Criteria for University music scholarships

There are two types of musical scholarships open to any student studying at the University of Leicester across all under-graduate and post-graduate courses. Scholarships are open to all students including those from outside the UK and are awarded on a one year basis.

Normally there are 10 to 12 scholarships awarded in each category per year of which about half will be awarded to new students. The number of scholarships may fluctuate depending on the funding available and the level of demand. In exceptional circumstances alumni awards may be divided between two successful candidates.

A: Alumni scholarships of £500 per person per year –

Available to cover the cost of lessons with a professional music tutor for any musical instrument including piano, voice, orchestral and non-orchestral musicians and instruments from non-western traditions. In some cases the Alumni grant will be suitable for an orchestral player wanting to do a diploma examination for which a local teacher is required.

Where a student can demonstrate sufficient expertise in two instruments at the auditions, the scholarship may be divided to provide tuition on both instruments.

B: Philharmonia Scholarships of 6 lessons with players from the Philharmonia Orchestra per person per year –

The Philharmonia scholarships provide access to music tuition at the highest possible level with players from the world famous Philharmonia orchestra so is restricted to any orchestral instrument.

In the case of Philharmonia Scholarships, the Music Scholar will be assigned a tutor by the Philharmonia. The Philharmonia will make all necessary introductions and will work with the Philharmonia player and scholar to ensure lessons are taking place. The lessons will mostly take place in Leicester on a day when the Orchestra are in town, which occurs 6 times a year. Occasionally the student will be required to travel to London. Any travel expenses to and from music lessons outside Leicester may be claimed from the University on receipt of proof of travel.

Frequently asked questions

How long does the scholarship last for?

Scholarships are awarded for one year only but scholars can re-apply for further years.
What level / standard do the applicants have to be at the time of application for the scholarship?

Students need to be Grade 8 or equivalent – although the panel will consider applications from highly competent musicians who have not followed a traditional grade pathway.

Where a student may be skilled in two instruments the scholarship may be divided to accommodate lessons in both instruments.

How to apply

Application forms and criteria can be found on the University website.

**New Applicants**

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted to attend an audition where they will be expected to play two pieces of music to demonstrate their range and their ability. Students playing ability will be assessed by a specialist panel including representatives of the Philharmonia Orchestra and the University’s designated music specialists. There will also be a discussion on the candidates’ availability and commitment to take an active role in both their own professional development and in the musical life of the University

Consideration can be given to auditions in more than one instrument per applicant.

**Existing music scholars applying for further years’ scholarship**

Existing scholars’ musical performance and commitment to the scheme are reviewed on an annual basis before further years of the scholarship are awarded. This consists of the designated tutors and the Honorary Director of Student Music providing an annual appraisal of each scholar for consideration by the review panel to inform decisions on further years of scholarship funding

Scholars will be asked to complete a short application form outlining their progress and contribution to the musical life of the University. This will be followed by an interview with a review panel headed by the Honorary Director of Student Music and designated music specialists.

**To whom, and when, do applicants need to apply?**

Deadlines for applications will be posted on the University website and completed applications need to be submitted to the Honorary Director of Student Music c/o Attenborough Arts Centre, Lancaster Road, LE1 7HA

**When will the auditions be held?**
Auditions for new scholarships are held over one day once a year at the start of the autumn term – the date will be advertised on the application form. Shortlisted candidates will be required to make themselves available on the specified date although every effort will be made to be flexible over morning or afternoon slots to accommodate any academic classes or tutorials.

**What kind of commitment is required by the student who is seeking to apply?**

Applicants will be assessed on their potential or actual contribution to the musical life of the University, including participation as soloists in lunchtime concerts and in ensemble performances by the bands, choirs and orchestras of the University. Music Scholars are encouraged to become involved in charity events, as well as community and education outreach events involving music.

Scholars will be expected to provide information on their progress and wider contribution to the University. Your designated tutors and the Honorary Director of Music will be providing annual appraisals for consideration by the review panel to inform decisions on further years of scholarship funding.

The University has a variety of rehearsal spaces and it is expected that scholars will be motivated and self-disciplined in maintaining a regular practice schedule between lessons.

**What is going to be covered by the £500 alumni grant, and for how long?**

£500 grant is towards the cost of lessons with their music tutor in any one scholastic year.

Students in receipt of a Philharmonia Music Scholarship will be expected to arrange and attend lessons as agreed with their designated tutor. Holders of Alumni Scholarships will be given advice about suitable local tutors, but may elect to study with any tutor of their choosing, subject to prior agreement with the Honorary Director of Student Music. Lessons may be in Leicester or elsewhere. Where scholars will need to travel outside Leicester to access specialist designated tutors then scholars may use up to £100 of their £500 grant towards the cost of travel on receipt of proof of travel.

**How and when is the student going to be informed of a successful / unsuccessful application?**

Students will be notified about their application by email within 10 working days. If any further feedback is required please contact the Honorary Director of Student Music.