



UCS MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Championing excellence
in music through fee
assistance.

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UCS
HAMPSTEAD





UCS has a proud musical tradition. We believe that music, of all kinds, makes a unique contribution to the life of the school and to the educational experience of our students – whether they consider themselves specialist musicians or not. The ensemble programme is extensive and diverse, including a Symphony Orchestra, a fifty piece Concert Band, a Chamber Orchestra, four choirs, wind, string and brass ensembles and three jazz groups.

Chamber music is especially strong, with our groups achieving notable success in national competitions, whilst we have recently inaugurated a Rock School to include popular music. Every two years a full scale musical is put on in conjunction with the Drama Department.

Our philosophy is to encourage participation from pupils of every age and every standard, whether or not they learn their instrument in school or at home. A musical education at UCS is open to as many musically talented

children as possible, regardless of their prior experience. At the same time we aim for high standards across all our musical activities.

The UCS Music Department holds an Information Evening every Autumn where families and candidates can find out more about music at UCS, and can pick up further information and advice about applying for Music Scholarships, details of which can be found at www.ucs.org.uk. The Director of Music, Mr Christopher Dawe can be contacted at christopher.dawe@ucs.org.uk, and is pleased to answer queries or to arrange an informal meeting at any time.

What does a music scholarship include?

A Music Scholarship at UCS will entitle the holder to a reduction in the annual school fees of between 10% and 25%. In exceptional cases an award of up to 50% of fees may be made. The precise value will depend upon the standard of applicants and the competition in any one year. Music scholars are also entitled to free instrumental tuition at school on their chosen instrument (including voice) at the discretion of the Director of Music.

Music Scholarships remain in place throughout a pupil's time at UCS Senior School providing the pupil continues to make good progress on their instrument(s) and contributes to the musical life of the school.

Music Scholarships will only be made to candidates who have, separately, satisfied the Headmaster of their academic and personal suitability for a UCS education, judged by the school's standard admissions procedures.



How do I apply?

In order to apply for a Music Scholarship, an online Music Scholarship Application Form must be completed in addition to, and at the same time as, your online main school application.

Applications are welcomed from students seeking entry to UCS through the standard procedures for admission in Year 7, Year 9 or Year 12. If, as an external applicant, you are also applying for means-tested financial assistance, known as a Bursary, this is done through the main online Admissions Application Form, rather than through the online Music Scholarship Application form.

Applications are equally welcome from students currently in Year 6 at the UCS Junior Branch or in Years 8 or 11 at the Senior School.

The first stage of the application process consists of filling in the online Music Scholarship Application Form. Candidates only subsequently proceed to the audition stage if they are invited to academic interview following the entrance examination.

At this point candidates will be contacted direct by the Music Department requesting the following additional documents and information;

- Testimonial from current Head of Music
- Testimonial from current Instrumental teachers
- Copies of all music to be played, including piano accompaniments if an internal accompanist is required



What is the music scholarship audition process?

Music Scholarships involve competitive auditions. For external applicants, these take place in the weeks that follow the Entrance Examination.

All applicants will be required to play two contrasting pieces of their own choice on their first instrument. Competition is keen. For students applying to UCS when they are in Year 6, i.e. for 11+ entry or for 13+ entry, we expect a minimum of Grade V. For students applying at 16+ we expect a minimum of Grade VIII. For all candidates there will also be ear tests and an interview.

Demonstration of ability on a second instrument or as a singer is warmly welcomed, although candidates will not necessarily be expected to be at the same level as their first instrument. The principal rationale for Music Scholarships is to support

ensemble music making at the School. We therefore expect candidates to offer an orchestral instrument (including saxophone) either as their first instrument or as a strong second.

The auditions are conducted by the UCS Music Department with the presence and advice of an external assessor to ensure complete fairness. The final decisions are dependent not only upon candidates' musicality, but also upon a judgement of the contribution that they will be able and willing to make to the musical life of the school.

Successful candidates are expected to make excellent progress in their instrumental or vocal studies during their time at UCS. They are also expected to play a full part in the musical life of UCS through contributing to the School's orchestras, chamber and jazz ensembles, and choirs.



Music department ensembles and choirs

Monday

8.05am – 8.40am **Brass Sinfonia**
8.10am – 8.45am **Percussion Ensemble**
4.20pm – 5.30pm **Chamber Orchestra**

Tuesday

8.10am – 8.45am **Saxophone Ensemble**
8.10am – 8.45am **Senior Flute Group**
1.00pm – 1.35pm **Junior Jazz**
1.35pm – 2.10pm **Guitar Ensemble**
1.35pm – 2.10pm **Junior Flute Group**

Wednesday

8.10am – 8.45am **String Ensemble**
8.10am – 8.45am **Wind Band**
8.10am – 9.05am **Chamber Music**
1.00pm – 1.35pm **Swing Band**
1.00pm – 1.35pm **Chamber Music**
4.20pm – 5.30pm **Chamber Choir**

Thursday

8.10am – 8.45am **Boys Choir**
8.35am – 9.10am **Saxophone Quartet**
1.00pm – 1.35pm **Senior Jazz**
4.20pm – 5.30pm **Symphony Orchestra**

Friday

8.10am – 8.45am **Concert Band**
1.00pm – 1.35pm **Clarinet Ensemble**
1.00pm – 1.35pm **Senior Jazz**
1.00pm – 1.35pm **Chamber Music**
4.20pm – 5.30pm **Rock School**



University College School
Frognaal
Hampstead
London
NW3 6XH

T. 020 7435 2215
F. 020 7433 2111
E. seniorschool@ucs.org.uk
 [@UCSMusic](https://twitter.com/UCSMusic)
ucs.org.uk

