

Choral Scholarship Guidance Notes



Royal Holloway offers a number of Choral Scholarships each year. It is not necessary for Choral Scholars to read for degrees in Music. Applications will also be considered from postgraduate students. The scholarships are normally held for three years; the maximum award is £700 per annum.

What's involved?

- The normal routine for choral scholars involves an evening rehearsal on Tuesday, a short morning service on Wednesday (8.45-9am) together with an afternoon rehearsal and a short lunchtime concert. On Thursday there is a choral Evensong according to the Book of Common Prayer. The choir also sings either an Anglican service or Catholic Mass on a Sunday evening although usually only on 2 out of 3 weekends.
- There are no services on a Sunday morning and Choral Scholars are free to pursue other professional work in London at that time subject to consultation with the Director of Choral Music.
- The choir also has an active concert, recording and touring schedule away from the college, which falls in and out of term-time. It is expected that Choral Scholars prioritise these events. Expenses arising from these visits will be covered wherever possible.
- Choral Scholars will be expected to sign an agreement confirming that they will attend all choir practices, services, concerts and other events; they will also be expected to give general help with choir arrangements.
- Singing lessons are provided where there is not already provision from within the degree programme.

How do I apply?

1. Apply for your chosen course(s) through UCAS.
2. Complete the application form (released in the Autumn).
3. Submit a reference (somebody suitably qualified (Singing teacher, Director of Music of the candidate's school or similar)) by the deadline in February.
4. Candidates should also submit a recording of themselves singing one short piece, of no more than 4 minutes. This piece should show the candidates' vocal ability. It does not have to be sacred, but we strongly recommend it should be in a style in sympathy with the choir's aims, so musical theatre or jazz pieces are discouraged. This can be uploaded via a link on our website.
5. Shortlisted candidates will be called for audition in March.
6. The scholarships will be conditional upon the candidates satisfying the University of London's entrance requirements and those of the College.

What are you looking for in a Choral Scholar?

- We would love to hear from young singers who are interested in joining one of the UK's premier university choirs.
- Experience with choral singing is desirable.
- It is preferred, but not essential, for potential choir members to have had experience in church singing.
- Good sight-reading skills are essential.
- There is no desired voice that we are looking for. We aim to encourage healthy singing. The sound of the choir is made up of its component parts.
- A team-player, and someone who is interested in being involved in the group socially.
- Countertenors and contraltos are equally welcome. Singing lessons are provided where there is not already provision from within the degree programme.

The Audition

- The audition will last around 15 minutes, and will consist of two contrasting pieces, some sight-reading and an opportunity for questions.
- There may also be range-tests or aural tests where appropriate.

If you have any questions, please email us at: choraladmin@royalholloway.ac.uk