



South West Music School

Applications FAQ 2022–23

Who can apply?

So long as you are aged 7–16 years (this coming academic year) 13-16 years for Composer / Music Producer programme), live in the South West of England and have a passion and talent for music or composition then you are able to apply.

If you would like to apply for a grant, eligibility for new students is aged 8 to 16. Existing students are also eligible post 16 to 20. Please contact the office if you require more information on this.

We work with students from all walks of life who have a variety of different musical backgrounds. Some students follow the traditional route of working through grades whilst some have never sat a grade and are predominantly self-taught. Similarly, some students specialise in classical music, some in rock and pop, some in jazz and some in reggae etc– whatever your musical interest, we would love to hear from you.

Am I applying for a particular programme?

No, South West Music School will offer each successful applicant a programme place based on the assessors' collective verdict of which programme the applicant is best suited for. However, we are interested to know if you have a passion for composition/music production and or songwriting.

How much does it cost?

Information on our fees can be found on our about us page.

I'm part of a band/ensemble – can we apply as a group?

We accept applications from individuals only. We would encourage all band members to apply as individuals if they are interested in doing so.

What kind of musical reference do I have to submit as part of my application?

A musical reference can be from anyone who knows you musically. That may be a regular music tutor, the Head of Music at your school or college or someone you have worked with on a music project. We are looking for a reference from anyone who can vouch for your commitment, enthusiasm, dedication and talent for music. All references need to come from adults that are not related to the applicant.

What do you mean by 'two contrasting recordings'?

We are looking for the range of talent you can demonstrate from the recordings you submit. Many of our students play more than one instrument, or some play an instrument and also sing. If this is the case for you, we would like to receive a recording for each instrument. We would also like the recordings to differ in style to one another – for example, one jazz piece and one classical piece.

What format should my recordings be sent in?

Ideally, your recordings should be a video recording (eg. mp4) so that we can see you performing. If you can, please start the recording with your name and the title of your piece.

To send via WeTransfer, please navigate to the following webpage: [WeTransfer](#).

The WeTransfer secure file handling system can send several large files within each transfer. However, if your audition clips are very large, you may need to send these individually. Please remember to label each file clearly with your child's full name.

I'm interested in the Composer / Music Producer programme – what happens after I apply?

If you are successful with your application, you will be invited to attend an online interview. Interviews differ to the auditions that instrumentalists attend as there is no performance element.

What happens if I'm successful at audition/interview?

Congratulations! The next step involves your official enrolment to South West Music School. After some paperwork has been completed and at the start of the academic year, you will be invited to attend our **Welcome Afternoon** where we will tell you a little more about the year ahead and introduce you to members of the SWMS team. If you are an Enhanced Foundation, Performance Development, Core or Composer student you may be assigned a mentor and will be given further information on how the mentor/student relationship works at our Welcome Afternoon. If you have questions at any point of the enrolment process, the office team will be on hand to help out. You can find contact details on our homepage.

Can I apply again if I am unsuccessful?

Yes, we very much welcome students to apply again each year if they are unsuccessful with their application or audition. If you are unsuccessful, it may be that we don't feel as though you are yet ready to be part of SWMS, but we recognise a year can make an awful lot of difference to your musical development – so please do re-apply.