

SA COLLEGE OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
Frequently Asked Questions 2010

- 1) Must I have a certificate from a Royal Schools, Unisa or Trinity exam in order to get in to UCT's College of Music?
 - If you have one, we would like you to bring a copy of it to your audition, but it isn't a requirement. We will be able to hear from your audition whether you are at the required level of proficiency. (Classical instrumentalists may want to use the exam syllabus lists to make sure they are presenting the correct level of repertoire and scales, even if they don't intend doing the exam.)
 - You are required to do an audition, even if you do have a certificate from one of the examining bodies. The requirements are available as separate downloads.

- 2) What is the procedure for applying?
 - Fill out the application form, make sure to include everything that is requested, then send it in. You do not need to wait for mid-year marks or mock matric marks – these can be submitted as you get them. So you can send your application now if you wish. However, the closing date is 30 September for the application, and 15 January 2011 for all supporting documentation.
 - Take the AQL (Academic and Quantitative Literacy Test). The cost of this test is R50 plus a R10 registration fee. (If you intend taking the Maths test in addition, that will cost an additional R50.) For further details, consult <http://www.nbt.ac.za/>. Click on “Test Information” to get the dates and venues for writing. If you can't find answers to your questions on the website, phone 021-650-3523.
 - When the University does its preliminary screening (looking at marks thus far in the school year, the AQL scores, etc.) those who are accepted to be auditioned will get a letter with details for arranging an audition time and theory test (both are done on the same day).
 - Do your audition and theory test at the arranged time.
 - The next screening round happens after the matric marks are out.
 - You should receive final notification by the first week of January. Early offers start in July-August, but others will be done once the matric marks are out. If you haven't heard by the first week of January, please phone the Faculty Office (021-650-2715) and we will track your application.
 - Applicants who are not still in school (i.e. the matric marks are complete) can be notified earlier.

- 3) Secondary piano: this is a requirement for all non-keyboard players, but if you have a minimum Grade 5 piano proficiency, you can be exempted from the course:
 - If you have done a recent exam (e.g. Unisa, Royal Schools, Trinity within the last 3 years), you must bring your certificate with you to registration week. If you haven't done a recent exam but think you have the required proficiency, you can play for one of the piano faculty during orientation week. Prepare something of Grade 5 (e.g. Royal Schools, Unisa, Trinity) level.
 - If you get an exemption from the course, you will still need another course to make up the credits. You can discuss this with your advisor during registration week.

- 4) B.Mus.Ed and the second teaching subject – there are 2 options:
 - a second instrument. In this case, you must be at Grade 5 level before you start your first year to qualify to do a second instrument as a teaching subject. You will have 3 years of lessons, and in those years you will do Grade 6, 7, and 8 repertoire respectively. (Do not wait until Year 2 to start this option; the 4th year timetable is difficult, and most of your coursework must be finished by then.)
 - a campus subject. Your primary department must be the priority in any timetable clash, so you must pick a campus subject according to what fits into the music department timetable. Timetables aren't always available by registration day, but you have a week afterwards to add courses. This gives you

time to check timetables and add a course. To teach Gr.10-12, you must have at least 2 years of study in the subject.

5) May I take a 2nd instrument? Apart from B.Mus.Ed candidates who qualify to do a 2nd instrument as a teaching subject (see above), students may be allowed to do a 2nd instrument as a course. Your acceptance depends on the availability of a teacher, and permission of the Director. Also bear in mind that this is charged separately as a course.

6) How does the BA course with music as a second major work? If you choose this degree stream, you must take 2 subjects, from a list of approved courses. However, if you want to do an instrument, you **must** audition, and meet the entrance requirements for these courses (see the Auditions Info download). Your acceptance depends on the availability of a teacher, and permission of the Director. Also bear in mind that this is charged separately as a course.

7) Can I take music courses in a BA course without having music as a second major? This depends on two things – the faculties you are trying to combine, and the timetable:

- Faculties: different faculties have different rules. For instance, the law faculty has allowed some students to do more than one year of a music course, and others have only been allowed one year. This seems to be taken on a case-by-case basis depending on how they feel the student will cope with the work load from the second year onward. Humanities seems to work on the basis that if the timetables work out, it is acceptable.
- Timetable: your primary department must be the priority in any timetable clash, so you must pick subjects that fit into your department's timetable. Timetables aren't always available by registration day, but you have a week afterwards to add courses. This gives you time to finalize your choices.

If you want to do an instrument, you **must** audition, and meet the entrance requirements for these courses (see the Auditions Info download). Your acceptance depends on the availability of a teacher, and permission of the Director. Also bear in mind that this is charged separately as a course.

8) Students transferring from other tertiary institutions: how much of my previous coursework will be accepted at UCT? SACM requires that you do at least 50% of your coursework at UCT, so:

- Degrees: if you are transferring in after your second year elsewhere, you would still be doing 50% of your 4-year degree here, so you would be within the limits.
- Diplomas: if you are transferring in after your first year elsewhere you would still be doing 2/3 of your 3-year diploma here, so you would be within the limits.

However, there may be minor problems with individual 1st- or 2nd-year courses that UCT requires that you didn't get at the transferring institution (e.g. secondary piano), or where the course content differed considerably. You may be required to do some minor things to catch up. After 2 years for a degree, or 1 year for a diploma, it becomes more difficult because the percentages drop below the 50% requirement. In these cases, we look at it on a case-by-case basis. We would talk to you about the specific courses you took at the transferring institution to see how best to deal with the requirements. In all cases, bring your transcripts with you.

9) Financial aid: a limited number of bursaries are available that would be offered as a part of the "early offer" system. Therefore, it is to your advantage to apply as soon as possible. For other financial opportunities, please contact the Undergraduate Funding Office at 650-2125.

Lastly, if you have applied, and haven't heard about auditions by mid-October please phone us so we can track your application. Similarly, if you have played an audition, but haven't heard by the first week in January, please phone the Faculty Office (021-650-2715).