

RWCMD

Week 1

SEPTEMBER 2024

Hello and Welcome,

You're finally here! It's great to welcome you to RWCMD. New chapters are exciting, and beginnings set the tone for the future of a relationship. That's why, in your first week with us, you'll quickly start developing the skills that support a successful career in the arts by diving straight into the work. This is a practical conservatoire training, designed to be challenging and inspirational.

As such these first sessions will also be practical and will introduce you to skills that underpin and help your transition into work at the college, sharing the ethos of our creative community and providing you with some starting points to support you through your study. They will also provide you with the opportunity to meet and work with students across departments, not just your own programme, allowing you to engage with the breadth of talent, experience, and perspective within the College whilst building new partnerships with your fellow students.

These are core sessions in the commencement of study and are essential parts of your course for all students and should not be missed. Details of the sessions themselves are detailed below.

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REGISTRATION DAY - MONDAY

College Welcome

A welcome to the college from the Principal, the Directors of Music and Drama and the Students' Union President. Find out about Cardiff and the College, as well as the work of the Drama and Music departments before finding out what the student union has in store for you for the rest of the week.

Freshers' Fayre & Tours

Check out the Students' Union Freshers' Fayre, where you'll get to sign up for college societies, meet arts and local organisations, and probably grab a few freebies too. You'll also be able to go on a group tour of the campus and have the opportunity to drop in on some of the teaching that is happening.

Living in Cardiff (Safety & Citizenship)

An information session about your new city. The Student Liaison Officer from the South Wales Police and a representative from Cardiff Council will offer some advice on safety in the community and online, the safety bus scheme, home security and housing, and ways in which you can become involved in - and be a positive member of - the local Cardiff community.

Programme Introductions

At the end of the day meet with the other new starters who share your subject area as well as the staff team who will be teaching you whilst you study at RWCMD.

Later in the week there will be another session with your peers where staff will walk you through what to expect of your course and provide some basic advice for your time with us.

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Starting Tuesday students will dive straight into their practical work exploring their artistry or study with visiting professionals and college staff. These sessions provide opportunity for you to get to grips with how we work at college, to meet people on your and other courses and to start your first few modules.

College or department wide activities are outlined below, those activities and any course specific sessions you have, will be in your personal timetable on ASIMUT – a system you will be introduced to on Tuesday.

Creative Journeys (Drama only)

This session will see students from across the Drama faculty meet to speak to each other and to recent graduates of the Drama programmes about their time at college and what happened when they joined the industry.

Dennis Rollins (Music Only)

Funk trombonist extraordinaire Dennis Rollins MBE will be in residence with us for the week, sharing his passion and joy for music through creative workshops with all newly arriving music students. Dennis has lent his unique and stylish talents to some of the country's and indeed the world's top jazz and pop artists including Courtney Pine, Maceo Parker, Jamiroquai, The Brand New Heavies, Blur, Monty Alexander and Pee Wee Ellis amongst others.

Dennis says: "It's going to be a pleasure to return and work with the students of RWCMD. We'll be sharing some beautiful songs from the Caribbean with you during the week, inspired by the musical memories of the Windrush Elders Cymru group who meet at the College every week. I'll also be working with the Royal Welsh College's jazz performers, breathing new life into the calypso classics of Harry Belafonte, Toots & The Maytals, Monty

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Alexander and more for a gig which will also feature special guests Samuel Dubois on steel pan, and Cameron Pierre on guitar. Look forward to seeing you soon, with your dancing shoes on!”

Dennis’ visit will culminate in a public performance on Thursday evening. Free student tickets are available from the Welcome Desk or online. All students are welcome!

DAY 2 - TUESDAY

Professional Conduct Toolkit

This session will introduce some key skills that arts professionals need to create an effective and professional working environment. Expect an introduction to some of the techniques behind successful communication and then establish some expectations and ground rules for approaching your work at college - and in your careers - in a mature, fearless, and respectful manner.

The RWCMD Digital Toolkit

Another practical, hands-on session exploring the key digital tools you will need to study at the college in your first week and beyond. You’ll learn how to **login** to the college systems; You’ll visit **The Hub** - College’s information portal; you’ll explore **Moodle** where all academic and course information is held; You’ll have a brief introduction to the Microsoft software suite including college’s essential communication tool: **EMAIL**; Most importantly you’ll look at **ASIMUT** which contains your personalised timetable.

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY

Inclusive Working and Allyship

We all have a responsibility in fostering an inclusive culture and RWCMD is committed to embracing and developing the unique voices and contributions of all its community within its work and in the arts more widely.

This essential session will focus on developing an awareness of intersectional diversity and inclusion, as well as developing a personal understanding of your role alongside the college in maintaining an inclusive culture. Participants will have a chance to discuss topics in

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depth, whilst building tools, principles and approaches that can be used during their training and in their practice on graduation to be an effective ally or address roadblocks constructively.

Content Warning: This session will include some discussion about prejudiced behaviours against marginalised groups. The facilitators will maintain a safe and open space for exploration, and though the more a participant contributes, the more they will get from the session, there is no requirement to do more than engage your mind with the work.

DAY 4 - THURSDAY

Managing your Study

Meet with teaching staff and the academic services team to explore the fundamental differences and expectations in approaching your learning on a conservatoire degree programme. This session is tailored to our undergraduate or postgraduate students and will outline key strategies for managing life and study at the college, as well as where to go for support when it is needed.

DAY 5 - FRIDAY

International Student Welcome

Students from outside the UK will gather with faculty members and college staff to talk about life and study as an international student in the UK. This session will help you understand your residence requirements, what UK study is like, and how to navigate UK life from healthcare to housing and beyond.

Course Briefing

Come back together with the other new starters from your subject area for academic staff to walk you through what to expect of your course and provide some advice for your time with us.

Panel Discussion and Q&A

Join a highly regarded panel of professionals drawn from RWCMDs extensive community of alumni and fellows, to discuss issues surrounding the future of performing arts and what your place within it might look like.

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Then join the rest of the College in the foyer for a free Jazz performance!

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