

Odeion School of Music

Undergraduate Qualifications

Audition Information for Applicants and Prospective Students



*Inspiring excellence, transforming lives
through quality, impact, and care.*



UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
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General information and FAQ's

Who needs to audition?

All applicants for music programmes will need to partake in the audition/selection process.

Which instruments or voices can applicants audition on?

Auditions for the following instruments can be accepted. Please note that only the [Western Art Music](#) (or classical music) genre can be presented.

- In [brass instruments](#) – trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and horn.
- In keyboard instruments, only [piano](#) and [organ](#).
- In a [recorder](#) (the wind instrument and not the electronic device).
- In [orchestral percussion](#) (this entails orchestral percussion and not only drumkit or drums).
- In [string instruments](#) – violin, viola, cello, and bass violin.
- In [voice \(opera or Western Art Music\)](#) – soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, bass
- In [woodwind instruments](#) – flute, clarinet, saxophone, and bassoon.

How does an applicant audition?

- To accommodate applicants, auditions will primarily be conducted via video submissions.
- Applicants may, however, request an in-person audition at the Odeion School of Music (University of the Free State, Bloemfontein Campus). Requests for an in-person audition should be submitted at least 10 workdays (Monday to Friday) before a specific date.

What if an applicant did not have the opportunity to study music formally?

- *If applicants have not yet received at least two years of formal lessons on an instrument, they cannot be considered for a music qualification. The reason is that learning to play an instrument by reading staff notation is a slow process. The qualifications presented by the Odeion School of Music do not make provision for starting with an instrument at the university level.*
- *However, for the Higher Certificate in Music only, singers who have some experience in Western Art Music (Opera) will be considered. The audition will focus on the vocal ability and quality in a Western Art Music genre only.*

Do applicants need their own instrument to audition?

- Strings (violin, viola, cello and bass violin), woodwind (flute, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone) and recorder players need to audition on their own instrument.
- Applicants may request to audition using an OSM brass instrument (trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba, horn).

What is a quick study?

- A quick study is a piece of music that instrumentalists will need to learn from sheet music, record, and submit a recording within 24 hours of receiving the sheet music.

Will all applicants need to include a quick study?

- Quick studies are only applicable to brass, woodwind, piano, and percussion students.

How should audition videos be recorded?

Keep the following in mind when planning to record your video:

1. Attempt to record your video in a noise-free environment with a dry acoustic (meaning that there is no echo).
2. The area should be well-lit, but should not contain any background lights.
3. Do not stand too close to the microphone: keep the recording device a minimum distance of 30cm away from you/your instrument.
4. If you use an accompanist – the microphone should be away from you and
4. When recording with your phone, and where possible, use the following applications to record your video: Dolby on, Mideo, or Filmic pro.
5. Do not edit your video, except for trimming.
6. Clearly announce your name and the composer and piece you are playing before you play.
7. Record each piece and your sight reading/quick study on a separate clip/track to avoid files being too large.
8. Once you have completed your video, share your clips with the Odeion School of Music through the platforms mentioned at the end of this form.
9. Ensure that you and your instrument (where applicable) are visible in the video image.

How should audition videos be submitted?

The size of audition videos is often too big to send directly via email. Please find options below. *Remember to always include your name and surname, as well as your student number, in all communication to the OSM and UFS.* The options are:

- Upload videos to YouTube in an unlisted format. [Click here](#) to learn how to do this. Send these links to OSMauditions@ufs.ac.za or WhatsApp the videos to 063 171 8858.
- Upload the videos to a Google Drive and share the links via email or WhatsApp. [Click here](#) to learn how to do this. Remember to change the access settings to “anyone with the link”.

When can applicants expect feedback after submitting auditions?

- Applicants can expect feedback within 10 working days (Monday to Friday) after submitting an audition.

What to play for your audition - Brass?

Guidelines for Higher Certificate in Music Performance

- 1) As a guideline, candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 2 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):
- One technical study
 - Two repertoire pieces of approximately Grade 2 level
 - Scales and arpeggios at approximately Grade 2 level
- 2) Further queries about audition repertoire should be directed to the Odeion School of Music.

Guidelines for Diploma in Music

- 1) As a guideline, candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 4-5 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):
- One technical study
 - Two repertoire pieces of approximately Grade 4-5 level
 - Compulsory quick study: Will be sent 24 hours before the audition due date. Please send an email to osmauditions@ufs.ac.za and indicate on which date you intend to submit your audition to receive the quick study in time.
 - Aside from the pieces, students will be required to demonstrate technical proficiency on their instruments by being able to play the following scales and arpeggios from memory:
 - Play major and minor scales (harmonic or melodic) and arpeggios up to 3 sharps and 3 flats within the available range
 - Play any two chromatic scales
 - One Dominant 7th arpeggio, or one

Guidelines for BMus or BA Music qualifications

As a guideline candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 6-7 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):

- One technical study
- Two repertoire pieces
- Compulsory quick study: Will be sent 24 hours before the audition due date. Please send an email to osmauditions@ufs.ac.za and indicate on which date you intend to submit your audition to receive the quick study in time.
- Short transposition study (only for degree students, trumpet and horn), *all at a Grade 6-7 (Unisa, ABRSM or TCL) standard.*
- Aside from the pieces, students will be required to demonstrate knowledge of dynamic and tonal variation (*tasto*, normal, *ponticello*), and technical proficiency, being able to play the following scales and arpeggios from memory:
 - All major and minor scales up to and including 5 sharps and 5 flats
 - Any 4 chromatic scales
 - Any 2 dominant 7th arpeggios
 - Any 2 diminished 7th arpeggios

What to play for your audition – Organ?

Guidelines for Higher Certificate in Music Performance

As a guideline candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 2-3 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):

- a) Two contrasting pieces
- b) Technical work: Pedal Study

Guidelines for Diploma in Music

As a guideline candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 4-5 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):

- a) Two contrasting pieces
- b) Technical work: Pedal Study

Guidelines for BMus or BA Music qualifications

As a guideline candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 6-7 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):

- a) Two contrasting pieces
- b) Technical work: Pedal Study

What to play for your audition – Percussion?

Higher Certificate in Music Performance

- 1) Students should demonstrate musical aptitude on their chosen instrument during an audition.
- 2) Exact audition requirements will be handled on a case by case basis, and should be addressed to osmauditions@ufs.ac.za or WhatsApp (only) to 063 171 8858.

Guidelines for Diploma in Music

- 1) As a guideline candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 4-5 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):
 - a) 3 pieces; one each on snare drum, timpani and melodic percussion (marimba/xylophone/vibraphone). A copy of the sheet music must be provided with audition videos.
 - b) Technical work on ONE of these instruments, from a recognised Grade 4 syllabus (Trinity/ABRSM/Unisa/other) - please provide a copy of the relevant syllabus page with audition videos.
 - c) Basic sight reading on any of the above instruments.

*If a student has experience on drum kit, the snare drum or timpani piece may be substituted by a kit piece, providing the student can provide sheet music of the piece being played, and that it is from a recognised syllabus.

*If a student has never played melodic percussion, proof of any piano qualification (eg, exams or lessons) will be an advantage.

Guidelines for BMus or BA Music qualifications

- 1) As a guideline, candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 6-7 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):
 - a) 3 pieces, one each on snare drum, timpani and melodic percussion (marimba/xylophone/vibraphone). A copy of the sheet music must be provided with the audition videos.
 - b) Technical work on any of these instruments (as chosen by panel), from a recognised Grade 6 - 7 syllabus (Trinity/ABRSM/Unisa/other) - please provide a copy of the relevant syllabus page with your audition.
 - c) Sight reading on any of the above instruments (as chosen by panel) for an in-person audition, OR
 - d) Compulsory quick study: Will be sent 24 hours before the audition due date. Please send an email to osmauditions@ufs.ac.za and indicate on which date you intend to submit your audition to receive the quick study in time.

*If a student has experience on drum kit, the snare drum or timpani piece may be substituted by a kit piece, providing the student can provide sheet music of the piece being played, and that it is from a recognised syllabus.

*Students without melodic percussion experience will not be admitted to study percussion as a main instrument without having first completed either the higher certificate, diploma or other supplementary lessons.

What to play for your audition – Piano?

Higher Certificate in Music Performance

As a guideline, candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 3 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):

- a) Three contrasting pieces
- b) Technical work: Technical requirements of Grade 3 ABRSM, Trinity College London or UNISA
- c) Compulsory quick study: Will be sent 24 hours before the audition due date. Please send an email to osmauditions@ufs.ac.za and indicate on which date you intend to submit your audition to receive the quick study in time.

Guidelines for Diploma in Music

As a guideline candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 4 - 5 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):

- a) Three contrasting pieces
- b) Technical work: Technical requirements of Grade 4- 5 ABRSM, Trinity College London or UNISA
- c) Compulsory quick study: Will be sent 24 hours before the audition due date. Please send an email to osmauditions@ufs.ac.za and indicate on which date you intend to submit your audition to receive the quick study in time.

Guidelines for BMus or BA Music qualifications

As a guideline, candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 7 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):

- a) Three contrasting pieces (Grade 7 or higher)
- b) Technical work: A choice between:
 - i. All scales and arpeggios:
 - only up to four sharps and four flats
 - 4 octaves
 - legato and staccato
 - separately and with both hands
 - a. Scales: Major and Minor (harmonic and melodic)
 - b. Chromatic scales
 - c. Arpeggios - root position only
 - d. Dominant 7th - root position only
 - e. Diminished 7th - root position only
 - ii. **OR:** Technical requirements of Grade 7 Trinity, Unisa or ABRSM
- c) Compulsory quick study: Will be sent 24 hours before the audition due date. Please send an email to osmauditions@ufs.ac.za and indicate on which date you intend to submit your audition to receive the quick study in time

What to play for your audition – Strings?

Higher Certificate in Music Performance

As a guideline, candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 3 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):

- a) 1 technical study
- b) 2 contrasting pieces

Guidelines for Diploma in Music

As a guideline, candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 4-5 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):

- a) 1 technical study
- b) 2 contrasting pieces
- c) Six (6) scales: 2 Major, 2 minor, 2 Arpeggios (1 major and 1 minor)

Guidelines for BMus or BA Music qualifications

As a guideline, candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 6-7 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):

- a) 1 technical study
- b) 2 contrasting pieces (10 to 12 min for degree applications)
- c) Twelve scales:
 - 2 major
 - 2 harmonic minor
 - 2 melodic minor
 - 2 major arpeggios
 - 2 minor arpeggios
 - 1 Dominant 7th arpeggios
 - 1 Diminished 7th
 - 1 double stop scale.

What to sing for your audition – Voice? (1)

Technical work for all qualifications

Instructions (please read carefully):

Please note that all exercises are counted in with “one and two and...” for you to prepare your breath. On the count of three, you will start singing. Use the “piano only” versions of the exercises to record yourself while singing with the piano on our recording.

Please sing all exercises as legato as possible; this means that you should try to sustain the sound through all notes in order to have a vocal line without breaks in between.

Technical Exercises for all voice ranges

Voice with piano

Nr 1 - <https://youtu.be/Y5C5Z9mQMOc>

Nr 2 - <https://youtu.be/NQO5JcCYbL4>

Nr 3 - <https://youtu.be/WNc94kGsZN0>

Nr 4 - <https://youtu.be/q13iMsqFv-w>

Nr 5 - <https://youtu.be/XP8EPvAfcik>

Exercises played on the piano

Nr 1 - <https://youtu.be/Hj3Gjk-DLg>

Nr 2 - <https://youtu.be/aY5mzUnuSNE>

Nr 3 - https://youtu.be/7_Hle2055k4

Nr 4 - <https://youtu.be/SfGXh8iHynw>

Nr 5 - <https://youtu.be/xVS03N54As>

Technical Exercises for basses, baritones, altos, and mezzo-sopranos

Voice with piano

Nr 6 - <https://youtu.be/rrifS9ZnRDY>

Nr 7 - <https://youtu.be/VjOluje4gf0>

Exercises played on the piano

Nr 6 - <https://youtu.be/SsaA51rcAo>

Nr 7 - <https://youtu.be/A2q8qvv82hw>

Technical Exercises for tenors and sopranos

Voice with piano

Nr 6 - <https://youtu.be/rrifS9ZnRDY>

Nr 7 - <https://youtu.be/VjOluje4gf0>

Exercises played on the piano

Nr 6 - <https://youtu.be/SsaA51rcAo>

Nr 7 - <https://youtu.be/A2q8qvv82hw>

What to sing for your audition – Voice? (2)

Repertoire to include

Higher Certificate in Music Performance

One art song / opera aria or one song by an African composer.

Guidelines for Diploma in Music

Two contrasting art songs / opera arias. One song may be by an African composer.

Guidelines for BMus or BA Music qualifications

- Two contrasting art songs / opera arias. One song may be by an African composer (or traditional).
- Compulsory quick study: Will be sent 24 hours before the audition due date. Please send an email to osmauditions@ufs.ac.za and indicate on which date you intend to submit your audition to receive the quick study in time.

What to play for your audition – Woodwinds?

Higher Certificate in Music Performance

As a guideline candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 2-3 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):

- a) Two contrasting pieces
- b) 1 study (technical)
- c) C major, a minor
- d) Compulsory quick study: Will be sent 24 hours before the audition due date. Please send an email to osmauditions@ufs.ac.za and indicate on which date you intend to submit your audition to receive the quick study in time.

Guidelines for Diploma in Music

As a guideline candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 2-3 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):

- a) Two contrasting pieces (Gr. 3 or higher)
- b) 1 study (technical)
- c) Major and Minor scales up to 2 flats and sharps
- d) Chromatic scale (select one)
- e) Any dominant 7th (select one)
- f) Requirements c), d) and e) may be replaced by all Grade 3 Trinity, Unisa or Royal Schools syllabus scales
- g) Compulsory quick study: Will be sent 24 hours before the audition due date. Please send an email to osmauditions@ufs.ac.za and indicate on which date you intend to submit your audition to receive the quick study in time.

Guidelines for BMus or BA Music qualifications

As a guideline, candidates should prepare the following equivalent to Grade 6-7 level (UNISA/ABRSM/TCL):

- a) Two contrasting pieces (Grade 7 or higher)
- b) 1 study (technical)
- c) Major and Minor scales up to 4 flats and sharps
- d) Chromatic scale (select one)
- e) Any dominant 7th (select one)
- f) Any diminished 7th (select one)
- g) Requirements 3-6 may be replaced by all Grade 7/Grade 8 Trinity, Unisa or Royal Schools syllabus scales.
- h) Compulsory quick study: Will be sent 24 hours before the audition due date. Please send an email to osmauditions@ufs.ac.za and indicate on which date you intend to submit your audition to receive the quick study in time.