

Music Scholarships

at Hereford Sixth Form College

Anyone can apply for a Music Scholarship, whether or not you are studying Music at A-Level

Music scholars at Hereford Sixth Form College are proud of the standards that they achieve. We aim to create an environment in which all students are empowered to achieve their highest potential. The Department of Music benefits from multi-million pound accommodation that has its own recording studio, recital room, technology suite, electronics room, instrumental practice rooms and a well-stocked library of scores and reference books. You can apply for a music scholarship, whether or not you are planning to study Music as an A-Level subject.

The Academia Musica programmes have seemingly done the impossible. In efficiently directing resources to the expectations of universities and the industry, it has developed training programmes within the maintained sixth form college sector that have been lauded by universities and professional musicians as exceptional and that are holding their own alongside traditional models of top private school music foundations.

Choral Scholarships and the Academia Musica Choir

This award is designed for students who have a particular aptitude for singing (normally Grade 5+). Successful applicants perform with the Academia Musica Choir and have access to advanced choral training alongside current professionals, singing lessons, music theory classes and a book allowance for the purchase of vocal music.

The Academia Musica Choir is a semi-professional ensemble that has a recording contract with Priory Records, broadcasts on the BBC and has performed with professional ensembles such as the English Symphony Orchestra and Oxford and Cambridge University Choirs. The choir performs a substantial repertoire of music every week in British cathedrals as well as productions of large-scale works and debut performances of contemporary works. Their most recent albums are on international release, and comprise a two volume series of the collected vernacular works of John Sheppard.

The Academia Musica Choir also provides a rigorous training programme for ambitious students. Its unique choral programme is making an impact in cathedrals and professional concert halls throughout the UK, bringing a new approach to the traditional model of choral training. Now in its sixth year, the Academia Musica Choir, which began as an ambition scholarship training programme for maintained sector sixth form students, is now thriving as a semi-professional ensemble, modelled on similar programmes at Oxford and Cambridge University.

It was initially designed by Director of Music, Aryan O. Arji (formerly of King's College Choir, Cambridge) to prepare students for the best cathedral and university choral scholarships, but very quickly gained momentum as one of the up and coming choral ensembles and now performs on the London concert stage, most recently at venues such as St John's Smith Square in Westminster.



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Instrumental Scholarships and the Academia Musica Orchestra

This award is designed for advanced instrumentalists (normally Grade 5+). Successful applicants receive advanced instrumental training and form the Academic Musica Scholars' Orchestra, in which they regularly perform alongside representatives from the profession. Instrumental Scholars also take responsibility for preparing themselves and others for the student Recital Series. Instrumental Scholars have access to instrumental tuition, music theory classes, and a book allowance for the purchase of instrumental music.

The Academia Musica Orchestra is the resident orchestral ensemble at Hereford Sixth Form College and combines outstanding professional musicians with scholarship students to create an exciting and vibrant sound. They have worked with representatives from some of the best universities and conservatoires and regularly perform with musicians from the industry, such as the English Symphony Orchestra.

Since its inception, the orchestra has performed an extensive range of repertoire, normally found on the music lists of undergraduate performing degrees. Recent performances have included Mozart and Beethoven Symphonies, and Overtures by Mendelssohn, Schubert and Beethoven. The orchestra has also performed numerous concertos, including: the Grieg Piano Concerto; the Hayden Trumpet Concerto; the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto; the Weber Clarinet Concerto; the Hummel Trumpet Concerto; Bach Brandenburg Concertos; and the Vivaldi Double Cello Concerto in G Minor.

The instrumental scholars run their own regular recital series that provides students with the opportunity to increase their repertoire turnover and to exhibit works in progress. This recital series is modelled on the kinds of student-run recitals that are expected of undergraduates at top universities and conservatoires.

Academic Scholars and the AMusTCL Musicology Diploma

Academic Music Scholarships are awarded to applicants who successfully demonstrate an advanced level of academic potential. Applicants normally have a minimum of Grade 5 in Music Theory and also take Music A-Level. Academic scholars receive extra lessons each week in advanced musicology and are submitted for Grade 6, 7 and 8 in Music Theory, and the Trinity College Musicology Diploma, as they are ready. This course is equivalent to the written component of a first year university degree and is designed for the most able academic musicians. In addition to specialist tuition, Academic Scholars have access to a book allowance for the purchase of course-related materials.

The course is assessed entirely through written examination, and includes questions on advanced harmony and counterpoint, score analysis, and a range of historical subjects. On successfully passing the diploma, students are entitled to affix the letters 'AMusTCL' after their name which demonstrates to universities that they have already completed the kind of work expected of first year undergraduates. This can put the student in a particularly competitive position.



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Parental Contributions

Despite significant cuts in government funding for enrichment activities at sixth form colleges, we are determined to continue to provide the best possible opportunities for students to have access to top quality coaching, whether in sport, music or drama.

Although the College will continue to cover the majority of the costs, we unfortunately have to ask for a small contribution from parents to ensure that we are able to maintain the very high standards of the provision we offer.

This will help to finance a range of areas which can include travel, purchase/hire of specialist equipment, hiring of venues, competitive entry fees, specialist coaching and purchase/hire of music, scores or texts.

The annual parental contribution for these programmes is £200. You will be able to pay this through the Parent Pay website (www.parentpay.com) on a termly basis (£70 in terms 1 and 2, and £60 in term 3).

The College certainly does not wish to deter any student from applying for any of these programmes for financial reasons. In cases of financial hardship, please feel free to write to the Principal or email in confidence explaining your situation and we will be happy to explain the support the College is able to provide.

