

Professional Experience Scheme 2021/22

BBC PHILHARMONIC

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BBC *Philharmonic*

RNCM
ROYAL NORTHERN
COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Applications are now open for the BBC Philharmonic (Strings, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet and Horns) Professional Experience Scheme.

Open to: third and fourth year undergraduates and all postgraduates enrolled at the RNCM in 2021/22 who are not on the BBC Philharmonic's extras list. You can re-apply for the Scheme if you took part in it during 2020/21, but **not** if you have completed the Scheme in any previous years.

Deadline for application: 1pm, Thursday 1 July 2021

Auditions: 22 September - 8 October 2021

Full audition requirements: [Moodle](#)

Application form: [Moodle](#)

Our Professional Experience Scheme with the BBC Philharmonic is designed to give RNCM students the chance to experience of working with members of a professional symphony orchestra and to be mentored by the members of the orchestra.

THE SCHEME

The information below outlines plans that the BBC Philharmonic and RNCM hope to deliver for the 2021/22 Scheme. Please note that both organisations are guided by official policies which may change at any time.

AUDITIONS: EARLY AUTUMN TERM 2021

Auditions will be held at MediaCityUK. The audition panel comprises BBC Philharmonic members, including section principals, and the students chosen to participate are at the discretion of the panel. All auditions will be **accompanied**.

Audition requirements for each instrument are as follows:

STRINGS

- i. A piece of your own choice, accompanied by piano (for most instruments a movement of a concerto or sonata) – exposition, or first large section of the piece, max 5 mins. You should consult with your teacher about the appropriate length.
- ii. Prepared orchestral excerpts that can be found on [Moodle](#)
- iii. Sight-reading from standard orchestral repertoire

WIND

- i. Movement of a concerto as specified below, accompanied by piano
Flute: 1st movement of either Mozart G major or D major Concerto
Oboe: 1st movement of Mozart C major Concerto
Clarinet: 1st movement of Mozart Concerto in A K622
Horn: 1st movement of any Mozart or Strauss Horn Concerto
- ii. Prepared orchestral excerpts that can be found on [Moodle](#)
- iii. Sight-reading from standard orchestral repertoire

Following auditions, the BBC PES Administrator will be in touch with successful candidates to discuss induction and placements.

INDUCTION: AUTUMN 2021

Successful students will be invited to the BBC at MediaCityUK to meet informally with mentors and to undertake a tour of the building, including the studio.

PLACEMENTS DURING 2021/22 ACADEMIC YEAR

After induction, students will be offered a varied programme of professional experience led by players and management of the BBC Philharmonic.

This will involve practical side-by-side rehearsal experience alongside additional opportunities to observe other BBC Philharmonic rehearsals. During this time, students can maintain contact with their mentor.

Successful students will also participate in a BBC Philharmonic recording support session, led by members of the orchestra's management and production teams. Here, students will receive practical guidance about the principles and process of self-recording and learn about the digital skills current professional orchestral players need.

Successful students will be contacted a minimum of two weeks before their placement dates with details about obtaining electronic or hard copies of orchestral parts for the side-by-side rehearsals.

MENTORING

Each successful student will be allocated a BBC Philharmonic mentor who will:

guide the student, both personally and professionally, through their orchestral experience

provide verbal feedback throughout the placement

liaise with the section principal about progress and suitability to perform with the orchestra

write an evaluation report at the end of the scheme which will be shared with the student and RNCM

THE BBC PHILHARMONIC'S EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

The musicians and administrators of the BBC Philharmonic expect students to:

prepare parts thoroughly and to a professional standard for rehearsals

display an open-minded attitude to discussing issues that may arise

respond promptly to all communications in relation to the scheme

complete an evaluation of the scheme at the end of their placement

AFTER THE SCHEME

The aim of the Scheme is to provide the best possible preparation for the student to pursue a career as an orchestral musician. The BBC Philharmonic is constantly looking for excellent musicians to add to its extra lists and PES students may be considered for extra work once their time on the Scheme is completed.

Students will not be engaged for any freelance work with the orchestra until they have completed all parts of their unpaid Professional Experience Scheme. In the rare instance that the orchestra wishes to employ a student before they have completed the Scheme, the student would immediately cease their enrolment in the Scheme and an alternative placement will need to be sought via the College to make up credits where necessary.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE SCHEMES: KEY INFORMATION

Key information relating to all RNCM Professional Experience Schemes is outlined within this document. If you require additional support or guidance, please email **Vicky Jones**, Professional Experience Schemes Administrator or call **0797 655 6983**.

COVID-19

Please note that due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding Covid-19, the dates, audition format and structure of placements for all RNCM Professional Experience Schemes may be subject to change. The RNCM and BBC Philharmonic remain fully committed to providing the highest-level delivery at each stage of the process.

Adaptations of programmes to ensure safety and proper conduct during this pandemic means that performance elements may be restricted, and new elements introduced over digital formats.

Please note:

Strings can apply for and audition for multiple RNCM Professional Experience Schemes with the local orchestras, but if offered places on multiple Schemes cannot take more than one.

Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets and Horns can apply and audition for multiple RNCM Professional Experience Schemes.

All applicants are guaranteed an audition.

You can re-apply for the Scheme if you completed it in 2020-2021, but not if you have completed it in any previous years.

If you are on an orchestra's extras list, you cannot apply to take part in their Professional Experience Scheme.

You will not receive any payment for involvement in RNCM Professional Experience Schemes.

Successful auditionees cannot undertake freelance work with the orchestra until all Professional Experience Scheme dates have been completed.

Late applications will not be accepted and individual receipt of auditions will not be acknowledged.

AUDITIONS

Auditions are a key part of Professional Experience Schemes and it is considered unprofessional to cancel at short notice. As such, any applicant withdrawing at less than 72 hours' notice prior to audition will be ineligible to apply to that orchestra again.

POSTGRADUATES ONLY

If you intend to use the Professional Experience Scheme for the Professional Placement module, please complete your application attached a CV and covering letter (where appropriate). The covering letter should give reasons for your application and summarise previous experience (unless requested on the actual application form) and should be no longer than one sheet of A4. Please keep copies of all applications (CV, covering letter and application pro forma) as you will be required to submit them at the end of the year in a portfolio as part of your assessment. For questions about Professional Placement modules, please contact **David Horne**.