



RIAM

Fact Sheet International Students



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

RIAM
Royal Irish
Academy of Music

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ABOUT THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY OF MUSIC (RIAM)

The [Royal Irish Academy of Music | RIAM](#), founded in 1848, is Ireland's oldest conservatoire. It is a premier institution for classical music education and performance training in Ireland, located in the heart of Dublin.

Overview & Academic Status

- One of Europe's oldest music colleges, RIAM offers training from beginner level (ages 4+) through to undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral studies.
- RIAM is an Associate College of [Trinity College Dublin](#) offering internationally accredited degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- As an **associate college** of Trinity College Dublin, it gives students access to university facilities and clubs while maintaining its own conservatoire environment
- Ranked among the **top 50 performing-arts institutions globally**

Facilities & Recent Expansion

- In February 2023, RIAM opened a major **€25–26 million campus redevelopment**, adding about 2,000 m² to the historic site
- Highlights include:
 - A purpose-built **300-seat recital hall** ("Whyte Recital Hall") with top-tier acoustics
 - **Opera studio, sonic arts hub, music therapy suite**, and a **large modern library**
 - Around **76 teaching rooms**, lecture theatre, and improved accessibility

Faculty & Events

- Staffed by prize-winning performers and orchestral principals, and frequently hosts world-renowned visiting artists (e.g., Sir James Galway, Ann Murray, Xuefei Yang)
- Alumni participate in top competitions (Clara Haskil, Cardiff Singer of the World, Dublin International), and perform with leading orchestras globally
- Engages in public events, concerts, masterclasses, exhibitions, and outreach, including neurodiverse and therapeutic music programmes.
- Offers chamber music festivals, orchestral concerts, operas (in collaboration with IADT), and adult series in music appreciation.

Events & Performances

- RIAM now hosts a year-round concert series in its **Whyte Recital Hall**
- Offers chamber music festivals, orchestral concerts, operas (in collaboration with IADT), and adult series in music appreciation.

Why Choose RIAM

- **World-class Faculty:** Professors from top international institutions and orchestras.
- **TCD Degree:** RIAM students graduate with degrees conferred by Trinity College Dublin.
- **New Facilities:** RIAM's €25M redevelopment includes state-of-the-art performance and practice spaces.
- **Small Class Sizes:** Individualized training tailored to each student's musical path.
- **Performance Focus:** Weekly performance classes, masterclasses, and public concerts.
- **International Opportunities:** Exchange programs and global masterclass artists.
- Invests over **25% of tuition revenue** into financial aid (Tuition fee Scholarships and 1848 Scholar programmes) to ensure equitable access

Third-Level Courses Overview

RIAM offers a range of third-level degree and diploma programs in music performance, composition, and pedagogy. Key programmes include:

Undergraduate

- **Bachelor in Music (BMus)**
 - Duration: 4 years
 - Our core offering is the **BMus** which has five strands: [Keyboard Performance](#), [String Performance](#), [Wind, Brass & Percussion Performance](#), [Vocal Performance](#).
 - Focus: One-to-one tuition, ensemble work, musicianship, music history
- **Diploma in Music Teaching & Performance**
 - Duration: 1 year
 - Leads to qualification to teach music and is a pathway into Year 2 of the BMus
 - Serve as a post-degree qualification for those postgraduate students who have not previously specialised in music performance.
- **Access**
 - The 1-year [Access Programme](#) is for students who wish to work on their practical and academic areas in preparation for a third-level music degree programme.

Postgraduate

- **Doctorate in Music Performance (DMusPerf)**
 - Duration: 4 years
 - The key distinguishing feature of the DMusPerf is that it is intended to enable candidates to contribute to the advancement of knowledge of professional practice in their own field of music.
- **Master in Music Performance (MMusPerf)**
 - Duration: 2 years
 - Intensive performance training
 - Recital and research dissertation required
- **Recital Artist Diploma**
 - If the applicant is a musician of post-graduate standard, the RIAM's Recital Artist Diploma is ideal. It will allow the student to immerse in a performance-based programme, without academic classes.
- **Professional Mentorship Diploma (1 year)**
 - The transition from full-time study to professional can be challenging, with musicians frequently in entirely new situations: looking for freelance work, auditioning for jobs, undertaking orchestral trials, making professional proposals for chamber music and solo concerts. The *Professional Mentorship* allows new professionals to work through these situations under the guidance of a teacher with expertise in these areas.

Entry Requirements

Academic Requirements

- Undergraduate: High school diploma equivalent to Irish Leaving Certificate
- Postgraduate: Bachelor's degree in music or equivalent

Audition Requirements

- All applicants must complete a live or recorded audition
- Auditions are evaluated on:
 - Technical proficiency
 - Musicality and interpretation
 - Artistic potential

English Language Requirements

- Undergraduate and Masters 5.5 overall (minimum 5.5 in each component) or equivalent
- Doctorate IELTS 6.5 overall (minimum 6.0 in each component) or equivalent

Application Process

1. Research and Course Selection
2. Prepare and Submit Application via RIAM Website
3. Research teachers at RIAM
4. Submit Audition Recording (if overseas)
5. Attend Interview (where applicable)
6. Receive Offer Letter
7. Accept Offer and Pay the Deposit
8. Apply for Student Visa (if required)
9. Arrange Accommodation and Travel

For further detailed information on the application process, please visit riam.ie/degrees-programmes/undergraduate-postgraduate-applications

Scholarships & Fees

Tuition Fees (approx., subject to change) AY 2026-27

Course	Fees Non-EU	Deposit payable to RIAM NEU	Deposit payable to TCD	Once-off fee payable to RIAM	The remaining balance of fees *less deposit/ scholarship and once-off fee payable to
Access	€15,540	€3,000		€250	Fees payable to RIAM
Diploma in Music Teaching & Performance	€18,020		€3,000	€250	TCD
Bachelor in Music BMus	€23,170		€3,000	€250	TCD
Recital Artist Diploma	€18,535	€3,000		€250	Fees payable to RIAM
Professional Mentorship (Individual)	€7,210	€3,000		€250	Fees payable to RIAM
Professional Mentorship (Chamber)	€6,850	€3,000		€250	Fees payable to RIAM
MMusPerf	€25,740		€3,000	€250	TCD
DMusPerf (Doctor in Music Performance)	€25,740		€3,000	€250	TCD

Table 1 Fees payment overview

Tertiary Scholarships, Bursaries and Financial Supports

What's a music scholarship, grant, or bursary?

Music scholarships, grants, and bursaries are awarded to undergraduate and postgraduate students on the basis of their musical talent, whether as a vocalist or playing an instrument.

Additional benefits

Music scholarships can offer other benefits to students, on top of the financial incentive, such as:

- access to world-class experts,
- equipment, and resources
- assistance with related fees or expenses

Suppose applicants are interested in a music scholarship or bursary. In that case, they will be expected to demonstrate their raw ability as part of their RIAM application, including how they have applied this at an advanced level. For example, has the applicant performed at school, in their local community, or competitions?

For further information on scholarships and bursaries, visit [Tertiary Scholarships, Bursaries and Financial Supports | RIAM](#)

To apply for scholarship/funding, complete the Application for Admissions online at <https://www.riam.ie/degrees-programmes/third-level-applications/how-to-apply>

Student Life in Dublin

Accommodation

We often find that students studying for one year (for example a postgraduate programme) prefer to book under student residence. Students coming to study in first year of a three or four year degree programme, tend to live in student residence for the first year and then explore possibilities of moving off-campus with friends.

Student Residence Accommodation

Our partner providers will assist students in choosing the most suitable type of accommodation for their period of study in Ireland. Student Residence accommodation facilities provide options ranging from standard accommodation to more luxurious.

Full details are available at:

[Student Accommodation Dublin | Student Housing Dublin | Yugo](#) (8 properties to book form)

[Ardcairn House Residence Dublin | Yugo](#) (Has propose built music)

<https://apartostudent.com/locations/dublin> (5 properties to book from) For student looking to live close to RIAM, we recommend looking at [Stephen's Quarter | Dublin Student Accommodation | aparto](#)

[Dublin Student Accommodation | Griffith Halls of Residence](#) (GHR offers the best value under shared halls of residence)

Prices for student residences start from €200 - €440 per week

Alternative Accommodation Options

There is also accommodation available in the vicinity of RIAM. Students can choose from private apartments, renting a house with fellow students or living with a family. Please remember that you should allow yourself ample time to search for a suitable accommodation type to meet your needs (2 - 4 weeks should suffice).

RIAM Students' Union also regularly advertise accommodation on their Facebook Page and social media [RIAM Students Union \(@riamsu \) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

Short Term Accommodation

If you arrive in Dublin early you may need to book a local hostel or Bed and Breakfast until you can move into your room on campus. The following websites are good for finding short-term accommodation in Dublin:

- [daft.ie](#)
- [Finding student housing in Dublin | Dublin.ie](#)

The following list of hostels, Bed and Breakfasts and Guesthouses may also be of use if you need temporary accommodation when you arrive in Ireland.

Isaac's Hostel

2/5 Frenchman's Lane, Dublin 1

T: +353-1-8556215

E: hostel@isaacs.ie

W: isaacs.ie

Stay Generator

Smithfield Square, Dublin, Ireland, 7

T: [+353 1 901 0222](tel:+35319010222)

E: ask.dublin@staygenerator.com

W: <https://staygenerator.com/hostels/dublin>

Homestay

Homestay accommodation is when a student stays with a local family. Living with a local family helps students to settle in to life in Ireland. Homestay includes full board (all meals). Students feel like part of a family and live in a safe, comfortable Irish family home. Staying with an Irish host family allows students to learn about the Irish way of life, Irish culture and will give them lots of opportunities to practice their English.

The following facilities are available to students who stay in homestay:

- Single room with a comfortable bed, a good supply of quality bedclothes and weekly change of bed linen
- Laundry taken care of by host or reasonable access to laundry facilities allowed to student
- Space for clothes storage
- Table and chair in the bedroom for private study or access at all times to another room with a table and chair
- Adequate lighting and heating
- Free access to bathroom and bath or shower daily
- A clean and well maintained house

Homestays can be booked for the first number of weeks or for the full length of the course in agreement with home stay provider.

Rates start from €30 per night or €250 per week

To book:

[HFDI | Homestay Accommodation in Dublin \(hostfamilydublinireland.ie\)](http://HFDI|HomestayAccommodationinDublin(hostfamilydublinireland.ie))

[Rooms to rent in Homestays in Dublin | Student Accommodation](#)

Dublin Postal Codes

When looking at the location of a homestay to RIAM, you should consider the distance from the RIAM, access to public transport.

Always look at the postal code address to determine location. The postal district appears with one or two digits (or in the case of one district, a digit and a letter) appearing at the end of addresses, e.g.:

Sample Address: RIAM, **Dublin 2 or (D2)**

Map of Dublin postal codes: Map of Dublin postal codes: [Dublin Postal Code Map - IrishTourist.com](#)

Student Clubs

TCD Sport

TCD Sport offers state of the art facilities incorporating health and wellness to meet all your exercise and leisure needs. Clubs – If you enjoy sport or thinking of becoming sporty while at the RIAM, make sure to check out the clubs you can join with TCD.

Go to [Sport Clubs - Trinity Sport | Trinity College Dublin \(tcd.ie\)](https://sportclubs.trinitysport.com/)

Societies

There are over 100 student societies that cater to almost any hobby or interest you could have while at RIAM/Trinity. Some are academic (and if your course has a society, it's a good idea to join it) but there are societies for arts & culture, politics, volunteering, and many more. If you've ever thought about debating or learning to juggle or meeting like-minded students, the societies are where to go.

RIAM Students Union

For in-house social events and gatherings, RIAM's active Students Union is the group to join. They plan everything from Hallowe'en Parties to end of term celebrations. Through RIAMSU activities, our students meet up, socialise, stay connected and enjoy life in one of the most vibrant capital cities in Europe. For further information visit [Clubs & Societies | RIAM](#)

Supporting International Students

Student Orientation

All new students must participate in Orientation when they arrive at RIAM. Details about orientation will be emailed to students nearer to the time. When students receive the Orientation schedule, we remind students to carefully identify the sessions relevant to them.

Registration

RIAM in partnership with TCD provides an online registration system for full-degree undergraduate and postgraduate students. Details will be emailed by the TCD Registry nearer the time. Information on how to access timetables online will also be provided during Orientation.

Access to Services before Registration

Before Orientation, there is nothing that students should do academically. If a student arrives early, they should use this time to get to know Dublin and their surroundings as much as possible. The city has much to offer at all times of the year.

RIAM and Third Parties

RIAM does not communicate with third parties about students unless they have specifically instructed us to do so in writing.

Explore RIAM

Student Support and Development

We offer several support services to students at RIAM. We are committed to giving students the practical, emotional, and learning support they will need while studying with us at the RIAM. Our aim is that every student at RIAM thrives in our friendly and inclusive environment.

We welcome students with additional support needs and value diversity and multiple perspectives in all that we are and all that we do.

Our student's safety and wellbeing is our number one priority. You can read the RIAM Child Protection, Health and Safety, Protected Disclosures, Dignity and Respect, and Equality and Diversity policies on our [Policies page](#). Third-Level Students have access to useful resources in the Student Well-being section in Moodle.

Who to contact

If a student has support needs please contact thirdlevel@riam.ie who will plan with the student how to have their best learning and development experience with RIAM.

The Tertiary Office manages student services such as admission, fees, student letters, visa support, registration, examination, and graduation.

Student Learning

Student learning is here to help students manage their learning and develop their study skills. Some resources to support student-learning needs can be found at

- [Degrees & Programmes | RIAM](#)
- [College Calendar | RIAM](#)
- [International & Erasmus Students | RIAM](#)
- [Performing Opportunities | RIAM](#)
- [Support Services for Students | RIAM](#)
- Use **ASIMUT** to book rooms for practice in the RIAM [ASIMUT \(Room Booking\) | RIAM](#)

Disability Support Service

RIAM's Disability Service aims to provide advice and support to students with disabilities. These supports include:

- Needs Assessment upon registration with the service in order to determine any additional learning requirements
- Liaison with tutors/lecturers to help arrange accessible programme materials
- Extended library loans
- The disability service has in place a range of supports to ensure that students with disabilities have full access to the same facilities for study as their peers.

For further information [Disability Support Service | RIAM](#)

Location of RIAM Campus

Where is the academy situated?

The Royal Irish Academy of Music is situated in the centre of Dublin City. It is located at the rear of the campus of Trinity College, one of Dublin's best-known landmarks. RIAM is located in a Georgian building on Westland Row in Dublin. For further information [Royal Irish Academy of Music | RIAM](#)

Is the academy served by public transport?

Yes, the RIAM is most easily reached by the DART, a suburban rail system.

Being a city centre location the Academy is widely serviced by Dublin Bus. Any bus that includes Trinity College, Nassau Street, or Merrion Square travel close to the Academy.

To plan your route/journey go to [Your Journey Starts Here | Transport for Ireland](#)

FAQs – RIAM Tertiary Courses

1. What degree will I receive from RIAM?

RIAM students graduate with degrees conferred by [Trinity College Dublin](#)

2. What third-level programs are offered at RIAM?

RIAM offers:

[Bachelor in Music \(BMus\)](#)

[Diploma in Music Teaching and Performance](#)

[MMusPerf Music Performance](#)

[DMusPerf \(Doctor in Music Performance\)](#)

Other programmes

[Access course](#)

[Recital Artist Diploma](#)

[Professional Mentorship](#)

3. What are the entry requirements?

Undergraduate:

- Academic qualification equivalent to the Irish Leaving Certificate
- High-level performance skill demonstrated through audition

Postgraduate:

- Undergraduate degree in music or equivalent
- High-level proficiency and professional potential

4. Do I need to audition?

Yes. All applicants must audition (live or recorded). The audition assesses:

- Technical ability
- Musical interpretation
- Artistic promise

Recorded auditions are accepted for international applicants.

5. Can international students apply?

Yes. RIAM welcomes students from around the world. The Academy provides:

- Audition by video
- Webinars to meet to Heads of Faculty
- Online open days
- Visa support

7. What is the language of instruction?

- All courses are taught in **English**. Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate proficiency through recognized tests (e.g. IELTS, TOEFL).

8. Are scholarships available?

Yes. RIAM offers:

- Entrance scholarships based on audition results
- In-course performance awards
- Access to government and external funding for eligible students

9. Is housing provided?

RIAM does not offer on-campus housing, but offers a wide variety of campus options via its partner providers.

10. Can students work part-time during studies?

Yes. International students on a valid Irish student visa can work:

- **Up to 20 hours/week** during term
- **Up to 40 hours/week** during holidays

11. What is student life like at RIAM and in Dublin?

Dublin is a vibrant, safe, and friendly city with:

- Rich music and arts culture
 - Good public transport
 - Access to top performance venues and festivals
- RIAM offers frequent performance opportunities, masterclasses, and community events.

12. What do I need to know about Ireland?

- **Location:** An island in north-western Europe
- **Capital:** Dublin
- **Population:** About 5 million (as of 2024)
- **Language:** English (primary) Irish (Gaelic) is also an official language.
- **Currency:** Euro
- **Government:** Parliamentary democracy. Ireland is an **independent, sovereign nation**.
- **EU Membership:** Yes, since 1973

13. Where is Dublin

Dublin is the capital and largest city in Ireland. It is located on the east coast of the island. Dublin serves as the political, cultural, and economic centre of Ireland.

14. When should I apply?

Applications typically open in autumn and close in early spring.

- Audition deadlines: January–March (check website for exact dates)
- Early applications are encouraged

15. Can I transfer into RIAM from another music school?

Yes, transfer applications are considered based on:

- Transcript of prior studies
- Audition results
- Availability of places in the chosen discipline

16. Do I need a visa to study in Ireland?

If you're not from the EU/EEA/UK/Common Travel Area, you will **generally need a student visa** to study in Ireland—but rules vary depending on your nationality and course length.