

Musician

Musicians perform and record different styles of music

What you'll do

- practising and rehearsing
- playing live in front of an audience
- composing music
- taking part in recording sessions
- promoting your music
- arranging gigs and tours

You'll often need to combine music with other types of work, particularly at the start of your career.

Skills You'll need:

- musical skills
- the ability to accept criticism and rejection
- business skills

These university subjects are related to this career:

[Creative writing](#)
[Drama and Theatre studies](#)
[Music](#)

Watch this video from a student studying **Music**
<https://cdn.unifrog.org/video/kvmux08bmc/480.mp4>



Working hours, patterns and environment

You may play in places like pubs and clubs, recording studios or theatres and music festivals.

You might play one-off gigs, tour or play on cruise ships.

Most of your gigs would take place in the evening.

You'd be expected to have your own instruments and possibly also stage and studio equipment.

Qualifications and grades

There are no set requirements.

You will need a good level of musical ability on your chosen instrument or as a singer. It can help if you can read music but it's not always essential. You can get practical experience, make industry contacts and get noticed by performing.

You could also showcase your talents through social media or initiatives like [BBC Introducing](#).

If you want to study music:

Level 2 (e.g. GCSEs)

GCSEs - a minimum of Grade 4 in English and Maths with a strong grade in Music.

Level 3 (e.g. A-Levels, BTECs)

3 A-Levels ranging between AAB-BCC

East Midlands growth: +9% from 2014 to 2024

Overall UK median earnings: £27,619