

# Study Music in English

## November 2025-July 2026

### At Rimon School of Music in Israel

**Application Period:**

**Until August 3, 2025**

*English speaking students who already or will permanently reside in Israel and/or will have a Teudat Zehut or Israeli Passport by October 31, 2025 may apply until September 1, 2025*

#### **About Us:**

Rimon is about passion for music.

Since 1985, Rimon has led the way as Israel's primary school for contemporary music; preparing students for professional careers in the global music industry. Dedicated to cultivating the next generation of talented young musicians, Rimon has rightfully secured its position as a focal point for creativity in Israel. Our goal is to continue and serve as a fertile hub of inspiration, encouraging our students to explore, learn and innovate, while finding their unique and original musical voice.

The school's forward-thinking curriculum and dedicated faculty encapsulate the vibrant entrepreneurial culture of today's Israel. We strive to maintain a fun and dynamic college campus while emphasizing musicianship, collaboration, and values of social betterment.

As we move forward into the 21st century, we remain highly committed to providing our students with a relevant, high quality and meaningful music education, which will prepare them for a successful and rewarding future in music.

#### **Our One-Year Program for English-Speaking Students:**

Our program offers a comprehensive one-year program and a unique opportunity to study music professionally **in English** whether you are on study abroad, a gap year, or are currently living permanently in Israel! Our English-speaking students come from around the world.

### The curriculum:

- ☒ Core music studies in English: arranging, ear training, harmony, basic keyboard, and music technology.
- ☒ Private instrumental instruction, instrumental lab work, and ensemble studies.
- ☒ A variety of additional elective music courses in performance, improvisation, composition, songwriting, music technology, sound, and mix. *(Please note some electives are only available in Hebrew and may have prerequisites that may also be only taught in Hebrew).*

In addition to the contemporary curriculum, Rimon offers students “hands-on” participation in a variety of school-led musical projects and productions. These musical opportunities will allow you to collaborate with Israelis and other English-speaking students and gain valuable professional experience and familiarity with the Israeli musical culture.

The program includes full access to the school’s rehearsal rooms, computer labs, recording studio, learning facilities, and other performance spaces throughout the school year.

### **Cost:**

**Base Tuition (classes only): \$9,500 US Dollars for the 2025-26 Academic Year**, payable after you audition and are accepted. Instructions will be sent. **Please note: Rimon does not offer student housing. If you will need of a student visa, you may also visa processing fees to pay, which are not included in the cost of tuition. Such fees can be variable.** Some circumstances may merit

### **Experience life in Israel:**

Our program is designed to enhance your music studies and deepen your connection with Israel. Participants are encouraged to see beyond the classroom walls and join in the daily life and culture of Israel. Rimon offers a special opportunity to acquire a global perspective and a taste of independent living all while fulfilling a cultural and musical Israeli experience.

**Our Academic year runs from November 2025 through July 2026, with an orientation period for English-speaking students two weeks prior to the start of classes. Details about academic dates will be sent in the Spring.**

## **RIMON SCHOOL OF MUSIC - AUDITION AND INTERVIEW PROCESS**

The application process at Rimon School is conducted in three parts: a videotaped audition, a personal interview, and an online musical assessment. These elements are designed to provide us with a comprehensive overview of each applicant's musical skills and capabilities. It will allow us to provide applicants with useful advice and guidance related to their personal and educational objectives.

### **STEP ONE: Your Application and Performance Audition**

*Please see detailed instructions which start on the next page. Free choice performance videos must be received before you will be invited to interview.*

*For those students who live in Israel, or will be visiting Israel, you may be able to arrange your interview and musical assessment on one of our open house days, followed by a performance audition on a separate date.*

**STEP TWO A. and STEP TWO B.: After your two videos are received, you will be invited to have your personal online interview**

### **STEP THREE: Your Interview/Musical Assessment Session by Videoconference**

This meeting will be scheduled with you and conducted via videoconference on Google Hangout or ZOOM with a member of the Rimon professional staff. We will learn more about you, your personal and academic goals, and answer any questions you may have about studying at Rimon. We will also discuss your musical background and assess your musical hearing, abilities to recognize pitch, intervals, triads, and basic rhythms. A full description of what to expect during this session will be sent upon scheduling.

### **STEP FOUR: Admissions Decision**

**Soon after** the completion of the entire assessment process, you will receive an admissions decision from us. If accepted to Rimon, an official document will be sent to you via email. You can then make a decision regarding enrollment at Rimon for the 2025-26 academic school year. **At that time, we will send you information about submitting one very specific video performance which will help us place you into an ensemble. Please await instruction.**

### **STEP FIVE: Tuition Deposit**

Upon your decision to accept our invitation to study with us, you will receive instructions regarding payment of your tuition deposit (\$1,000 US Dollars) to secure your place with us for the upcoming school year. We will also make the proper arrangements with you regarding your tuition payment schedule. This will allow us to start planning for your academic year as an English-speaking student in Israel!

*Please see the next pages for video-taped audition requirements and instructions by instrument*

**This section outlines your Video Audition Submissions. All three submissions need to be videorecorded (smart phone video recorded auditions are acceptable) and sent to us ideally as YouTube/Vimeo links or less ideally, in MP4 format.**

**Make sure that the videos are not set as private.**

**Please do not use Dropbox. WeTransfer may be sent to [admissions@rimonschool.co.il](mailto:admissions@rimonschool.co.il)**

**Questions? Please email [admissions@rimonschool.co.il](mailto:admissions@rimonschool.co.il) for guidance**

**VIDEOS 1 AND 2: Your Prepared Piece Audition. Please send this as soon as possible** For this part of the entrance exam, you are asked to prepare:

**Two of your own video-recorded instrumental or vocal pieces**

Which best portray your musical personality and skill. Each song should be no longer than 2:00 minutes. Instrumentalists are asked to send in pieces that best represent your performance abilities on your musical instrument. For vocalists, we recommend pieces which you feel brings out your vocal range, dynamics, and individual timbre.

## **Most Frequently Asked Questions from English-Speaking Students**

### **What will I study?**

The students in the first-year program in English are first-year college level courses in music theory, ear training, performance, ensemble, digital workstations, improvisation, and more. Students sometimes opt to join an ensemble that is for the Hebrew-speaking students, as well. Please note that only first-year level courses are taught in English and some of your performance coursework could be in Hebrew. Any levels higher than level one and/or above the first year of study would be taught only in Hebrew. This is especially important for students who might want to continue with Rimon after the first year.

### **Where are students typically from?**

Israeli students come from every corner of Israel and from diverse religious and non-religious backgrounds. Our English-speaking student population varies from year to year, and students come from all around the world from South America, North America, Africa, Europe, Russia, Australia, and more! While Hebrew is the main language at Rimon, you will also hear plenty of English, French, Russian, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, and many other languages spoken among multilingual students.

### **What are the steps to apply?**

Our students apply in a series of steps that involves a remote interview and audition (students who will be in Israel during our open house days may opt to audition on campus). All instructions will be sent to every prospective student upon expressing interest in study.

### **Do you offer an ulpan?**

Rimon does not offer a formal ulpan or formal Hebrew classes. Many students improve their Hebrew by being around Hebrew speakers but do not take formal classes at Rimon.

### **Do I need to know Hebrew?**

Students who are eligible for the first-year level of curriculum study will study in English. More advanced students, or students who elect to stay beyond the first year, must be fluent in Hebrew to continue.

### **I'm an English-speaking student but I speak Hebrew. Do I have to take the first year in English?**

If you are a Hebrew speaker, your Hebrew speaking skills will be assessed for how successful you would be in Hebrew-only curriculum. We absolutely have English-speaking students who have enrolled in the Hebrew-speaking program and some take a mixed program in the first year. If you identify that you are a Hebrew speaker, we will assess your Hebrew and use that assessment to help us place you most appropriately

**Again, English only applies to the first year. Courses in later semesters are taught only in Hebrew.**

### **I heard about Pathways to Berklee. What is that?**

Pathways to Berklee is a very specific program that provides a more affordable option for students who have applied and have been accepted to Berklee in Boston. These students may opt to take their first year at Rimon in English (provided they are at the first-year level and not more advanced) and then return to Berklee to complete their studies. Students seeking this option must apply to both Berklee and Rimon and must be admitted first to Berklee. Please let Rimon's Admissions Specialist know that you are interested in this option for precise guidance.

Since we do have a credit transfer agreement with Berklee, students who come to Rimon for the first year in English and then decide they would like to go to Berklee can transfer credits after the fact. But they still need to apply and be accepted to Berklee in order to be admitted to Berklee. It is not automatic.

We also have a more advanced level completion program where students can complete two years at Rimon (again, this means that students in second year courses will learn only in Hebrew) and then finish their studies at Berklee. These students will still need to be auditioned to be assessed for level placement for ensembles and music courses and admission is at Berklee's discretion.

**You do NOT need to be accepted to Berklee to attend Rimon!**

### **What is the tuition for the one-year program in English?**

The tuition for 2025-26 school year is \$9,500 (US dollars) for tuition and fees (not including housing) and tuition may be paid in a payment plan spread throughout the course of the year. After a student is accepted to Rimon, they will need to pay an \$1,000 (US dollars) tuition deposit to secure their place. The next installment of \$4,500 USD is due no later than December 31, 2025 and the remaining tuition balance (\$4,000 less any scholarships or credits) are due by February 28, 2026. Full details will be outlined in the student policies and procedures agreement that each student signs.

### **Are there scholarships and work-study programs?**

Rimon School is a private institution, which means it is very limited in the funds it has available for scholarships and work study positions, so we do not encourage that students should rely on this option.



However, some merit-based scholarships and opportunities do become available, and students are eligible to apply. We do encourage you to also apply for independent outside scholarships and grants.

#### **Where can I apply credits to other schools?**

Rimon is a professional post-high school higher education school but does not come under Israel's university category, but rather under the school category. Therefore, we cannot guarantee that schools outside of our partner network will apply courses you study here to another institution. Students who are fluent in Hebrew may elect a degree-seeking track at Rimon through our partnership with Open University. How other institutions recognize those credits is at the discretion of each individual institution in accordance to their accreditation criteria.

#### **Do I get a visa?**

English-speaking students are taken through the process by being given instructions on how to procure their one-year student visa. Students who wish to stay at Rimon past the first year will need to renew their visa with Misrad Hapnim. Instructions will be provided. Naturally, visa clearance is not determined by Rimon School of Music but by the State of Israel in accordance with its regulations and protocol.

**Please follow our instructions only. You must not attempt to get a student visa on your own, but rather wait for our assistance. Please do not enter Israel on a tourist visa! Please do not take any action regarding your visa without our very specific instructions. If you have any form of Israel citizenship, or if one of your parents is Israeli, please tell us right away so we can best guide your process in your specific case. You may need to secure special US and Israeli documentation and your parents must register a record of your birth with Israeli official offices through your local consulate if they have not already done so.**

#### **I am a religious Jewish student. Is there anything I need to know?**

Rimon is a very diverse, modern school and is not a religious institution. We openly welcome students from all ethnic and religious backgrounds and there is no dress code. We certainly do have a number of religious students who study with us. All classes are mixed gender (including performance classes) and curriculum assumes performance and learning in mixed gender environments. Students will be expected to learn many varieties of music from a very large repertoire that includes a great deal of contemporary secular music selections.

We do not hold any classes or activities on Shabbat or holidays and do our best to help match students with hosting for holidays with families in the area. Students are independently responsible for issues of Kashrut and Hashgacha. There are a number of beit knessets, grocery stores, and bakeries that carry Kosher products in the area.

#### **What do students do about housing?**

Rimon School does not have student housing available on campus, and we do not arrange housing, but will be able to share advertisement resources located near to the school who often have space available for English-speaking students. We highly recommend living in cities and towns that are closer to the school: Ramat Hasharon, Herzliya, Raanana, Kfar Saba, Ramat-Gan, Bnei-Brak, and northern Tel Aviv.

Ideas for housing are best discussed in your personal interview as to the kinds of options you can pursue.

### **Can I gig and work?**

Students certainly may perform in Israel while they are students but cannot take paid work, including performance and music-related work, without having a work-authorization visa in Israel.

### **I am an Oleh Chadash (new immigrant to Israel). What does that mean for me?**

We certainly have students who have newly relocated to Israel. If you are already absorbed in Israel and have an Israeli ID (teudat zehut) you do not need a visa to study at Rimon. If you have not been to university before, you may also qualify for some educational grant benefits to help offset your tuition cost. These come in the form of reimbursement and may take a long time to process. You will need to speak with your Jewish Agency for Israel or Nefesh b'Nefesh representative about the process for qualifying and applying for academic partial tuition reimbursement awards benefits that you may be entitled to apply for. They will help guide you through the process and the appropriate way to engage with Misrad haKlita (Ministry of Absorption) and Minahel Studentim (Overseer of Students) regarding those benefits. These processes and decisions are independent from Rimon School of Music, have specific criteria, and are not guaranteed to every immigrating student.

**If one or both of your parents are Israeli and you are returning to Israel, depending on your age, you may be required to army service. Students who are required to serve in the army must notify us right away because you can apply to delay service while you study, at the army's discretion to grant permission to you. Please also tell us if you have an Israeli parent, which also may require additional processes.**

Students who are studying in Israel on a student visa and then decide to make Aliyah should contact the Jewish Agency for Israel or Nefesh b'Nefesh for appropriate steps.

### **How do I get around?**

Israel is rich with culture, history, and wonders of nature. For such a small country, Israel has a very robust and reasonably affordable transportation system of public buses (even to more remote areas), private buses, taxis, shared taxis (sheirut), and even train service within and between major cities, as well as rental car agencies. Israel is a very drivable country. Expect if you are taking buses long distances to have to transfer at least once and installing the app Moovit on your smartphone is advised. For drivers, installing the app Waze is advised and you will need to check with the appropriate authorities regarding a temporary driver's license in Israel. Further orientation about general practicalities of living in Israel (where to shop, how to shop, banking, medical care, etc.) will be provided to English-speaking students who enroll.

### **What's the weather like?**

In a nutshell, summers are hot, humid, and without rainfall to speak of. Winters are cool and damp with significant rainfall and can be quite cold and windy during this season, particularly at night. For this reason, it's a good idea to ask your landlord if the apartment is equipped with a "mazgan" that is for cooling and heating. Some parts of Israel you may visit do get real winter weather, ice, and snow.

### **Besides tuition, how much should I estimate for living expenses?**

Where you decide to rent will impact your budget. This is only an estimate:

- Rent: Assume approximately \$1300 per month, inclusive of utility costs. Be sure to ask if you must pay Arnona (tax). If so, add approximately 15%
- Food: Assume approximately \$1000 per month, but if you are a person who likes to dine in restaurants often, add about 30-40%
- Transportation: For public transportation, assume approximately \$200 per month. If you plan to drive or take taxis, this budget will increase significantly
- Incidentals: For various social activities and incidentals, it is advised to have a discretionary budget of \$400 per month.