

Organ Scholarship Guidance Notes



Royal Holloway usually offers one organ scholarship each year. It is not necessary for Organ 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 £1500 per annum.

What's involved?

- The organ scholars are the principal accompanists for the Chapel Choir (The Choir of Royal Holloway), they manage the accompanying for the Founder's Choir, and act as répétiteurs for the College Chorus.
- There are no services on a Sunday morning and Organ Scholars are free to pursue other professional work 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 Organ Scholars prioritise these events. Expenses arising from these visits will be covered wherever possible.
- Organ 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.
- Organ lessons are provided by the College Organist (Rupert Gough), and provided through the music degree programme.
- Opportunities may arise in directing the Founder's Choir, and guidance in choral direction is given.
- There are ample opportunities for solo performances through chapel services, concert programmes and recitals.

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. Shortlisted candidates will be called for audition in March.
5. 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 an Organ Scholar?

- We would love to hear from young organists who are interested in working with one of the UK's premier university choirs.
- An organist who is well-above Grade 8 standard, and working towards the standard of an ARCO.
- Experience of liturgical organ playing is desirable.
- Experience in accompanying choirs is essential.
- Good sight-reading skills are essential.
- A team-player, and someone who is interested in being involved in the group socially.

The Audition

- For Organ Scholars, the audition will consist of the performance of two contrasting works (of the candidate's own choice), sight-reading, score-reading, accompaniment of a hymn and/or a psalm, and improvisation, lasting approximately 30 minute in total.

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