

PREREQUISITES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

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Prerequisites and substitutions

To be eligible to enter for a diploma, you will need to show that you fulfil a specific ABRSM **prerequisite** as evidence that you have reached a required minimum level of competence. However, reflecting our aim to provide open access and to recognize candidates' achievements, we offer a range of possible **substitutions** or alternatives for these prerequisites. The substitutions are given in the table below alongside the prerequisites.

DipABRSM

Prerequisite

ABRSM Grade 8 Practical

Substitutions

- Appropriate professional experience (see p. 20)
- Grade 8 Practical from Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London College of Music & Media, Dublin Institute of Technology, Australian Music Examinations Board or University of South Africa; Grade 9 Certificate from Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto
- Grade 8 Practical from Trinity College London or Royal Irish Academy of Music (with ABRSM Grade 5 Theory or equivalent from any of the boards listed in this table)
- ATCL Performing/Recital or Performer's Certificate from Trinity College London or ALCM Performer's Certificate from London College of Music & Media (with ABRSM Grade 5 Theory or equivalent from any of the boards listed in this table)
- CPD Training Strategy, Module 1, from Royal Air Force Music Services
- TEQA 1 from Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall
- M2 from Royal Marines School of Music
- BMus (Hons) from Royal Academy of Music or Royal College of Music (successful completion of all course units for the first year)
- BMus (Hons) or BA (Music) from Royal Northern College of Music (successful completion of all course units for the first year)
- BEd (Music), BA (Musical Studies) or BMus (Performance) from Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama (successful completion of the first year)

LRSM

DipABRSM (Music Direction)

- Appropriate professional experience (see p. 20)
- Advanced Certificate from ABRSM
- LTCL (Conducting) from Trinity College London
- CPD Training Strategy, Module 5.1, from Royal Air Force Music Services
- Band Sergeant Course from Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall
- BMus (Hons) from Royal Academy of Music (with conducting electives from Years 2–4)
- BMus (Hons) from Royal College of Music (with conducting specialism in Year 3 and/or 4)
- BMus (Hons) or BA (Music) from Royal Northern College of Music (with conducting/directing electives in Years 3 or 4)
- BA (Musical Studies) with Hons or BMus (Performance) (with first study conducting) from Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama
- Intermediate Choral Conducting Course from Association of British Choral Directors
- Advanced Course (Conducting) from Sing for Pleasure

FRSM	LRSM (Music Direction)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appropriate professional experience (see p. 20) ● LRAM (Conducting) from Royal Academy of Music ● ARCM (Conducting) or DipRCM (Conducting) from Royal College of Music ● Performer's Certificate from Royal Academy of Music (Conducting) ● DipCHD from Royal College of Organists ● Master's degree in Performance (Conducting), with verified performance components ● Postgraduate Diploma in Performance (Orchestral Conducting or Choral Conducting Studies) from Royal Academy of Music ● PGDip (Conducting) or MMus (Conducting Studies) from Royal College of Music ● PGDipRNCM (Directing) from Royal Northern College of Music ● PGDipMus (Conducting) or MMus (Conducting) from Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama
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- NB**
- If you have a qualification that you consider to be at a higher level than those specified in the table above, you may apply for it to be accepted as a substitution for the listed prerequisite.
 - There are no time limits on the validity of prerequisites.

Supporting documentation If you are fulfilling the prerequisite through one of the listed substitutions, you will need to enclose supporting documentation with your entry form. In the case of qualifications, you should enclose a photocopy of the relevant certificate. For courses (or parts of courses), a signed declaration from the institution concerned is acceptable (standard wording for this declaration is given on p. 65).

For candidates offering the standard ABRSM prerequisite:

UK & Republic of Ireland: a photocopy of the certificate (or mark form) should be enclosed *only* if the exam was taken before 1994 or in a centre outside the UK/Republic of Ireland.

All other countries: a photocopy of the certificate (or mark form) should be enclosed in all cases.

Appropriate professional experience

At all three levels you may apply to offer **appropriate professional experience** as a substitution for the standard ABRSM prerequisite. This is done by filling in the application form on p. 64 and sending it to the Syllabus Director for consideration. The form must reach ABRSM at least six weeks before you intend to enter for your diploma (see pp. 32–33). It is important to note that applying for this substitution is a *separate* procedure from sending in your entry form, and that approval of your professional experience must already have been given *before* you can enter for the diploma. When you are ready to enter, you must enclose ABRSM's approval letter with your completed entry form.

Please note the following points:

- The professional experience that you cite on your application form must be comparable in both subject and level to the prerequisite you are applying to substitute. This experience should consist of some or all of the following: full-time music courses other than those listed in the table on pp. 18–19; qualifications gained in areas specifically relating to the prerequisite; and relevant practical experience (for example, regular (semi-)professional appearances as a director). These should have been undertaken or completed within the preceding five years.
- Your professional experience must be supported by a signed declaration from an independent person of appropriate standing (for example, a course director/supervisor/tutor, a musical director, orchestral/choral manager, head teacher or other education professional). Suggested standard wording for this declaration is given on p. 65.
- Wherever possible, your application form should be supported by documentary evidence, such as copies of certificates, details of module/course content, samples of marked work, concert programmes and reviews, or publicly available recordings.

Substitutions for requirements

Some **substitutions** for Section 2.2 (the Arrangement) are possible. These are given in the table below. Please note that if you are granted one of these substitutions, you will receive only a bare pass mark for Section 2.2.

	Requirement	Substitutions
DipABRSM	Arrangement (Instrumental or Choral)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BMus (Hons) from Royal Academy of Music (successful completion of Year 3 Instrumentation and Computer Transcription) ● BMus (Hons) from Royal College of Music (successful completion of specialism in Orchestration/Arrangement of at least Level 2) ● BMus (Hons) or BA (Music) from Royal Northern College of Music (with specialist Orchestration/Arrangement electives in Years 3 or 4) ● BEd (Music) or BA (Musical Studies) from Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama (with Pass in Year 2 Orchestration/Arrangement) ● Band Sergeant Course (Arrangement) from Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall ● M1 Arrangement from Royal Marines School of Music
LRSM	Arrangement (Instrumental or Choral)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BMus (Hons) from Royal Academy of Music (successful completion of Year 4 Advanced Instrumentation and Computer Transcription) ● BMus (Hons) from Royal College of Music (successful completion of Level 3 specialism in Orchestration/Arrangement) ● BMus (Hons) or BA (Music) from Royal Northern College of Music (with composition as principal study) ● BEd (Music) or BA (Musical Studies) from Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama (with Pass in Year 3 Orchestration/Arrangement) ● Band Master Course from Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall ● Bandmasters Course (Arrangement) from Royal Marines School of Music
FRSM	Arrangement (Instrumental or Choral)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PGDip (Composition) or MMus equivalent from Royal Academy of Music ● PGDip (Composition) from Royal College of Music ● PGDipRNCM (Composition) or MMus (Composition) from Royal Northern College of Music ● BA (Musical Studies) from Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama (with Pass in Year 4 Orchestration/Arrangement)

NB ABRSM regrets that it cannot enter into correspondence with candidates regarding requirements that do not appear in the table above; it is *only* the Arrangement for which substitutions are allowed.

Supporting documentation If you offer one of the substitutions listed above, you will need to enclose supporting documentation (for example, a signed declaration from the institution concerned or a photocopy of the certificate) when you send in your entry form.