

Music

Your Careers Adviser

Carol Kelehan / Jennifer McConnell

T +353 1 402 3930

E bevcareers@tudublin.ie

www.tudublin.ie/careers



Skills developed in college

You have developed a range of skills through your education, work experience and personal interests and achievements. Understanding what skills you have to offer and like to use can help you understand what you want in a career, as well as providing key information for job or further study applications.

In terms of securing a job, academic qualifications alone will not guarantee success. Evidence-based skills sections on your CV can demonstrate the broad range of qualities you have to offer employers. Here are some of the main skills you may have developed while in college:

- **Communication skills, both verbal and written**
Expressing ideas effectively and conveying information appropriately and accurately. Influencing others by expressing yourself in a group and in one to one situations. Showing a range of verbal and nonverbal signals to demonstrate that the information being received is understood. You have negotiated your way through complex communications on various projects you've participated in, from initial briefing, through to report writing and presenting to varied audiences.
- **Teamwork / Working with Others**
Working effectively and confidently within a group to achieve a common goal or task. This means that you understand your role within the team, as well as listen and support the other team members. Teamwork skills are developed in group projects in college as well in sporting clubs and college societies
- **Problem-solving ability**
Identifying, prioritising and solving problems, individually or in groups; possessing the ability to ask the right questions, sort out the many facets of a problem, and contribute ideas, as well as answers. Having an eye for detail as well as the ability to adopt a common sense approach to solving problems under pressure has been something you've learned during your work.
- **Time-management skills / ability to meet deadlines**
Managing several tasks at once; being able to set priorities and to allocate time efficiently in order to meet deadlines. You have juggled course deadlines and assignments with part-time work or involvement in extra-curricular activities. This demonstrates that you are organised and can manage your time. Complex construction projects require effective organisation and time management if they are to be delivered to budget and on time.
- **Planning and Organising**
Establishing a course of action for self and/or others to accomplish a specific goal. Allocating resources appropriately.
- **Leadership skills**
Motivating and taking responsibility to lead other people, in order to achieve set goals and objectives.
- **Initiative & self-management**
Identifying opportunities and being proactive in putting forward ideas and potential solutions.
Self-disciplined and self-motivated in the pursuit of studies and professional practice.
- **Ability to make quick decisions / work under pressure (flexibility)**
Making decisions and taking action. Maintaining performance under pressure and / or opposition.

You may also have developed a wide range of technical / specific course related skills throughout your education (academic & extra-curricular), work experience and personal interests and activities, including:

Types of employers/industry sectors

Some of the main types of employers / industry sectors in which Music graduates work in a range of roles include:

- Schools/Colleges/Training institutions (various)
- Choirs
- Orchestras
- Conservatories
- Bands
- Opera companies
- Theatres
- TV / Film / Radio
- Music organisations, e.g. IMRO
- Production companies (filmscan.ie)
- Record companies
- Publishers
- Agents
- Festivals
- Arts Administration
- Voice over agencies
- Ad Agencies
- Music magazines, publications
- Community groups
- Event organisers
- Music bodies, organisations
- Promoters/Management
- Wedding organisers
- Funeral homes / churches
- Hotels / Clubs / restaurants
- Music libraries
- Prisons
- Old folks homes / hospice / hospital
- Care centres
- Country homes
- Cultural Organisations
- Cruise ships / show groups
- Entertainment firms
- Theme parks
- Tourist venues
- Tour companies
- Music stores
- After school clubs/ creches/ breakfast clubs / summer camps/summer schools
- Voluntary organisations
- Music PR Agencies
- Music venues

For sector information see:

- www.gradireland.com
- www.careersportal.ie
- www.prospects.ac.uk
- www.targetjobs.co.uk

Career options with your course

Some of main occupations secured by Music graduates include:

- Teacher
- Performer
- Composer / arranger (Score composer, TV and Film Composer, etc)
- Conductor
- Music librarian
- Music supervisor
- Manager (Performer(s))
- Arts administrator
- Music agent
- Community arts worker
- Music event organiser
- Music editor
- Music copyist
- Music promoter
- Concert Manager
- Music Librarian
- Music Publishing Specialist
- Music Salesperson
- Broadcast Assistant
- Vocal coach
- Piano Tuner
- Instrument manufacturer
- Music therapist
- Retail manager (music store)
- Music and communication trainer
- Music critic
- Music journalist
- Disc Jockey
- Music booking agent
- Marketing assistant – music
- Music PR
- Music Journalist, blogger
- Band Director
- Songwriter
- Music Producer
- Music Director
- Sound Mixer
- Computer Music Researcher
- Editorial assistant (music publications)
- Music organisations, public bodies, societies

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Employers who have recruited in your area

Some of the organisations who have recruited Music graduates include:

- Dublin School of Music – Teacher
- The Law Library – Events Manager
- Belvedere College – Teacher
- Gospel Choir – Musician
- Herbert Place Studios – Backing Vocalist
- Maximum Media – Content Creator
- Premium Entertainment – Vocalist
- DCU – lecturer
- Colaiste Cois Life – Teacher
- Defence Forces – Bandman
- DIT Modern Music Centre – Teacher
- Keys and Strings – Teacher
- Independent Theatre workshop - Teacher

Job Hunting

It is important that you access both the advertised and hidden jobs market and use any and every means available to you to job hunt effectively.

Advertised Jobs

- Auditions, e.g. www.starnow.com/casting-calls (auditions, jobs, directory of musicians), auditionsireland.crookedhouse.ie, (musical theatre)
- Agents (Hotpress directory) hotpress.com
- Casting Directors, e.g. Abbey, Gate, Irishtheatreonline.com (database), spotlight
- Singersforhire.com, audionetworks.ie (musicians available), iftn.ie/ crew (music)
- Youthdrama.ie, TEAM theatre – facilitation work
- Music magazines / publications
- College Lecturers (often informed of opportunities directly)
- University and college careers services, www.dit.ie/careers (Jobscene - register using your own personal email, careers diary, Finalist) - Gradireland.com, Other colleges with related degrees
- Notice boards/Student email accounts
- Organisation websites, theatres, broadcasting and arts organisations, educational institutions, orchestras, www.cmc.ie – Contemporary Music Centre – Opportunities, Operas - www.operaireland.com, voluntaryarts.org
- Performing groups: www.rte.ie/performinggroups, irishchamberorchestra.com, www.riam.ie Royal Irish Academy of Music
- Careers fairs, Events and Summer Schools, e.g.: The Music Show, Chamber Music Weekend, summer schools/master classes
- Festivals, e.g. Wexford Opera Festival, TradFest Dublin, Choral Festival Cork list of festivals – www.failteireland.ie/festivals
- Vacancy websites: www.music-jobs.com (join mailing list), educationposts.ie, artsjobsonline.com, creativecareers.ie, www.publicjobs.ie, localgovernmentjobs.ie, education.ie, volunteering.ie

www.tudublin.ie/careers

- Local and national press, radio / TV, Guardian newspaper UK, The Stage, UK, International Film and TV production resources and opportunities: www.mandy.com
- Professional Associations, e.g. Irish Federation of Musicians, Irish Traditional Musicians Association, Post Primary Music Teachers Association

Voluntary Sector/Charities

www.activelink.ie

Voluntary Sector/Charity/NGO vacancies in voluntary sector

www.volunteeringireland.com

www.dochas.ie

Association of non-governmental development organisations

www.comhlamh.org

Volunteering opportunities

www.wheel.ie/directory

Directory of voluntary and community organisations

Entrepreneurship

- Freelancing/Work experience/Self-employment/Start-Up
- <http://www.dit.ie/careers/studentsgraduates/interestedinselfemployment/>
- TU Dublin Hothouse - www.dit.ie/hothouse/
- Local Enterprise Office - www.localenterprise.ie
- The Digital Hub - www.thedigitalhub.com

Unadvertised Jobs

- Job Shadow/Informational Interviewing/work experience
- Use help from anyone in you Network – friends, family, neighbours, colleagues, friends from clubs & societies...
- Utilise First Destination Reports – shows where past graduates have secured work
- Professional Bodies
- Join Alumni Association/Linked-in DIT Alumni group
- Find a mentor/keep a job hunting record
- Keep in touch with past lecturers– often hear of jobs through the grape-vine
- College performances/Thesis / research project / College work
- Guest speakers/College master classes/workshop facilitators
- Music education in community (musicgeneration.ie)
- Make links with other students, e.g. DIT students (photography, media, music, etc) Students from other colleges (NCAD – student videos every Sept), Inchicore College (stage design/lighting design)
- Social networking sites (facebook, twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Blog, Discussion Groups, Youtube) Linked-In (set up a profile, link to others, search for organisations - employees who have Linked-in profiles, advertised jobs, auditions) DIT Alumni 'Linked-in' - Facebook Page
- Study TV / Radio credits
- Freelancing / Work experience / Self-employment/Volunteering
- Set up charity gigs, busking
- 'Open mic/mike' -libraries, cafes, book stores, bars
- Ads (Courtyard studio, Ringsend)
- Check who has received funding / licences (www.artscouncil.ie, www.filmboard.ie, www.iftn.ie, www.bci.ie)
- New developments in the industry, e.g. Grand Canal dock theatre (2,000 seater)
- Enter competitions / scholarships /apply for bursaries / commissions
- Speculative applications Use directories – Hotpress Industry Directory, musicnetwork.ie (music union handbook), Irish Media Contacts Directory, Kompass.com, Irish Theatre Handbook, Music Education Directory UK
- List of production companies: www.filmscan.ie
- TV/Radio shows and competitions, e.g. The Voice
- Hotels, embassies, old folks homes, hospices, hospitals, care centres, country homes, shopping centres, tourist venues, after schools, breakfast clubs, summer camps, prisons
- Contact editors of Music publications with articles/blogs
- Offer to cover events if travelling, e.g. Operas, Music festivals
- TV / Radio/local newspapers : Music (guest contributor)

For more information on how to go about finding a job and job-hunting sites, [See www.tudublin.ie/careers](http://www.tudublin.ie/careers)

Interviews

For more information on how to perform in interviews, [See www.tudublin.ie/careers](http://www.tudublin.ie/careers)

CVs/Cover letters and applications

For information on how to put together a great CV/Cover Letter or Application, [See www.tudublin.ie/careers](http://www.tudublin.ie/careers)

Useful links (e.g. Company Databases, Professional Bodies, LinkedIn Groups)

This list contains links to some of the most useful websites for your course including professional bodies and associations, employer directories, information sources and LinkedIn groups.

General websites — useful links

- [Music The Arts Council www.artscouncil.ie](http://www.artscouncil.ie)
- [The Contemporary Music Centre www.cmc.ie](http://www.cmc.ie)
- [Hotpress Industry Section www.hotpress.com/industry/](http://www.hotpress.com/industry/)
- [RTE Performing Groups www.rte.ie/performinggroups](http://www.rte.ie/performinggroups)
- [Irish Chamber Orchestra www.irishchamberorchestra.com](http://www.irishchamberorchestra.com)
- [Irish Music Development Organisation www.musicnetwork.ie](http://www.musicnetwork.ie)
- [The Irish Recorded Music Association Ltd www.irma.ie](http://www.irma.ie)
- [Irish World Academy of Dance & Music \(UL\) www.irishworldacademy.ie](http://www.irishworldacademy.ie)
- [Opera Ireland www.facebook.com/pages/Opera-Ireland/69505711770](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Opera-Ireland/69505711770)
- [Post-primary Music Teachers Association www.ppmta.ie](http://www.ppmta.ie)
- [Representative body of composers in Ireland \(AIC\) www.composers.ie](http://www.composers.ie)
- [Royal Irish Academy of Music www.riam.ie](http://www.riam.ie)
- [Irish Music Rights Organisation www.imro.ie/](http://www.imro.ie/)
- [Association of Irish Choirs www.aaic.ie](http://www.aaic.ie)
- [First Music Contact www.firstmusiccontact.com](http://www.firstmusiccontact.com)
- [Improvised Music Company www.improvisedmusic.ie](http://www.improvisedmusic.ie)
- [Journal of Music in Ireland www.journalofmusic.com](http://www.journalofmusic.com)
- [Music Network www.musicnetwork.ie/](http://www.musicnetwork.ie/)

Careers open to all disciplines (Including 'Paths Into...' Series)

Many graduate vacancies don't require specific degree subjects as possession of a degree is taken as evidence of intellectual ability. What is more important to the potential employer is the range of transferable skills and experience you can demonstrate.

Many graduate training programmes take final year students from a wide range of disciplines, register with the [Career Development Centre's Jobsence](#) for a full list of programmes. Here is a range of career areas that are potentially open to graduates of all disciplines. It's important to note that some of these options may require further study either on the job or beforehand.

If you are considering diversifying or changing career direction a postgraduate conversion course may be a viable option.

Some examples of career areas open to students of all disciplines:

- Teaching & Education
- Financial Services & Accounting
- Marketing, Advertising and PR
- Retail, Sales and Customer Service
- Banking, insurance and financial services
- Charities and voluntary sector
- Fund management / administration and investment banking
- Human resources, recruitment and training
- Management consulting
- Management, business and administration
- Media and publishing
- Public sector and civil service
- Social, community and youth

For further information see: www.gradireland.com/career-sectors

Further Study

Are you considering further study or training? See www.tudublin.ie/careers for comprehensive information

Here are some examples of postgraduate courses pursued by Music Graduates :

- MA Music Media Technology – TCD
- MA Music – TU Dublin
- MA Music Performance – TU Dublin
- Masters in Education – DCU
- MA Musicology – Queens University Belfast
- MA Art Management and Cultural Policy - UCD

Conversion courses

Some graduates find that their primary degree did not meet their expectations, either vocationally, academically or personally, and seek change career direction. Conversion courses offer the opportunity to diversify into another chosen career area while meeting the necessary entry requirements for that discipline. However, it should be noted that this is not the case for all disciplines e.g. disciplines such as science and engineering will require an undergraduate degree in that discipline.

Self Employment

Ever thought of being your own boss? Think you have an innovative product or service idea that could have commercial value? Want to commercialise your research? See www.tudublin.ie/careers

Other Options (e.g. Time out, travel etc.)

Volunteering and working with communities with is a great way to gain valuable real world experience, to develop new skills, to meet new people, to do something worthwhile and to improve your employability. For more details, see www.tudublin.ie/careers.

Labour Market Information

For information on the latest labour market trends see www.tudublin.ie/careers.

Additional Information / Advice

For any query you might have, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.