

**Global Top 10
for Performing Arts
(QS World Rankings 2025)**



**Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland**



Fair Access Programmes at RCS

A Guide for Teachers
rcs.ac.uk/fairaccess

Welcome



What is Fair Access?



Hello All,

I am delighted that you have chosen to read about our Fair Access provision at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS). We believe that everyone has the right to access Higher Education. We support young people from under-resourced postcodes and those with care experience/estrangement into higher arts education.

If you teach or support a young person who is eligible for contextualised entry to a Scottish Higher Education course, read on to find out more about what we do and why.

This booklet provides you with an overview of our activity - what an exciting year we've got coming up. We are launching two brand new programmes: our **credit rated Access Courses** and our socially engaged interdisciplinary **BA Arts with Community**. RCS is thrilled to welcome new students onto these programmes for the first time ever.

Our outreach activity remains strong and connected to schools and communities, working with young people in person and online across Scotland.

You might support a young person interested in studying and pursuing a career in the performing, production or community arts. Or you might be interested in accessing our CLPL sessions to re-charge your creative practice. Either way, we are keen to find ways to connect with you and the young people you support.

I hope that by the end of this year we will all be celebrating the successes of our current students and preparing to welcome another brilliant cohort of Fair Access students to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Read on and take that first step into what could be the future for your pupils.

You can get in touch with me and my team at fairaccess@rcs.ac.uk.

Jesse Paul

Head of Fair Access and Community

In 2014, the Scottish Government created a group called the **Commission on Widening Access (CoWA)**. The CoWA group helps people from the most deprived communities in Scotland to have the same chance of entering Higher Education as someone from the least deprived areas. As a result, all Higher Education institutions in Scotland must remove barriers for students who are under-represented.



Sign up to the **Fair Access Mailing List** to be kept up to date with news, events and opportunities.



Find out more about **Fair Access** on our website.

At RCS, Fair Access is a strategic priority and we are deeply committed to it.

We mainly work with those aged 16 - 21+ who are statistically less likely to attend university, providing a wide range of activity which includes:

- | **Workshops, Tasters and Skills Development**
- | **Application Support**
- | **Audition and Preparation Courses**
- | **Credit Rated Courses**
- | **Professional Development for Teachers**
- | **Supportive Artist and Partnership Projects**

If you have a pupil who you think might be eligible, take a look around our web pages to see if there is an activity to suit.

Fair Access Eligibility & Initiatives

To be eligible for RCS's Fair Access activity you need to be from a Fair Access background, which means meeting one (or more) of the following criteria:

- | Living in a **SIMD20** or **SIMD40*** postcode ([simd.scot](https://www.simd.scot))
- | Care-experienced
- | Estranged and receiving no support from your family (whether biological or adoptive or wider family members)

*Where spaces are limited we will prioritise applications from people living in SIMD20 postcodes.

We also run activities for pupils and teachers attending schools on our Fair Access School List such as schools workshops and taster days.

SIMD is the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation as defined by the Scottish Government.



Scan the code to check if your school is within a SIMD catchment area.

There are three main Fair Access initiatives:

Access Courses

Designed to support people who intend to apply to study at RCS, offering 40 credits at SCQF Level 6.

Our Access Courses provide high quality training for students interested in studying on the Arts with Community, Production and Music Education degree programmes.

Get Into

Our Get Into programmes work with young people across Scotland supporting their journey into performing, production and community arts training and connecting them with like-minded people.

Outreach Programmes

Working closely with schools and communities to provide a range of workshops, career long professional learning for teachers and opportunities for people to engage in the performing and production arts.

Our programmes offer a mixture of in-person and online activities allowing young people from across Scotland to access high-quality learning experiences.



Access Courses

Designed for people who intend to apply to study at RCS, Access Courses offer 40 credits at SCQF Level 6 and are split into three areas of study:

- | Access to Arts with Community (see page 14 & 15)
- | Access to Production
- | Access to Music Education

As part of the Access Courses, students take part in regular **artform training, group work activity, audition and interview preparation** and a **collaborative community arts project** which works towards a performance.

The courses are **structured to sit alongside school, college or work** and are delivered using a mixture of in-person and online teaching.

In preparation for application for undergraduate study, students will also receive expert advice which covers navigating the UCAS system, personal statement, personal statement writing and the audition/interview process.

Access Courses are designed for individuals aged 17+ who are planning to apply for one of the eligible undergraduate programmes and who meet the criteria listed on **page 4**.



Discover everything you need to know about RCS's Access Courses
rcs.ac.uk/accesscourses



Get Into: RCS



Our Get Into: RCS programmes are a great first step for young people who want to get into performing, production and community arts but are not sure where to start. They consist of ten weeks of practical weekend workshops that will help them begin their creative journey at RCS.

Students will have the opportunity to develop creative and practical artform skills, increase their confidence, gain career insights, meet like-minded people and work with industry professionals.

Get Into workshops cover four main areas:

- | **Get Into Performance**
Acting, script work, devising and movement
- | **Get Into Production Stage and Screen**
Lighting, sound and production arts
- | **Get Into Singing Together**
Choral singing, vocal leadership and teaching skills
- | **Get Into Arts with Community**
Multi-artform exploring the positive impact the arts can have

Applicants must be 16 when the course starts and meet the outlined Fair Access criteria.



If you'd like to find out more, scan here
or visit: rcs.ac.uk/courses/get-into-glasgow

Get Into: National



Get Into: National is especially for young people who live too far from our Glasgow campus to take part in our in-person activities and uses a blended approach to delivery.

This programme is perfect for students who are serious about applying to RCS in the near future and can demonstrate experience and commitment in their chosen artform.

Students will gain:

- | **Confidence and connection**
Meeting like-minded people and connecting with artists working in/with communities near them
- | **Creativity and skill**
Learning through hands-on, practical sessions tailored to their artform
- | **Growth and reflection**
Developing as an artist and individual, ready to take their next steps
- | **Insider knowledge**
Learning more about applying to RCS and building a sustainable future in the arts.

Applicants must be 16 when the course starts and meet our Fair Access criteria.



Find Out More and Apply to
our **Get Into** initiatives.

Get Ready

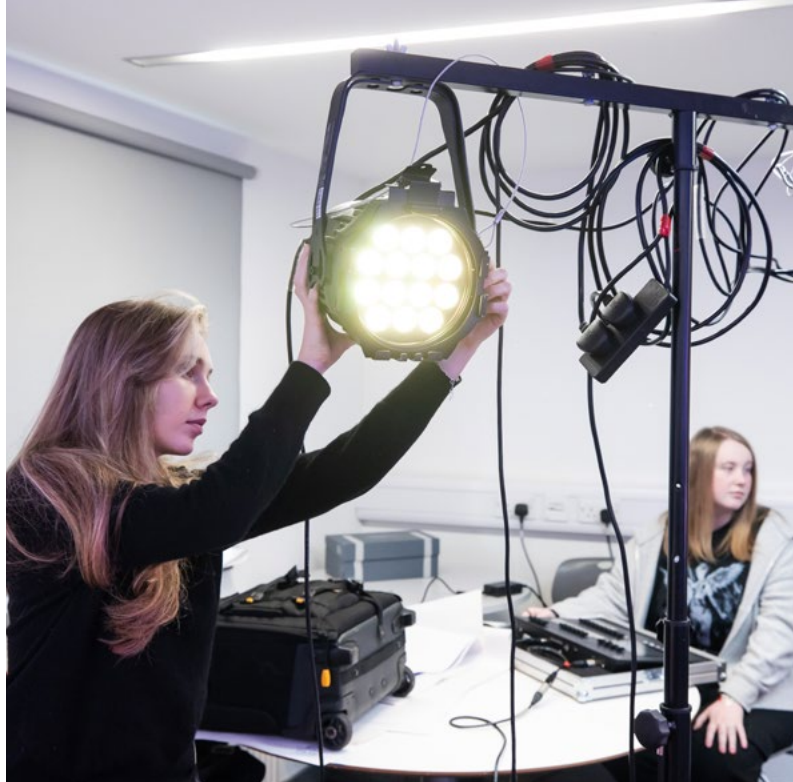
Our Get Ready programme is for young people who want to apply to Higher Education (conservatoire, university or college) for a performing, production or community arts course.

We offer a range of activities that help students with their applications and prepare for auditions and/or interviews.

The Get Ready activities are available online and open to young people across Scotland who meet our Fair Access criteria.



Find out more about
the **Get Ready** programme
here rcs.ac.uk/courses/get-ready



Skills Studio

Our Skills Studio offers a diverse range of workshops in various artforms within the performing and production arts. These fun, practical workshops are designed to provide in-depth learning and hands-on experience in specific areas such as **acting, dance, music, stage design, lighting, sound production**, and more.

Each workshop is led by **professional artists and industry experts who bring their knowledge, expertise, and real-world experience** to the sessions. Students will get the chance to engage in insightful conversations, learn new techniques, and **gain valuable tips and skills** directly from those who excel in their specialised fields.



Schools Workshops

Fair Access offers a comprehensive programme of schools workshops specifically designed for S5-6 classes across Scotland. These workshops are delivered directly within schools, ensuring that pupils from all areas of the country have **access to high-quality performing and production arts education and industry expertise**.

Each session is carefully crafted to be interactive and engaging, allowing pupils to explore their creativity, and gain practical experience. Young people will not only develop their skills but also learn about potential career pathways.

Taster Mornings

In collaboration with departments across RCS, we offer taster mornings which give your pupils a chance to **visit our campus, participate in practical workshops, and tour our facilities**.

Each taster morning focuses on a specific undergraduate programme (including Filmmaking, Acting, Arts with Community, Music Education and Production) and gives a hands-on experience of what it would be like to study at RCS. Pupils can speak with course tutors, ask questions, and gain insights into potential career pathways within the field.

Backstage with Books

Our new Backstage with Books initiative supports you to bring your senior year pupils to visit our Whittaker Library and tour the RCS campus.

You and your students can **explore our huge range of plays, music scores, books and materials**, be inspired by this creative space and feel confident to return in the future.

If you would like more information on any of our Fair Access initiatives please get in touch with us at fairaccess@rcs.ac.uk.



Career Long Professional Learning

Our Career Long Professional Learning (CLPL) sessions are led by RCS tutors and freelance specialists. These sessions aim to **refresh and energise your teaching and develop your skillset** in a relaxed, inspiring and professional environment.

Our CLPL programme helps to build strong connections between RCS and Scottish secondary schools, preparing teachers to support young people working towards a training in the performing, production and community arts.

We prioritise places for teachers in schools located in areas with a high percentage of students from SIMD20 postcodes.



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Arts with Community

BA Arts with Community

BA Arts with Community is one of RCS's newest undergraduate programmes, designed for those who want to explore performing and/or production arts in community contexts. This programme will encourage students to develop their own artform, facilitation practice and voice, as a socially engaged practitioner.

It is ideal for **self-determined learners** who are motivated by the positive impact that the arts can have. Students will **investigate the performing and/or production arts creatively, collaboratively and ethically**, with a range of people and settings, all underpinned by practice, theory and research.

Students will **develop and gain experience by experimenting in a safe and structured environment**. They will explore and evolve ideas, learn to express opinions and test theories practically.

The curriculum is playful, interdisciplinary and collaborative in its design.



BA Arts with Community offers wide-ranging graduate possibilities that span across multiple artforms and include, but are not limited to:

- | Community Artist
- | Teacher/Lecturer in formal contexts (e.g. primary education, college)
- | Community Educator
- | Arts/Education Worker for an organisation (cultural, social, museums, historical)
- | Hospital Play Worker
- | Health Arts Worker (e.g. for social prescribing)
- | Arts Therapist (art, music, dance, drama)
- | Play Therapist
- | Coaching

Through our Fair Access programme, RCS works with a variety of Community Artists across Scotland. Their work is representative of the potential pathways for graduates of our BA Arts with Community programme.

Find out more about their work and the programme by scanning the code below.



Applications are made through UCAS Conservatoires website. The UCAS Conservatoires application system is separate from the main UCAS undergraduate application system. Applicants will also be required to create an Acceptd account when they apply, which will be used for scheduling interviews.

Contact Us

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rcs.ac.uk/fairaccess



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Keep up to date with fair access on social media.

  @rcsfairaccess

All information in this brochure was correct at the time of publication.

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