

LCME
SINCE 1887



LCME qualifications and UCAS Tariff points

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Part of
 UNIVERSITY OF
WEST LONDON
London College of Music Examinations

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Empowering your journey to UK higher education

London College of Music Examinations (LCME) qualifications are regulated qualifications in the United Kingdom (UK).

- Awarded by the University of West London
- Recognised by Ofqual, the qualifications regulator in England
- Also recognised by the regulators in Wales (Qualifications Wales) and Northern Ireland (CCEA)

This means universities and employers throughout the UK and worldwide can trust the quality and standards of your LCME qualifications.

This guide explains how our qualifications can help you earn UCAS points for university applications in the UK and support your education journey.

What are UCAS Tariff points?

UCAS Tariff points help UK universities assess whether you meet the entry requirements for a particular course. The UCAS Tariff points calculator converts your qualifications into points, making it easier for universities in the UK to compare different types of awards

Important to know: Most UK universities use UCAS points, but not all of them. Always check the specific requirements for your chosen course.

The purpose of this guide is to help you understand how you can use LCME qualifications as part of your application to universities in the UK, providing advice on everything from how to calculate your points to the application process.



How LCME qualifications will help you

LCME advanced level qualifications at Grades 6, 7, and 8 in practical and theory subjects give you valuable UCAS Tariff points that can open doors to university courses in the UK.

You can earn UCAS Tariff points in the following subjects and exams:

Music qualifications

- Graded exams, Recital Grades and Leisure Play exams for all instruments
- Theory of Music and Popular Music Theory

Drama, Communications and Musical Theatre qualifications

- Speech and Drama
- Musical Theatre
- Acting
- Verse Speaking
- Oral Communication
- Reading Aloud
- Spoken English



Understanding your UCAS Tariff points

The tables below show how many UCAS Tariff points you can earn from your LCME qualifications. Each table displays the points awarded based on two factors:

- The grade level (Grade 6, 7, or 8)
- Your achievement level (Pass, Merit, or Distinction)

UCAS points for LCME Music, Drama, Communications and Musical Theatre exams

UCAS Tariff points	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
30			Distinction
24			Merit
18			Pass
16		Distinction	
14		Merit	
12	Distinction	Pass	
10	Merit		
8	Pass		

UCAS points for LCME Theory of Music and Popular Music Theory exams

UCAS Tariff points	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
10			Distinction
9			Merit
8		Distinction	Pass
7		Merit	
6	Distinction	Pass	
5	Merit		
4	Pass		



Applying to University of West London?

In addition to LCME qualifications earning UCAS Tariff points at Grades 6, 7, and 8, you can use your **LCME qualification Grade 8 or above to receive an offer for one of London College of Music’s (LCM) undergraduate courses**. And if you hold an LCME Diploma (LLCM or higher) you can apply to LCM postgraduate programs without an audition.

Visit the LCM website to explore the courses that will shape your creative career and review the entry requirements.

When you’re ready, submit your application online and upload your LCME qualification details.

The admissions team will review your application and contact you with the next steps.

*Subject to meeting other entry requirements. Please discuss your situation with LCM and the University of West London directly.

**LCM courses at
University of West London
(UWL)**



Applying through UCAS as an international student

If you're an international student wanting to study in the UK, you'll apply through UCAS just like UK students, although with some additional steps.

Regardless of where you are applying from, your LCME qualifications can contribute valuable UCAS Tariff points to your application.

Steps for international students

1. Check visa requirements

Determine if you need a student visa to study in the UK

2. Research courses and universities

Look at entry requirements and whether they accept LCME qualifications

3. Apply through UCAS

Create your online account at ucas.com

4. Include your LCME qualifications

Submit your application online at ucas.com

5. Provide supporting documents

Including certificates, transcripts, and English language proficiency evidence

6. Apply for student finance

Explore funding options available to international students

7. Apply for a student visa

Once you receive an offer and meet all conditions

Important considerations for overseas applicants

- **Application deadlines** - International students often have earlier deadlines than UK applicants, so check specific dates for your chosen courses
- **English language requirements** - Most universities require proof of English proficiency (such as IELTS or TOEFL)
- **Academic equivalencies** - Universities may need to assess how your qualifications compare to UK standards
- **Additional requirements** - Some courses may require portfolios, auditions, or interviews

Always check the [UCAS website](https://ucas.com) for international students for the most up-to-date information and guidance specific to your situation.

International
students
UCAS



Frequently asked questions

How can I use UCAS points?

UCAS points help you meet entry requirements for UK university courses. For example, a course might ask for '110 UCAS points', and you can use points from different qualifications to reach this total.

For example, if you have an LCME Grade 8 qualification in piano with a 'merit', this would give you 24 UCAS points, meaning you would only need 86 additional UCAS points to meet the entry criteria for your chosen course.

Can I combine points from different qualifications?

Absolutely! This is one of the great advantages of the UCAS system – you can build your points total by combining different qualifications. Your LCME grades work alongside A-levels, BTECs, and other qualifications to help you reach the points required for your chosen course.

Just keep in mind that UCAS typically awards points for your highest achievement in each subject area. So if you've progressed through LCME Grades and achieved a Grade 8, that's the qualification that will contribute points to your total, showcasing your dedication and growth as a performer. Your earlier Grades (like Grade 6 and 7) demonstrate your journey, but the Grade 8 represents your peak achievement, so usefully only the highest grade earns you UCAS points.

UCAS
Tariff
calculator



How do I calculate the exact UCAS points from my LCME qualifications?

You can use the tables in this guide or the [UCAS Tariff calculator](#). To find your LCME qualification on the calculator, you need to:

1. Search for "UWLQ" (University of West London Qualifications)
2. Select your specific qualification type, for example: "UWLQ Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 6)"
3. Choose your grade (P = Pass, M = Merit, or D = Distinction)
4. The calculator will show your UCAS points total

Will all universities accept my LCME qualifications?

Every university sets its own entry requirements. While LCME qualifications are on the UCAS Tariff, it's essential to check the specific entry requirements for your chosen course, as each institution in the UK sets its own criteria on which qualifications they accept.

We recommend checking directly with your chosen institutions to understand exactly how they'll assess your application and LCME qualifications – this ensures you can showcase your talents in the best possible way.

How do I find out if my chosen university accepts LCME qualifications?

Check the university's website or contact their admissions office directly. Most UK universities provide clear information about accepted qualifications.

For instance, if you want to do a BA (Hons) Musical Theatre at the University of West London (UWL), you can go to the UWL website, click on 'Entry and fees', and this will take you to the 'Entry requirements' for the course.

Do I need to list my LCME qualifications on my application?

Yes, include all your LCME qualifications in the 'music qualifications' or 'other qualifications' section of your UCAS application.

Frequently asked questions

Will universities outside the UK recognise my LCME qualifications?

While UCAS points are specific to UK universities, your LCME qualifications have value worldwide. While other countries don't use the UCAS points system specifically, LCME qualifications still hold value internationally.

Global recognition: LCME's connection to the University of West London gives our qualifications credibility worldwide. Many international universities recognise and value credentials from established UK exam boards and universities.

Demonstrated skills: Universities worldwide appreciate candidates who have pursued advanced music, drama and communication qualifications, as they demonstrate commitment, discipline and specialised skills. These skills stand out in personal statements as part of university applications.

Portfolio enhancement: For performing arts programmes internationally, LCME qualifications can be a unique and essential part of your application portfolio.



Why choose LCME

Preparing you for the future

- LCME is the **only UK performance exam board that is part of a university** - the University of West London
- We offer **competitive exam fees with printed certificates included** as standard
- With over **130 years of experience**, we have a proven track record of upholding standards across the performing arts
- An **inclusive approach** to performance exams with diverse syllabuses across music, drama and communications
- Worldwide recognition **opening doors to higher education and careers globally**



Take your next step with us

Book your LCME exam today and earn UCAS Tariff points to help unlock your future in higher education.

For syllabuses and further information, please contact:

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**Scan the QR code to join our mailing list
and receive updates on the latest news,
syllabus information and offers**



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UCAS Tariff point values, university requirements, immigration regulations and application procedures may change without notice. Users should verify all information independently with UCAS (www.ucas.com), individual universities, and relevant authorities before making decisions.

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