



RPS JULIUS ISSERLIS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES 2019

Musicians often benefit from the experience of studying in a different country, drawing from a change of setting and fresh expertise. The Royal Philharmonic Society is pleased to offer young musicians a life-changing opportunity to study abroad. This might be to fulfil a course at an international music school or university, or to take lessons from a specialist based overseas. We welcome imaginative plans and have helped numerous musicians in recent years such as percussionist Rebecca Burch who travelled to Ghana to collaborate with local musicians and learn indigenous repertoire, trumpeter Imogen Hancock who flew to Oslo for an intensive spell of lessons and masterclasses with Norway's top players, or harpist Richard Allen to complete a postgraduate course at Lausanne's prestigious Ecole de Musique.

The **RPS Julius Isserlis Scholarship** was generously bequeathed by Cecilia Helen Northcote in the name of the inspirational Russian pianist, composer and teacher Julius Isserlis.

The following Application Guidelines are a step-by-step guide to submitting an application and all that follows. Please read it carefully before applying, and continue to consult it throughout the process.

If you have any queries not answered by the Application Guidelines, you can contact us at admin@philharmonicsociety.uk or call one of the team on 020 7287 0019.

KEY QUESTIONS

What does the RPS offer? Every two years, the RPS Julius Isserlis Scholarship offers scholarships totalling £30,000 to young instrumentalists to study abroad for up to two years. Usually this is split between two or three musicians, at the discretion of the jury.

Who is it open to? All classical instrumentalists of any nationality between the ages of 15 and 25, who are permanently resident in the UK. In the application form, you will be asked to confirm your age as it will be on the closing date of 4 March 2019.

What does it cost? We're happy to announce that this year we have removed the entry fee so it is free for eligible candidates to apply. If you are shortlisted for audition in London, you would need to cover your own travel expenses.

When is the closing date? The closing date is midday on **Monday 4 March 2019**. We regret we cannot consider any applications received after that time.

APPLICATION FORM

All applicants are required to complete our online application form.

As we receive a lot of applications for the Scholarship, we are unable to audition everyone. We therefore encourage you to take time and care in completing the application to ensure it represents you well.

In your application, you will first be asked to tell us some basic information about yourself. In this, we ask you to upload some form of documentation (in PDF or JPG format) to prove your age. This may be a photograph or scan of a passport, birth certificate, driving licence (if old enough) or similar. You will also be asked to confirm that you live in the UK and provide your fixed address. If you are currently a student living away from home in higher education, this should be the address of your family home.

You will next be asked a little about your musical background then asked to provide an outline of your proposed intentions for travel and study abroad, illustrating why you believe it will be of vital worth to you at this stage. Please provide as much clear detail as you can about your plans at this stage, including place of study and likely teachers. You are asked to give likely dates for your plans. On this front, we expect your planned activity to have begun no later than two years after the closing date for applications.

At this stage, we appreciate your plans may change and scholarship winners may propose changes to this outline, subject to approval. Please give an indication of the costs involved and where else you hope to get support to cover these beyond what the RPS can offer. You will be able to attach up to two supporting documents (in PDF form) such as a confirmation letter, budget, or anything else you feel may support your application.

You are next asked to provide links to filmed footage of you performing. Please see the 'Footage' section below about what's required here.

You will also be asked for what repertoire you will perform if selected for audition. Please see the 'Audition' section below for more information on this.

Finally, you will need to provide the name, role and email address of two referees. Please see the 'References' section below.

FOOTAGE

To help us shortlist applications for audition, we ask all applications to share some filmed footage of them performing. This should be a minimum of 10 minutes and demonstrate a strong, versatile and varied musical character.

You may choose whether this is one excerpt or more, though we ask for no more than three.

Footage can be of complete works or complete movements of works. If you do not start playing at the start of the footage, please note in your application form the time (in minutes and seconds) when you do start playing.

The footage must be 'live' (with no editing or dubbing) either in concert or filmed privately. Ideally it will be recorded using a single position camera.

The footage must be recent, filmed no earlier than 4 March 2017 (two years before the closing date).

You should upload your footage (publically or privately) to YouTube, Vimeo or an equivalent platform online. We regret we cannot accept footage in any other format. Once uploaded, you should then supply the link to each excerpt in your application form. If the link is private, make sure you tell us the password in your application form.

REFERENCES

In addition to your application, you should ask two musicians of standing (such as your teachers) to write a short reference, stating why they believe you deserve this support for your plans.

You should ask them to send these by email to admin@philharmonicsociety.uk to arrive no later than the closing date of midday on Monday 4 March 2019. In the subject heading of the email, they should simply write 'Isserlis reference for' followed by your name.

In your application form, you should state the name, role and email address of your two referees so we know who to expect these from.

We can only consider applications for which we have two submitted references.

AUDITION

Selected applicants will be invited to attend an audition in London on **Thursday 18th April 2019**. We aim to notify you by mid-March if you have been selected for audition.

Here you will meet a small, friendly panel comprising distinguished figures from the music profession.

Auditions last around 15 minutes which comprises about 10 minutes of playing and 5 minutes talking to the panel about your plans.

We ask you to arrive early and there is a warm-up room (with a piano if you need it) that you can use for a few minutes.

For the audition, you should prepare three contrasting pieces (or movements from different pieces), and provide details of what these will be in your application form. The panel will likely ask to hear about 5 minutes from two of these, or possibly a shorter extract from all three.

If any of your pieces require accompaniment, you must make arrangements to bring an accompanist with you: we cannot supply one ourselves.

Candidates will be notified of the outcome of auditions by the end of April. The decision of the panel is final.

FEEDBACK

As noted, we can only shortlist a number of applications for audition, and then offer a few grants. There is considerable competition for this, so please do not be too disappointed if your application is unsuccessful. If you would like feedback on your application or audition, you are welcome to email admin@philharmonicsociety.uk with the subject heading:

Isserlis feedback – Instrument – Forename Surname

Owing to various commitments, it can sometimes be several weeks before we can send you feedback, so thank you for your patience.

SCHOLARSHIP TERMS

If you are offered a scholarship, we naturally expect it may take time before your exact plans are in place. You should keep in close contact with the RPS about these. Any changes to your original proposal should be agreed with the RPS to ensure it is still eligible for the funding.

It is your responsibility to make all arrangements in regard to your proposed course of activity and you must provide the RPS with evidence that you have been accepted by a particular institution or teacher or similar entity.

Payment of the scholarship will be made into your UK bank account, usually in two instalments. The RPS asks for a report on your progress at the midpoint of your period of study, before approving the second instalment, and a further short report on its conclusion.

As a recipient of the Scholarship, we will proudly regard you as one of the RPS Young Musicians and therefore ask you to represent the Society whilst undertaking your activities abroad, and help us tell our members about how we are supporting you, most likely in the form of a blog accounting your progress that we can share online.

If you have any further queries about the Scholarship not addressed in these guidelines, you can contact us at admin@philharmonicsociety.uk or call one of the team on 020 7287 0019.