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CONTENTS

Congratulations on gaining the offer of a study place at the Academy! We hope you will find this a useful summary of things you need to know before coming here in the next academic year. You may find it helpful to print the guide in addition to reading it on-screen.

The guide is divided into the following sections:

General Information about your offer

Your Decision

The Conditions of Entry:

Academic qualifications

References

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Student visas

Thoughts and comments about studying abroad

COVID-19: We are planning to open as normal in September for the 2021-22 academic year with appropriate precautions as advised by the UK Government. For the latest information about Brexit, we recommend the UKCISA website: <http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>

For general information about studying at the Academy, start with our Information page www.ram.ac.uk/informationpdfs and follow the links

COURSE OUTLINE The Academy offers study abroad and exchange placements, tailor-made for the individual, for students who are enrolled on a Music degree course at a non-UK institution and wish to attend the Academy as part of their home study course, returning there at the end of the study period here

Your Offer email specifies the course you have been offered, and the placement dates.

PROFESSOR Your Head of Department at the Academy will decide which professor you will be studying with. If you have requested a professor in your application, they will try to allocate you to that professor, however the final decision about allocating students is made by the Head of Department and it may not be possible for you to study with the professor you have requested, for example if their studio is already full. You are welcome to contact your department administrator (see www.ram.ac.uk/departments), and you will be emailed during August with confirmation of your professor allocation.

CREDITS
www.ram.ac.uk/exchanges

Official transcripts to confirm any credits you have been awarded are issued after the final Examination Board of the academic year, in July. If your exchange period finishes earlier in the year and you need confirmation of your Academy studies for your home institution, we will be able to write a letter confirming your study period dates and the course modules which you attended during the placement. If your placement is only for part of our academic year, you may miss standard assessment dates. This will affect whether you can be awarded credits for your study period, and also whether we can provide an official transcript for your home institution. If we cannot award credits or issue a transcript, we will write a letter confirm your study period and the course modules which you attended during the placement.

- Postgraduate (masters-level) placements must be for our full academic year to gain any credits.
- For Undergraduate (bachelor-level) placements, the minimum attendance period to gain credits is one term (trimester), September to December, or January to April, and those credits will be for half-year modules.

Information about our course credit structures, to assist with compiling the Learning Agreement, is available from the course books on the Academy Handbooks web page.

www.ram.ac.uk/academy-handbooks

**YOUR DECISION ABOUT
THE OFFER**

admissions@ram.ac.uk

Please let us know your decision by the deadline in your offer, by returning the Response Form to the Admissions Manager by email: admissions@ram.ac.uk.

If we have not received your response by the specified date, you may lose your study place. If you need to ask for more time to respond, please contact the Academy by email to admissions@ram.ac.uk

If you accept our offer, we will send you a confirmation email summarising your study details and any items we still need to receive from you.

You will receive emails during August with additional study information and your professor allocation.

If you accept a Study Abroad placement, a fees invoice will be sent to you by email (see Page 3 below).

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Before you can begin your studies at the Academy, you must meet the Conditions of Entry which are specified in your Offer email.

Because you are currently enrolled on a Higher Education study programme we will only require:

- confirmation that you are still in principle enrolled at your home institution for the 2021/22 academic year on a programme which is eligible for an exchange or study abroad placement;
- a Learning Agreement which has been approved by the Academy and by your home institution;
- a satisfactory reference for you, normally written by your teacher and sent to us with your application.

We will tell you in the confirmation email if there is a problem with any of these.

We assume your home institution will advise us if you do not successfully complete your current study year with them.

English Language Skills

If you are not a UK or Irish citizen, you will need to take one of these language tests

IELTS website:

www.ielts.org

PTE Academic website:

www.pearsonpte.com/pteacademic

- IELTS Academic Test (not the UKVI test) or IELTS Indicator and score 6.0 overall with 5.5 or higher in each part of the test: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking.
- PTE Academic Test, and score at least 59 overall with 59 in each part of the test.
- TOEFL iBT - please contact the Admissions Team for details: admissions@ram.ac.uk

Tell the test centre to send the result directly to us electronically, to avoid delays. We will need a reference number from you after you've taken the test, please see this page for guidance:

www.ram.ac.uk/study/next-step/entry-requirements : English Language

Please also read our **Student Visas** section on Page 4.

FINANCE

TUITION FEES

www.ram.ac.uk/fees
email: fees@ram.ac.uk

Study Abroad or Exchange programmes are not eligible for Academy scholarship or bursary support, and are not eligible for UK student loans.

Academic year 2021/22

ERASMUS+ or reciprocal exchange placement: No tuition fee
Study Abroad: International £23,450 [pro rata for part-year]

All fee-paying students must pay a 25% advance deposit; the Academy's Finance Department will send an email to you after you accept the offer, with payment details and deadlines. The deposit is due by 16 July and the balance of the fees by 1 September 2021. No fees are due if you withdraw your acceptance before the deposit payment deadline.

www.ram.ac.uk/study/fees-scholarships-and-bursaries/fees

LIVING COSTS

See www.ram.ac.uk/accommodation

FUNDING

www.ram.ac.uk/fees

It is important that you make adequate financial provision before beginning your programme of study, because it will not usually be possible to obtain funding after arrival in this country. If you are coming on an Erasmus placement, your home institution's exchange coordinator will be able to advise you about Erasmus funding. It may be possible to work part-time or during vacations but, it is not easy to find suitable work and you should not expect to earn enough to finance your studies and living costs in this way.

When you accept a place at the Academy, you acknowledge that you have the financial resources to cover the fees for the entire study programme.

STUDENT VISAS

If you do not have a UK or Irish passport or EUSS Settled/Pre-Settled Status

If you are not a UK or Irish citizen you will normally need a UKVI Student Route visa (immigration permission) to study in the UK. To complete your visa application you will need a CAS Sponsorship number, which you request from the Academy Registry.
Please read www.ram.ac.uk/immigration-advice.

If you are not from a majority English-speaking country on the list published by UKVI, you will need to take a language test, as we have explained on Page 3 in the 'English Language Skills' section.

If you need a Student Visa and you give false information about your finances to get the visa, you risk being deported from the UK and banned from re-entering the country for up to ten years.

Short-Term Study Visa

If your study placement is for less than six months, you can instead come to the UK with a Short-Term Study Visa; that means you do not get a full Student Route visa and you do not have to pay the Health Charge. If you are from a visa-national country (see the list published by UKVI), you must have the visa before you travel.

If you use the Short-Term Study Visa, you must not use the e-gates on arrival in the UK. Instead you must tell an immigration officer at the airport that you are joining a short course, and show them your confirmation from the Academy to prove that your placement will be finished within six months of your arrival date in the UK.

The Short-Term Study Visa does not allow you to work in the UK, and you cannot extend the visa.

CONCERT CLOTHING

You will need to have formal clothing which you will be expected to wear when performing in concerts.

Male: Dark suit with white shirt and tie, and Dinner Jacket (formal black jacket and trousers) with black bow tie and white shirt.

Black shoes.

Female: Long black dress, long coloured dress. Black shoes.

INSURANCE

Endsleigh

www.endsleigh.co.uk

020 7580 4311

Allianz

www.allianzmusicalinsurance.co.uk

0870 2400 303

We strongly advise you to have all your possessions insured. The cost of premiums will vary according to the area in which you live, and also the value of the items to be insured. Extra premiums will also be required for items such as computers, mobile phones and bicycles.

Although the Academy does not arrange insurance for students, the Student Union can help with advice. To give you an idea of the premium you might pay for your general belongings, you can get a quote from specialist student insurers, Endsleigh. Endsleigh can insure for proportionate reimbursement of your prepaid course fees if you have to cancel your course, cut it short or repeat it due to accident or sickness of yourself or a close relative.

For insuring your instrument, it is often cheaper to use specialist musical instrument insurer such as Allianz.

If you intend to travel outside the UK during your studies we recommend you purchase an annual travel insurance policy before leaving home.

MEDICAL

You can find health advice on

www.ram.ac.uk/student-life/wellbeing-support

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

If you get a Student Route Visa, there will be an immigration health charge. This is paid as part of the visa application process, and you will be charged for each year of the maximum period of leave (i.e. visa start date to expiry date) which is granted under the immigration rules. Please note: UKVI will calculate this from the length of your Student Route visa, not the length of the course.

UKVI Immigration health charge

www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/checker/Type

We recommend that students on a Short-Term Study visa obtain comprehensive health insurance before travelling to the UK.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.ukstudentlife.com

www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/

www.educationuk.org

www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

KEEP IN CONTACT!

Please remember that you must tell the Academy's Registry whenever you change your address, phone number or email.

You can contact registry@ram.ac.uk during the vacations; during termtime please use the Change of Details form on the Registry fileshare page on our Intranet: www.ram.ac.uk/students-and-staff

Edward Kemp-Luck, Admissions and Student Exchange Manager

2021/05

Some thoughts and comments about studying abroad.

Coming to study in a different country is a major life change. Even though you probably feel very excited about coming here, adjusting to life in a new culture can be very stressful.

What problems might you find?

You might face the task of working and writing in a language which is not your own.

You may well experience a degree of "culture shock" in the early days – many things will be different to what you have been used to, and this can feel bewildering and frustrating; for example, food and climate. You have left behind your friends, family and familiar situations for what is unfamiliar, and you can feel lonely, lost and homesick at times. Your expectations of what being here would be like may not be met in the way you had hoped, and you may feel disappointed and let down. It may feel exhausting communicating and studying if English isn't your first language. You may have been here a while and felt that you're starting to adjust; but then something – even quite small – goes wrong, and it all seems too much and you feel like giving up and going back home.

Possibly, you may feel low in spirits and overwhelmed; it's not always easy to recognise these feelings – sometimes it may show as a feeling of being run-down and tired all the time. People often find they are more liable to minor illnesses such as stomach aches, headaches and colds and flu when they have moved country; this is a reflection of the emotional strain of adjusting to life in a new country. You may encounter other people's prejudices and assumptions about your culture, which can leave you upset or angry.

What might help?

- Understanding yourself in this new situation...
- Remember that this is a huge transition and all these feelings are normal and natural adjustment responses.
- Don't be too hard on yourself: adjusting to a move and making new relationships takes time.
- Think about your strengths and try to identify what has helped you to cope so far (and with difficult situations in the past).
- Remember that others may be sharing similar feelings - it can help to talk to others and find you're not the only one. This will help you to feel more part of things. British students may also share some of your feelings if they are away from home for the first time.
- Find opportunities to familiarise yourself with the culture you are in (reading newspapers, watching television (TV), talking to others).
- Spending time with someone from the same culture can help you feel less isolated. You may find it easier to feel understood. You can talk about home, cook food you enjoy together, which may help you to feel less cut off; but try to get a balance – you'll feel more part of things if you also talk to people from British and other cultures, as well as have a more interesting time.
- Try not to be afraid to ask if you don't understand something or need help.
- Be open to the differences around you and enjoy the rich variety of social and cultural experiences that life in London can offer!
- Keeping in contact with your friends and family back home can help you feel more settled (writing, or arranging for them to phone you at an agreed time can help cut down on your phone bills!).

If feelings of depression, isolation or anxiety persist, take them seriously and discuss them with the Counsellor in confidence:

Counselling Service, Room G87, York Gate Terrace
www.ram.ac.uk/student-life/wellbeing-support