*Advanced Postgraduate Diploma: Professional Performance   
Birmingham Conservatoire*

## **Additional costs for this course**

We have provided you with a breakdown of the essential costs and the optional costs which are dependent on your budget.

Please note that your marks are not a reflection of how much you spend, so a student who spends less than the estimated costs won’t be marked down, compared to a student who spends more.

**Specialist support and expenses**

Students on Birmingham Conservatoire’s Advanced Postgraduate Diploma: Professional Performance programme are already on the verge of a career in the music profession, and thus will expect to incur expenses typically associated with operating as a fledgling professional musician.

You may therefore wish to budget about £100 for recording technician fees: you will need some professional level recordings for your ‘Professional Performer’s Portfolio’, and you may also need them for external audition purposes. The Portfolio module requires you to set up your own professional website: you should therefore budget around £50 to cover the cost of website hosting.

For the project aspect of the Portfolio module you may wish to organize your own external performance(s). This may involve concert hall hire, for which you should budget around £100.

There is an expectation that you will enter external competitions, and we suggest that you budget around £150 for competition entry fees.

You will spend about £250 on music, though most of the resources you will need are available within the Conservatoire and our library.

In addition to the above costs, although it’s optional, you may want to have additional coaching outside of what is already provided. You may need to budget £200 for this.

**Professional association membership**

We recommend you become a member of the [ISM](http://www.ism.org/) (Incorporated Society of Musicians) for £15 per year and/or [Musicians Union](http://www.musiciansunion.org.uk/Join) for £20 per year.

Any other professional association membership fees may cost you about £200, although this is an optional cost.

## **Laptops and Software**

It is not essential for you to purchase your own laptop (PC or Mac), as you can also borrow a laptop from the university or use one of our shared computer rooms. Laptops may be borrowed for free for up to six hours and may be found at the following locations: Curzon building, Millennium Point, Parkside building, the School of Jewellery and Margaret Street (Birmingham School of Art). Most students do prefer to have their own laptops, and we suggest you allow about £300 to £1,200 for this, dependent on your preferences and budget. Apple also offer a discount on laptops for UK students: [go to Apple for Education for more details](http://www.apple.com/uk_edu_5000618/shop).

You’ll also be provided with a free account for [Lynda.com](http://www.lynda.com/) worth £227.40.

Microsoft Office 365 and 1TB of OneDrive cloud storage space is provided free to all students.

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**Field trips**

For general travel costs throughout the course we suggest a budget of £200.