



Initial Course - FAQs

How do these courses relate to your previous course structure?

These courses are similar to our former Initial courses in structure and style, but instead of awarding passes at level I or II, we now award passes at Leading the Singing or Foundation level.

Do I need to have conducted before?

Ideally you'll have some prior experience of singing (especially choral singing) and perhaps some instrumental experience, but you don't need to have any conducting experience to sign up for these courses

Do I have to be able to read music?

Only the basics – you don't have to be a brilliant sight-reader or have dealt with complex music theory, but we do anticipate participants being able to recognise key and time signatures, rhythm and melody.

How do I apply?

You can either book online via our events page, or complete an application form and return it to our Training manager (details are on the form).

Can I pay for the course in instalments?

Absolutely – we don't have the facility to do that through our website at the moment, so if you want to spread the payment please contact our General Secretary to make an arrangement that suits you. Please do this at the time of booking, otherwise we'll expect the full balance to be paid before the course starts, otherwise your place may be at risk.

Which level is right for me?

We run both courses together, so once on the course tutors will work with you individually and award a pass at the level they feel the most appropriate for you.

How many people are on a course?

There are usually 15 participants in one group – sometimes we run two courses together, resulting in two groups, but there are double the tutors, so you're never short changed for time!

Is there a choir?

In this course participants form a choir for each other, and we choose repertoire suited to that group to make sure your individual conducting experience is as productive as possible.

How much individual conducting time will I get?

Each participant has the opportunity to conduct at each session, usually for around 12 – 15 minutes.

What happens if I can't make a session? Can I still complete the course?

If you have made 3 of the course sessions, including the first and last session, then we can work with you between the sessions you miss so that you can complete the course.

If I drop out, can I transfer to another course in the future?

Course sessions are deliberately spaced to provide the best learning experience. For that reason, if you drop out part way through a course, we would ask you to start afresh on a new course if you wanted to complete your training. Members can transfer a portion of their fee onto a future course to offset the costs – find out more about membership [here](#).

Still got questions? Please contact our General Secretary, Rachel Greaves on 01935 389482 or rachel.greaves@abcd.org.uk