



UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES: Bachelor of Music (BMus) AFA02

The audition process is a compulsory requirement of the BMus degree. All applicants must complete the audition process to be eligible for consideration into the programme.

Auditions will take place in person on the Wits campus.

In exceptional circumstances where a candidate cannot travel to Johannesburg to audition in person, a digital audition submission will be considered.

To book for an audition, please email uginfo.music@wits.ac.za. In your email, please provide the following information:

- Your Wits person/student number
- Your instrument or voice
- Your genre (classical or jazz)
- Your current APS points
- Your current English marks
- Your cell phone number

Please also attach the following to your booking request email:

- A **1-page CV** detailing **your personal information**, including your full name, address, telephone and email contact information, the name of the last school you attended and year of matriculation (or planned year of matriculation).
- Copy of your ID.
- A transcript of your **most recent** marks (Grade 11 results if you have not yet completed Matric or Matric results or academic transcript if you have already completed Matric).

Audition bookings will only be confirmed for applicants who send these materials and have supplied the above information.

For application enquiries, please email uginfo.music@wits.ac.za or contact the Student Call Centre on 011 717 1888.

Audition Preparation and Requirements

Applicants are required to audition on an instrument, or as a vocalist, and must perform proficiently in either the Classical or Jazz genre.

Please bring with you to the audition: A pen and pencil; copies of sheet music (if you are using any) for the interview panel; your own instrument/s and other equipment (we do have an amp for backing tracks); your own

accompanist (if applicable). There will be a piano and drum kit at the audition venue along with a guitar/bass amplifier, if required. We do not audition pre-recorded music, or music produced on software such as Fruity Loops/FL Studio or Garage band - a live performance on an instrument or voice is required.

If you are using a backing track, please arrange to play it on a tablet or cell phone that has a mini-jack (aux) socket so that we can connect it to our amp. Other types of connection will not be accommodated.

The instrument you audition on (piano, guitar, voice, etc.) and genre of music (jazz or classical) you wish to study will be the same as that you study for the duration of your degree. In other words, if you present your audition on jazz guitar, you can only be considered to study jazz guitar, not classical guitar or jazz voice. If you are uncertain about this process, please discuss it with the auditioning staff prior to the audition. To study music at Wits University, you will need to have your own or a rental instrument. We also do not supply instruments or accessories like strings and reeds.

Audition Format and Conduct

You will be required to write a statement about your musical interests, complete a music theory exercise, perform prepared pieces of music and have your aural/technical abilities assessed.

1. Critical Writing.

- At the audition you will write a short statement on a given topic in English. The topic will be given to you when you arrive for the audition. The academic staff will take a moment during the audition to engage with you about your statement.

2. Complete a **music theory exercise (An example is given on page 4 of this document).**

- If you cannot complete this exercise because you have not had any formal education in Music theory, you may still be considered for the Music Extended Curriculum based on the performing abilities demonstrated in the audition.

3. Perform your prepared pieces. There is more specific information on this below.

4. Aural assessment. This does not require any preparation.

5. Technical assessment. Where appropriate, the auditioners will ask candidates to sight-read a short passage of music and demonstrate their ability to play some major and minor scales. As with the theory assessment, if a candidate does not have experience of reading music or playing scales he/she may still be considered for the Extended Curriculum BMus degree.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Whilst the department offers professional courses as part of the **BMus** degree, the University is foremost an academic institution. Applicants will be thoroughly assessed on their discursive and academic abilities.

Minimum Academic Admission Requirements (*Meeting the minimum academic admission requirements does not guarantee admission for any applicant*).

National Senior Certificate (NSC):

Each candidate requires an APS of at least **34 points** and a minimum of **60% for English Home Language OR English First Additional Language**, as well as a successful audition in order to be *considered* for acceptance into the BMus degree. The Wits **Student Enrolment Centre (SEnC)** communicates a FIRM offer only. The Wits School of Arts (WSOA) does not communicate concerning acceptance decisions/offers.

Applicants with 30-33 APS points and at least **60% for English Home Language OR English First Additional Language**, as well as a successful audition will be wait-listed, subject to place availability in January.

International Qualifications:

Relevant exemption from the SA Matriculation Board

English Language O/IGCSE Level A-C | AS Level A-C | A Level A-C

Audition Specific Requirements

Classical

Applicants are required to perform **two** contrasting pieces on their chosen instrument.

Jazz Instrumental and vocalists

Applicants are required to perform the following **three** pieces:

1. **Blue Monk** by Thelonious Monk.
The backing track MP3 of Blue Monk and the pdf lead-sheet will be sent to the applicant.
2. A piece chosen from the list below:
 - All blues
 - Footprints
 - Stella by Starlight
 - Autumn leaves
 - Song for my Father
 - Have you met Miss Jones
 - A foggy day
 - Solar
3. One piece of your own selection in the style of your choice.

Jazz Drum

Applicants are required to perform **three** pieces.

- Two contrasting pieces connected to the jazz idiom that show the ability to play swing with a good feel as well as lay down a steady pulse. The candidate should also demonstrate some improvisational skills.
- One piece of your own selection in the style of your choice.

Drummers must bring their own sticks and brushes, tuning key, and (if you are particular about it), pedal. Drummers are encouraged to bring someone who you can play with them; this will give us a better sense of your ability in a real musical situation.

Guitarists and electric bassists must please bring their own cables.

For all Jazz candidates - Each performance should demonstrate characteristic jazz interpretation of the melody and play the chords (guitarists and pianists) as well as some improvisation.

Sample Theory Test

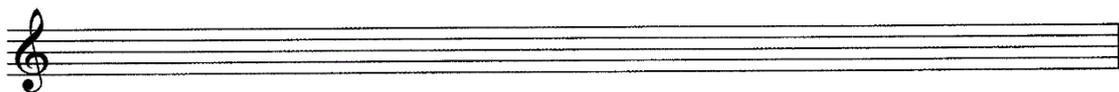
Applicants presenting themselves for an audition to study music at Wits will be required to complete a short music theory assessment similar to the specimen test below. Questions 1-5 of the assessment represent core knowledge that you must possess for entry to the first year of the BMus degree. If you lack experience in writing a four-part harmonic progression such as that required in Question 5 it is important that you seek tuition in this area before your audition. Applicants unable to successfully complete the theory test may still be accepted into the Foundation music courses.

(1) Name the following notes.

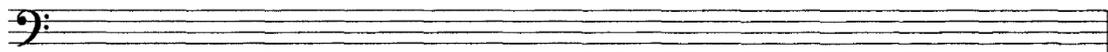


a) _____ b) _____ c) _____ d) _____ e) _____

(2) Write the scale of A major, ascending and descending, in semibreves – *without a key signature*.



(3) Write the scale of C harmonic minor, ascending, in crotchets – *with key signature*.



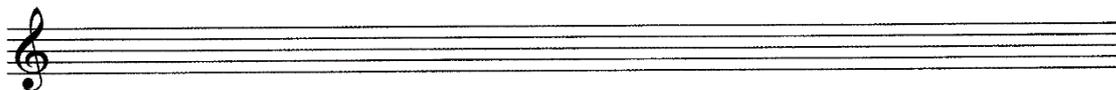
(4) Complete the following bars with rests, according to the time signature.



(5) Add Alto, Tenor and Bass parts to the following Soprano melody.



(6) Write out C major pentatonic scale:



(7) Please give the letter names of the notes that make up each of the following chords:

a) F: _____

b) G⁷: _____

c) B⁷: _____

d) E flat minor: _____