your experience and potential when deciding which level is right for you.

What will happen on the day?

You will:

1. Complete a short music-creation task using a **Digital Audio Workstation (DAW)** in our music technology suite.
2. Write a brief personal statement about your interests and goals.
3. Meet individually with a member of the Music team to share your prepared music and discuss the course.

We will provide the software, equipment and instructions for the DAW task. You do not need to own music software or have used our software before. You should bring your own instrument to perform any live music you may have prepared.

What should I prepare?

Please follow the guidance for the level you have applied for.

Level 1

You do not need previous experience of playing an instrument, singing or using music software. Bring your enthusiasm and be ready to try something new.

- **Your music:** If you play an instrument or sing, prepare around **one minute** of a song or a full piece. If you make music using software, bring a short example to play and discuss. If you have no practical experience yet, be ready to talk about a favourite song or artist and why you enjoy their music.
- **DAW task:** You will use supplied loops to build a short musical idea, adjust the volume of tracks and save your work. We will demonstrate what to do and help you throughout.
- **Personal statement:** Write around **75–100 words** about what you enjoy about music, what you want to learn and how the course could help you. Prompts will be available.
- **Your interview:** We will discuss your interests, what you hope to achieve and any support you may need.

Level 2

You should have some experience of performing or making music. This could be from school, learning independently or taking part in musical activities.

- **Your music:** Prepare at least **two minutes** on your first instrument or voice. **If your experience is in production, you can instead bring a short track, beat or recording you have created using a DAW.** Be ready to explain your contribution.
- **DAW task:** You will use supplied sounds to create a short arrangement with a beginning and ending, edit or repeat material, balance track volumes and save your work. Instructions and help will be available.
- **Personal statement:** Write around **100–150 words** about your musical experience, interests, skills you want to develop and future ambitions.
- **Your interview:** We will discuss your prepared music, the DAW task, your strengths and what you would like to improve.

Level 3

You should have existing skills in performance, production or both, and be ready to develop these through practical work and independent learning.

- **Your music:** Prepare at least **one full song** on your first instrument or voice. **If your experience is in production, you can instead bring one or two examples of music you have created or produced.** Be ready to explain your musical choices, how you made the work and what you would improve.
- **DAW task:** You will create a short arrangement using supplied audio, MIDI or loops. You will edit the material, create a basic mix, save the project and export the audio. We will introduce the software and provide help where needed.
- **Personal statement:** Write around **150–200 words** about your experience, strengths, areas for development and how the course supports your future study or career plans.
- **Your interview:** We will discuss your prepared music, creative decisions, approach to the DAW task and progression goals.

Do I need to perform if I only have production experience?

No. You can present and discuss your production work instead. You do not need to be equally experienced in performance and production, but you should be willing to explore both during the course.

If you have experience in both areas, choose the work that best shows your skills.

What should I bring?

- Your instrument, where practical.
- Any backing track you need, ready to play from your phone or another device.
- Production work or recordings as an audio file or accessible link, if applicable.

Recordings do not need to be professionally produced—a clear phone recording is fine. If other people contributed to your work, tell us which parts you performed, created or produced.

Please let the admissions team know beforehand if you need a keyboard, drum kit, amplifier or help playing your music.

Do I need to write my personal statement beforehand?

You will write it during the interview session, but please think about your answers in advance. The word counts are a guide. We want to hear your own ideas and aspirations.

Need support?

Please contact the admissions team before your interview if you need additional time, accessible instructions, support with writing or any other adjustments.

If you cannot bring an instrument or provide a recording, let us know so that we can arrange another way for you to share your musical interests and skills.

There is no need to choose the most difficult piece or create a perfect recording. Choose something that represents you and that you feel comfortable sharing.

We look forward to meeting you!