



RCM
LONDON

Royal College of Music

A Guide for International Students



Contents

Location	7
History, Heritage and Collections	9
Study	11
Performance Opportunities	13
Careers	15
More Information	16



Welcome

The Royal College of Music (RCM) is one of the world's great conservatoires, training gifted musicians from all over the world for international careers as performers, conductors and composers.

Founded in 1882 by the future King Edward VII, the RCM has trained some of the most important figures in British and international music life, including composers such as Holst, Vaughan Williams and Britten; conductors such as Leopold Stokowski, Sir Colin Davis and Sir Roger Norrington; singers such as Dame Joan Sutherland, Sir Thomas Allen and Alfie Boe; instrumentalists such as James Galway, John Lill and Natalie Clein.

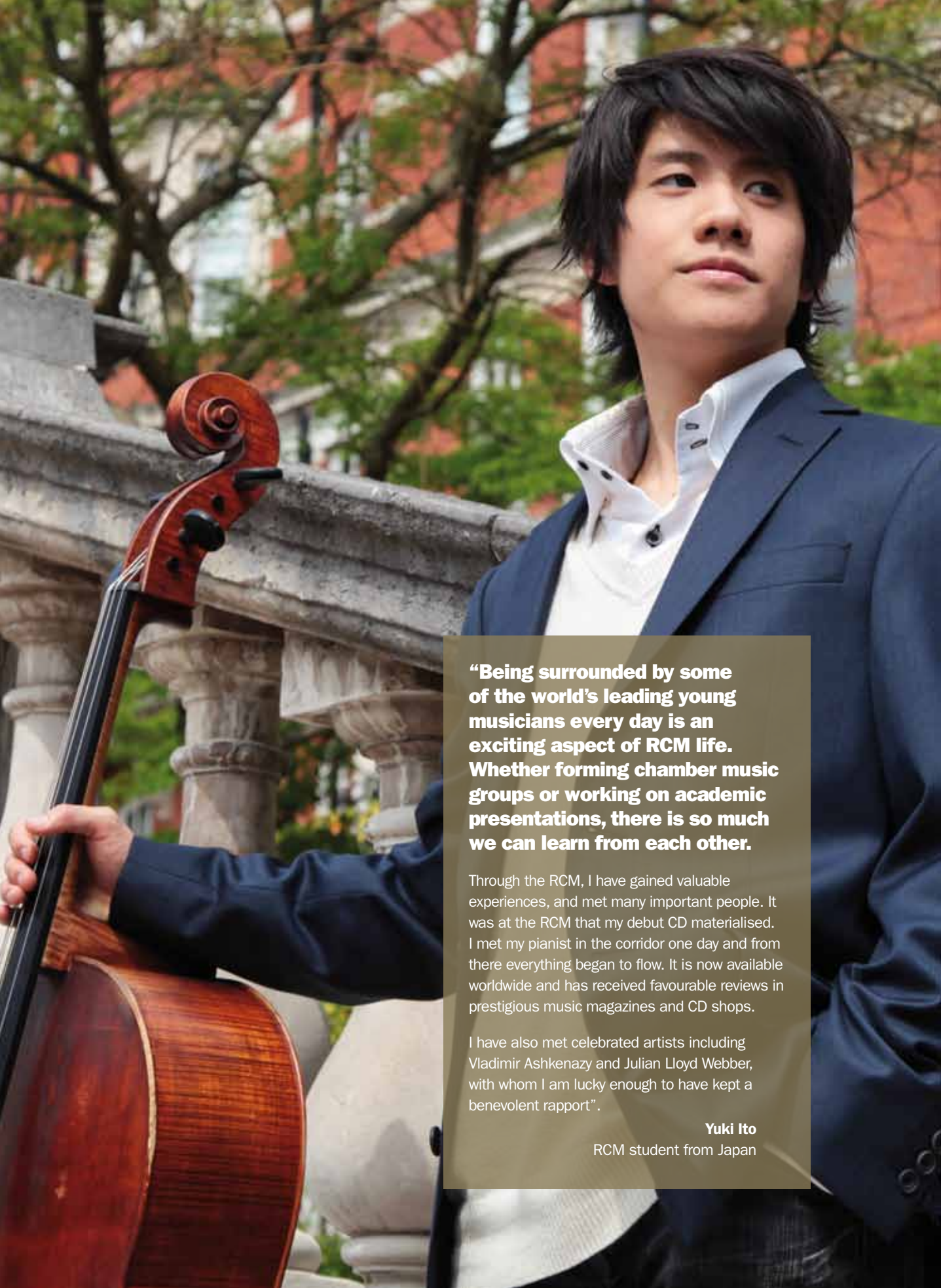
With 750 students from more than 60 countries studying at undergraduate, masters or doctoral level, the RCM of the 21st century is a vibrant community of talented and open-minded musicians. RCM professors are musicians with worldwide reputations, accustomed to working with the most talented students of each generation to unlock their artistic potential. Regular visitors include the likes of Lang Lang, Dame Kiri te Kanawa and Bernard Haitink. The RCM's many performing groups – including five orchestras, two jazz bands and the RCM International Opera School – are celebrated for the vitality and excellence of their performances, and are regularly invited to perform at significant venues both in the UK and overseas.

The RCM's buildings, facilities and location are the envy of the world. The RCM is situated directly opposite the Royal Albert Hall in the cultural heart of London, one of the world's great musical cities. Our iconic building, our concert hall, opera theatre, state-of-the-art studios, library and museum all provide inspiration for RCM students.

Every year, the latest group of RCM graduates forge careers as artistic leaders around the globe. There has never been a more exciting time to study at the RCM.



Professor Colin Lawson
Director, Royal College of Music



“Being surrounded by some of the world’s leading young musicians every day is an exciting aspect of RCM life. Whether forming chamber music groups or working on academic presentations, there is so much we can learn from each other.

Through the RCM, I have gained valuable experiences, and met many important people. It was at the RCM that my debut CD materialised. I met my pianist in the corridor one day and from there everything began to flow. It is now available worldwide and has received favourable reviews in prestigious music magazines and CD shops.

I have also met celebrated artists including Vladimir Ashkenazy and Julian Lloyd Webber, with whom I am lucky enough to have kept a benevolent rapport”.

Yuki Ito
RCM student from Japan

Welcoming International Students

Here at the RCM, we consider our international student community to be our greatest asset. Along with world-class teaching, it is what helps to make the RCM a friendly, exciting and diverse hub of music-making.

Around half of RCM students come from outside the UK, and our staff come from all over the world too. So we understand very well that moving to a new country can feel a daunting big step, and we will do everything we can to help make you feel at home.

Help from the RCM

Our Registry and Student Services staff provide advice and support for international students across a range of practical subjects including visas and immigration; opening bank accounts; accommodation; financial advice or just finding out how you can make the most of your time at the RCM.

Help from fellow students

Your fellow students will also help you to settle in, and our Students' Association is a lively and active student body that runs many social events.

Our graduates all around the world tell us how fondly they remember their time at the RCM. We believe that you won't find a more welcoming, inspiring place to study anywhere in the world.



Kevin Porter

Deputy Director, Royal College of Music



Location

London – an international city

London is one of the most international cities on earth, and beyond the doors of the RCM you will find communities from every single corner of the world. London is home to more than 400,000 university students. Of these, 100,000 are from more than 200 different nations – that's more international students than in any other city in the world.

A world centre for music and the arts

From concert halls and opera theatres to museums and historic buildings, London has something to offer for everyone. With at least a dozen professional orchestras, several professional opera companies and many artist managers all based in London, it offers unrivalled professional opportunities as well as the opportunity to build a network of contacts that will last you a lifetime.

Studying in South Kensington

The RCM's location is the envy of the world. We are situated in South Kensington – one of London's safest, most attractive and most desirable places to live and work – and within the heart of the Exhibition Road Cultural Quarter, London's premier hub of cultural activity. Within just five minutes' walk of the RCM you will find the Royal Albert Hall as well as three of the UK's biggest museums: the Science Museum, Natural History Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum. Also close by is Hyde Park, one of the most attractive green spaces in London.

Find out more:

www.rcm.ac.uk/location

www.exhibitionroad.com





History, Heritage and Collections

By coming to the RCM, you become part of a continually unfolding story of success. For more than 130 years our students have gone on to international stardom, so at the RCM you enjoy the buzz of treading in the footsteps of the world's leading composers, conductors, singers and instrumentalists.

RCM Museum of Music

The RCM Museum of Music houses more than 1,000 instruments dating from the late 15th century to the present day. Among its treasures are the earliest surviving stringed keyboard instrument and trombones owned by Elgar and Holst. The collection is a unique resource and can support your studies in a variety of ways. Many of the instruments on display can be studied and played by students as a way of gaining a deeper understanding of a particular composer or piece.

RCM Library

The Library holds an internationally renowned collection of manuscripts, including the autograph score of Mozart's Piano Concerto K 491. The Library also contains a wealth of material to support your studies at the RCM including printed music, recordings and music journals.

RCM Instruments

Piano students enjoy the fact that the RCM has a huge collection of Model B Steinways. In total, the RCM provides 156 pianos, including 63 grand pianos and 23 early keyboards.

For string players, the RCM has a significant collection of very high quality violins, violas, cellos and double basses that are available to play on loan. Our on-site luthier is also on hand for repairs and advice.

Find out more:

www.rcm.ac.uk/museum

www.rcm.ac.uk/library





Study

One-to-one teaching

At the heart of your RCM experience is the one-to-one lessons and group masterclasses with dedicated, passionate and experienced professors. Some of them are big names with big performing careers, while others have dedicated their lives to teaching. They all have the power to inspire, to unlock talent, and to transform lives.

Faculty-based activity

Your life at the RCM is based within one of our faculties: strings, keyboard, woodwind, brass, composition, percussion or vocal studies. Each Head of Faculty plans a wide range of activity, such as group classes, masterclasses and performances, to complement your one-to-one teaching.

Recent visitors include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Bernard Haitink, Lorin Maazel, John Williams, Lang Lang, András Schiff, Alfred Brendel, Mitsuko Uchida, Emanuel Ax, Ida Haendel, Pinchas Zukerman, Nicola Benedetti, Natalia Gutman, James Galway and Kiri te Kanawa.

Courses

The Royal College of Music offers a wide range of courses. You can study towards a 4-year undergraduate Bachelors degree, a 2-year graduate Masters degree, or a doctoral research degree. You can also study on a number of 1-year advanced courses, which are designed to help you into the profession, such as our post-Masters Artist Diplomas.

Internationally respected degrees

We are the only UK conservatoire entrusted with the power to award and create its own degrees to doctoral level. This means we can tailor your studies precisely to suit you. Our current degree programmes aim to create professional musicians with high-level practical skills who are flexible, thoughtful and well informed about music and the opportunities available within the profession. We have shaped our programmes in ways that allow scope for both flexibility and specialisation to help you prepare for the music profession.

Faculties

- Brass
- Composition
- Historical Performance
- Keyboard
- Percussion
- Strings
- Vocal Studies
- Woodwind

Find out more:

www.rcm.ac.uk/study

Watch RCM masterclasses with András Schiff and Ida Haendel at:

www.youtube.com/rcmlondon





Performance Opportunities

At the RCM, you will be given performance opportunities unparalleled in any other conservatoire.

Faculty Performance Opportunities

Within your chosen faculty you will attend regular performance and ensemble classes, masterclasses with distinguished visiting musicians and receive high-profile chamber music opportunities, with coaching from a professor of your choice.

Performance Opportunities at the RCM

The RCM organises more than 300 events a year, from large-scale orchestra concerts to more intimate chamber and solo recitals, masterclasses and lectures. Our orchestral concerts are regularly conducted by the like of Vladimir Ashkenazy, Bernard Haitink, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Sir Roger Norrington. Our termly Concerto Competition offers soloists the chance to perform alongside these distinguished visitors.

Performance Opportunities outside the RCM

We offer countless opportunities to take classical music into the wider community and for you to perform at prestigious events across the UK and beyond. Recent highlights have included performances at the Royal Festival Hall, Wigmore Hall and Cadogan Hall, as well as tours to France, Italy and Australia.

Fantastic Facilities

The RCM has a range of performance spaces suitable for hosting a wide variety of events. With a capacity of 400, the Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall is the primary rehearsal and concert venue for RCM orchestras and large ensembles. Our Britten Theatre is the perfect venue for opera. For chamber and solo performances, the RCM Museum of Music, the Recital Hall and the Parry Rooms provide a more intimate performance space.

Our other key facilities include a state-of-the-art recording studio, an extensive library, many rehearsal and practice spaces, and innovative videoconferencing equipment for remote study.

Find out more:

www.rcm.ac.uk/opportunities

Flick through selected photos from recent performances at:

www.pinterest.com/rcmlondon

Watch videos of the exciting performance projects RCM students are involved in at:

www.youtube.com/rcmlondon





Well-known RCM graduates include:

Sir Colin Davis, Sir Roger Norrington, Benjamin Britten, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Barry Douglas, John Lill, Melvyn Tan, Dame Gillian Weir, Alina Ibragimova, Daniel Hope, Natalie Clein, Julian Lloyd Webber, Julian Bream, John Williams, Sir Thomas Allen, Alfie Boe, Dame Andrew Kennedy, Joan Sutherland, James Galway, Michael Collins, John Harle.

RCM graduates currently hold principal positions in orchestras and opera houses around the world, including in:

China, France, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, South Africa, Spain, UK, USA.

Careers

RCM graduates are leading successful musical careers throughout the world. The most popular professions for RCM graduates are performer, composer, teacher, conductor, administrator or musical director – or a combination of all these.

We believe there are four main reasons why RCM graduates are so successful:

1. Professors

RCM professors are working in the music industry as performers, artistic directors, educators and administrators. Many of them hold principal positions in leading UK orchestras. They all understand what it takes to succeed, and they are all able to pass on their skills, knowledge, experiences and contacts to their students.

2. Contacts with the outside world

London is the centre of the classical music industry, and the RCM is at the heart of an extraordinary professional network. You will find that agents, publishers and bookers regularly visit the RCM and attend our events.

For orchestral musicians, we offer side-by-side “sit-in” schemes with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the orchestra of English National Opera. Our singers get to cover roles for English Touring Opera, with whom we enjoy a close relationship. These schemes offer selected students the chance to sit in on professional rehearsals, gaining invaluable experience.

3. Professional Development

The RCM is home to our world-famous careers centre, the renowned Woodhouse Professional Development Centre. The team will help you to learn about the demands and realities of a fast-changing profession, offering career advice and performance opportunities.

4. Programmes of study

Your programme of study is specifically designed to help you build up all of the skills and experiences you need to enter the profession.

Find out more:

www.rcm.ac.uk/careers

Read about the successes of our students and alumni at

www.rcm.ac.uk/news

or download our termly magazine at

www.rcm.ac.uk/upbeat





RCM
LONDON

Royal College of Music

Prince Consort Road
London SW7 2BS
United Kingdom



How to find out more information

Visit our website, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and watch our videos on YouTube:

www.rcm.ac.uk



www.facebook.com/royalcollegeofmusic



www.twitter.com/rcmlatest



www.youtube.com/rcmlondon

How to apply

The RCM auditions in London, Asia and the USA.

For up to date details on how to apply to the RCM, please visit:

www.rcm.ac.uk/apply

Contact us

If you have any queries, please contact the RCM Registry at:

international@rcm.ac.uk

Photography © Chris Christodoulou

Printed on recycled paper, produced using 100% recycled waste at a mill that has been awarded the ISO140001 certificate for environmental management.

The pulp is bleached using a totally chlorine free (TCF) process.