



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Master of Music in Piano Performance applicants INFO sheet

Thank you for your interest in our Masters of Music degree in piano performance! We are eager to get to know you and look forward to reviewing your materials and welcoming you to campus. Our website includes much of the information you will need to apply and is your homebase as a reference tool. This document is intended to help you to submit your best application, specific for piano performance.

CONTACTS:

- Piano program contact: Dr. Jani Parsons, jani.parsons@ucalgary.ca
- SCPA Graduate Program Advisor: Alison Schmal, aschmal@ucalgary.ca
- SCPA Graduate Program Director: Dr. Laurie Radford, lradford@ucalgary.ca

Pre-requisites:

- A completed Bachelor of Music degree or equivalent
- A completed application
- A successful audition (live in-person or by submitting audition materials online).

APPLICATION:

- Applications open: October 1, 2024
- Application deadline: January 15, 2025
- Deadline to submit supplementary materials if you are applying by video audition: January 25, 2025

View program information here: <https://grad.ucalgary.ca/future-students/explore-programs/music-mmus-thesis>

Start your application here: <https://grad.ucalgary.ca/future-students/how-apply>

Once you have [created an eID](#) and submit your online application, you will receive an email with your UCID number and instructions on how to access your Student Centre where you will find a to-do list for providing program-specific supporting documents. All of these documents should be uploaded to your Student Centre by the deadline of January 25. If you have any trouble with the application process, please reach out to the graduate program administrator listed above.

Documents needed to apply:

- Unofficial transcripts (translated to English and notarized if the original document is in another language). After you receive an offer of admission, you will need to request official transcripts from your previous institutions sent directly to the University of Calgary Faculty of Graduate Studies.
- One page study proposal detailing your specific reasons for pursuing graduate study, your specific interest in our piano program at the University of Calgary, and what you hope to accomplish during your degree and who you would like to study with (Dr. Jani Parsons or Dr. Lana Henschell), if you have a preference.
- Two reference letters: it is strongly recommended that you request these far in advance and follow up with your recommenders to ensure they have submitted them by the deadline. Once you have submitted your application, your references will receive an automatic invitation by email to complete an online reference. Occasionally these emails are tagged as junk mail, so if your recommenders have not received a prompt, they should check their junk mail folder. If you need to request a reference to be contacted again, please reach out to the artsgradsc@ucalgary.ca (put MUSI in the subject line) and include your full name, UCID number, reference's name and contact information. It may be difficult for you to know if the recommenders have submitted their references on your online portal, so it is best to be in contact with them to ensure your application materials are in place prior to the materials deadline of Jan 25.
- English Language Proficiency Test for international students: we accept a variety of tests and options for completing this requirement, however the results of these need to be submitted by the application deadline in order for you to be considered for acceptance. It is strongly recommended to complete these requirements early, as there is typically a 6-week delay between testing (with TOEFL for example) and the results being released. Here is some information on ways you can attain this proficiency:
<https://conted.ucalgary.ca/info/english.jsp>

How to upload supporting documents in your Student Centre:

https://grad.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/3/uploading-supporting-documents_2019.pdf

How to check the status of your application in the Student Centre:

https://grad.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/3/checking-the-status-of-your-application_2019.pdf

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

All MMus applicants must complete a live in-person audition (typically scheduled in February) or submit recorded materials online by the January 25 deadline for consideration.

Because of the competitive nature of our MMus degree applications in piano, it is recommended that you follow the repertoire suggestions as follows:

Repertoire choices should reflect who you currently are as a musician and creative thinker through a diverse program spanning historical eras and styles and demonstrating an advanced level of technical accomplishment. We welcome works by Canadian, female, under-represented BIPOC or 2SLGBTQ+ composers, and/or a composer from your own culture and tradition. Piano audition repertoire must be presented from memory (with the exception of music written after 1950) and include a complete Sonata. Presenting a substantial program that demonstrates an advanced level of technical accomplishment will allow us to confidently assess your ability to prepare the thesis portion of the degree (two full recitals, one each year).

- Applicants should prepare a substantial program that demonstrates an advanced level of technical accomplishment, with music from a variety of historic periods.

- All auditions require two additional elements:
 - o Brief interview with the committee (online applicants will be given a zoom interview)
 - o Sight-reading example for assistantship purposes (online applicants will be sent an example immediately prior to the online interview)

- Applicants who live in Calgary or within 150km from it are expected to complete a live in-person audition. Live auditions will last approximately 30 minutes in length including the interview and sight-reading portion. You may choose what piece you would like to begin with, and we will select from the remainder of your repertoire. Be prepared to be stopped mid-way through longer selections and be asked to begin with a specific movement or selection.

- International and long-distance applicants who submit video recordings as part of their online application should consider the following guidance:
 - o Each piece or movement should be video/audio recorded in one continuous, unedited take with the pianists' hands and profile visible.
 - o Recordings should be of the highest quality available to you and recorded on acoustic pianos.
 - o All submitted videos must have been recorded within the past year.
 - o Recordings should be uploaded to a public server such as YouTube, Vimeo, etc. with easily accessible links (be sure videos are not set to private).
 - o You will be required to submit these links in your Student Centre as supplementary materials. Please do not attempt to upload the videos directly to the Student Centre, as it does not have the capacity to handle large files. We have had some trouble in the past with accessing submitted links, and it is not always clear from the applicant's perspective of the Student Centre portal if materials have been properly uploaded and received. For this reason, I would also recommend copy and pasting the links directly into the additional information portion of the application, in addition to attaching documents with links.

We look forward to hearing your artistry and hope to welcome you to the University of Calgary community!

FEES and FUNDING YOUR DEGREE

We are pleased to offer a minimum guarantee of \$10,000 in scholarships and assistantships for all graduate students accepted into our program, which currently covers the entirety of tuition costs! The funding is offered in a combination of Graduate assistantships (TA) and awards/scholarships both internal to the UCalgary or external.

An exciting aspect of completing your MMus at the University of Calgary is the compelling financial assistance we offer successful applicants through scholarships and assistantships. Students who are accepted into our MMus program are guaranteed that they will be given a combination of scholarship and assistantship funding that is \$10,000 at minimum, and currently covers the full tuition fees. There are also additional opportunities to apply for research funding, travel and participation in conferences, and other supportive endeavors. Some of these scholarship funds are given as one-time auto deposits and others are given at regular two-week intervals

(automatically deposited) as payment for the work of the assistantships. It is the students' responsibility to manage their finances in such a way that the tuition deadlines can be met and covered with the funds received from the assistantships and scholarships.

*Students can apply for a [tuition payment plan](#) that spreads the semester tuition over 4 months.

Pianists can expect that they will have assistantships in choral collaborative work (with either the University Chorus or the Chamber Choir) or to assist professors in teaching academic courses (grading, assessment, supportive roles). We try our best to place pianists and all graduate students in assistantships that match their skills and abilities/interests. Students who sign agreements to assistantships should view them as valuable work experience that carries responsibility, time commitment, and reliable attendance. The number of hours of work per week is clearly outlined in the contract, and graduate assistants have certain rights as outlined in the collective agreement of the Graduate Students' Association that guarantee fair payment for services rendered.

AFTER THE AUDITION AND APPLICATION:

Typically, we review all graduate applications in February across all instruments and programs, and students begin receiving notification of their acceptance offers or declines in March. Please check your Student Centre regularly for updated information on where your application is at. We know this waiting period can be very stressful, but please be patient with us as the selection process works its way through across the entire SCPA and the graduate committee and selections and recommendations for assistantships to take place. Because our graduate program' tuition is fully funded by scholarships and assistantships, this is an important process, and part of the extended offers. Students who are waitlisted, for example, may need to wait significantly longer to determine if they are eventually given an offer or declined. The standard acceptance deadline across Canada and the USA is April 15th, so please wait up until this deadline or until you have received all offers so you can make a decision that is best for you.

Once you have decided, please inform the graduate program office as soon as possible so we may offer the position to another deserving student if you plan to decline the offer. It is also helpful to communicate your decision directly to the piano faculty, so we can be sure to reserve a place for you within our studios.

Faculty members are not allowed to extend casual offers to students or give them indications of the status of their applications after the audition has taken place and before official communication has gone out from the graduate office. All communication with the University of Calgary after your audition about the status of your application should take place with and through the graduate program office.

Updated: September 2024