

Army Musician

Please see below all the relevant information about a career in Army Music and information on the application process.

Joining the British Army gives you much more than a career in music. There are opportunities for you to grow as an individual, build lifelong friendships and make an impact in the world through music. All military careers equip individuals with high quality management and leadership skills, along with a variety of personal development courses that can transform your military service. Army musicians can progress their career, by promotion through the ranks. Musically you will be a part of the UK's single largest employer of musicians, performing music all over the world to royal, military and public audiences.

Once your military and musical training is complete you will be a serving member of British Army Music. There are 14 bands located across the country including London, Edinburgh and Cardiff. They are made up of:

- Symphonic Wind Bands
- 2 Brass bands
- 1 String Orchestra

If you play a contemporary instrument (eg. guitar, keyboard etc.) you would be required to learn a marching band instrument during training.

The Job

As stated, your role would be to perform music all over the world to royal, military and public audiences. This provides morale to serving soldiers whilst also representing the public face of the British Army.

A typical day as an army musician includes band rehearsal, developing your musical standards, musical performances and maintaining personal fitness. Additionally, you will assist in the day to day running of an Army Band. During the year you would refresh the military skills that you would have been taught in Basic training.

Your secondary role will vary depending on which band you are in. Household Division Bands based in London support State Ceremonial and Defence Tasks. Regional Bands continue to assist the Army Medical Services in a non-combatant role in support of Field Hospitals with general tasks and duties.

To find out more about British Army Music please click [here](#)

Pay and Benefits

- £20,000 on completion of Initial Trade training. A salary of up to £24,902 during your first rank. This further increases through promotion.
- 4 year 'rolling contract'
- 38 days leave per year
- Grants for further education
- Non-contributory pension
- Subsidised [adventurous training](#) (eg. Skiing, diving etc.)

- Free dental care
- Free medical care and prescriptions
- Subsidised Meals – It is possible to eat three full meals a day for approximately £6.
- Subsidised Single Soldiers and Service Families Accommodation. If you are single you must live on camp during Basic and Initial Trade Training but you can apply to 'live out' when you are posted to your band. If you are married, then you are entitled to subsidised housing after Basic Training.

For more information on benefits within the Army visit [Discover my Benefits website](#).

Medical conditions

Army life can be physically demanding. That is why some medical conditions and ongoing illnesses can delay or even stop you from joining. A full medical examination is part of the application process, but it is worth checking this list before you start to see if you are eligible.

For further information please see attached document or [click here](#). If you have any concerns regarding any medical conditions you have, it will help to discuss them during the initial application process.

Fitness standards

You will be required to complete the following fitness tests at an Army Assessment Centre. You can find out more about these tests by [clicking here](#).

1. Run - This is a 2km (1.2 mile) run, after an 800m (0.5 mile) warm up jog for between 6 min 30 sec and 7 min. You must run 2km in 11 min and 15 secs or less to meet the lowest adult soldier entry standard.
2. Medicine ball throw - Sitting with your back against a wall, you'll throw a 4kg medicine ball as far as you can. Your best throw of three will count. You must throw at least 2.9m to meet the lowest soldier entry standard.
3. Mid-thigh pull - Standing in front of a bar set to mid-thigh height, you'll be asked to pull the bar upwards for 5 seconds, then rest and repeat. Your best score of the two attempts will count. You must pull 46 units or more to meet the lowest soldier entry standard.

Training

Basic training – Your career begins with Basic training, learning the soldiering skills required of every service person. To find out more about what is involved [click here](#).

Junior Entry - 23 weeks at Army Foundation College, Harrogate. For applicants aged 16 years old.

Standard Entry - 14 weeks at an Army Training Centre. For applicants over 17 years old.

Initial Trade Training (ITT) – This takes place at the Royal Military School of Music. Training includes regular instrumental tuition, aural and general musicianship lessons along with band rehearsals, marching band instruction and physical training.

Joining Process - How to apply

Stage 1 - Apply online

Select the 'Start your Army application' and complete the candidate registration form by [clicking here](#). You will need to apply to join as a soldier.

Stage 2 - Army Briefing

You will be invited to your local career centre, be given a personal development plan to follow and a Candidate Support Manager (CSM) to help you get ready for the assessment centre.

Stage 3 - Army Assessment

Your assessment will last for 2 days and will take place in one of our Army Assessment Centres in the UK. We will pay for your travel to get there and back.

This is your chance to see whether the Army is right for you, and for us to see whether you are suitable to join. During your stay the assessment will include:

- A full medical examination
- Physical and mental tests
- Team tasks to see how you work with other people
- A career discussion

Stage 4 - Instrumental Audition

Your most local Army Band will act as a support for you to prepare for your musical audition.

Your audition will take place at the Royal Military School of Music on your instrument where you will be required to perform:

- Two contrasting pieces
- Scales
- Sight reading
- A theory and aural assessment
- A short interview with the auditioning panel
- Instrumental lesson with professor

Stage 5 - All assessments completed

- We will check your references and run a background check.
- If everything is okay we will send you an offer of employment.
- When you accept the offer, you will be given a date to start your Basic training and you will formally join (enlist) into the Army. How quickly you can start will depend on the job you've applied to do, the grade you were given at assessment and any personal commitments.

Please feel free to call me with any questions.

Website: <https://www.army.mod.uk/music>