

The UniBrass Foundation

UniBrass 2021 Contest Rules

These contest rules have been adapted specifically for the UniBrass 2021 contest, in light of practical changes due to the COVID pandemic.

In these rules, unless otherwise expressly stated, words and phrases used shall have the same meaning as defined in the Constitution. As defined therein;

“University” refers to any Higher Education establishment in the UK.

In these rules, unless otherwise expressly stated, the term “UniBrass Organising Committee” shall be taken to mean the UniBrass Organising Committee, the trustees of the UniBrass Foundation, or any other individuals appointed by them.

- 1.** Entries to UniBrass shall be limited to university brass bands. Applications from non-UK Higher Education establishments will be considered on a case-by-case basis, but in general priority will be granted to UK Universities.
 - 1.1.** Mergers will be considered on a case-by-case basis if a university is unable to produce a complete brass band, each institution may only be involved in a single merger at a given contest. The UniBrass Organising Committee must be informed of any proposed merger well in advance of the contest.
- 2.** The entry fee for each band will be set by the UniBrass Organising Committee according to necessity, and must be paid by a date prescribed by the Committee to ensure entry to the contest.
 - 2.1.** Bands must comprise of current students, staff, and alumni of up to 3 academic years. The conductor is exempt from this rule.
- 3.** All players must bring identification to the contest to enable them to compete. For example, appropriately dated university student or staff Photo ID cards, graduation certificates and photo ID, or any other identification deemed suitable by the UniBrass Organising Committee.
- 4.** Bands may include up to 3 borrowed players, but these players cannot sit on principal seats or play a featured item. The seats defined as principal seats are: Principal Cornet, 1st Trombone, 1st Euphonium, Flugel Horn and Solo Horn. If there is any uncertainty about what a featured item is, bands should discuss this with the Contest Secretary.
 - 4.1.** Players unable to supply proof of status as a current student, staff or graduation within three years will count as a borrowed player.
 - 4.2.** Bands may request additional borrowed players, and applications will be assessed based on need by the UniBrass Foundation. These borrowed players can only sit on principal seats if there are no current students, staff, or alumni of up to 3 academic years in that section, and these players will be excluded from any soloist awards.
- 5.** There is no upper or lower limit on the number of players allowed on stage.
- 6.** The contest is open to bands composed of standard brass band instruments (including trumpets). If any bands wish to use other instruments in their set, they must inform the UniBrass Organising Committee, who must give their permission for said instrument(s) to be used.

7. The contest will be under open adjudication.
8. The performance time for the event will be 15-20 minutes, from the commencement to end of the set inclusive of anything the UniBrass Organising Committee believe the band is being adjudicated upon (e.g. spoken word, musical notes, video etc.)
 - 8.1. There will be time penalties applied to each band's score that runs over time. The first minute over time will remain unaffected. At the start of every 30 second period over time thereafter, 1 point will be deducted from the band's score (e.g. if a band runs 3 minutes and 20 seconds over time, 5 points will be deducted).
9. Scoring will be out of 150 (Split in the ratio 2:1, Quality:Entertainment).
10. The contest shall be split into two separate sections, a "Virtual Performance" and an "In Person" section. Results at this contest shall not be considered in the placing of bands into the Shield and Trophy section in future years.
 - 10.1. Bands may enter only one section. Should the need arise, bands are able to switch sections.
 - 10.2. In the event the "In Person" element of the event is cancelled at short notice due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, bands in this section will be offered to move the "Virtual Performance" section of the contest. All bands will perform in this single section, with one set of prizes across all bands.
11. The draw will be made at least two weeks before the contest.
12. Any in person band may request an early draw. This must be communicated to the UniBrass Organising Committee at the point of registration. For organisational purposes the host band may be placed at an organisationally convenient position in the schedule at the discretion of the UniBrass Foundation trustees.
13. A list of percussion equipment to be provided by the contest for in person bands will be supplied to bands well in advance of the contest. Bands who require additional percussion not on the list must request it at least 2 weeks before the contest, but the UniBrass Organising Committee cannot promise that every request will be satisfied.
 - 13.1. The cost of additional percussion provided by the contest may be charged to bands; the cost of any requested percussion will be communicated to the requesting band prior to confirmation of the request.
 - 13.2. Bands that wish to use their own percussion must inform the UniBrass Organising Committee well in advance of the contest, by a deadline set by the UOC
14. In Person bands must provide one unmarked copy and a digital copy of the scores of the chosen entertainment programme for the adjudicators (photocopies allowed). These must be received by the contest before a date set by the UniBrass Organising Committee. Virtually Performing bands must provide only a digital copy of the scores.
15. Prizes will be awarded within both sections for the following: Best Solo/Feature, Best March, Most Entertaining Band, Best Student Conductor, and Best Percussion Section, as well as for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.
 - 15.1. The award for Best Student Composition or Arrangement will be awarded across the contest as a whole.
 - 15.2. The award for Best Student Composition or Arrangement may be split into a separate Best Student Composition prize and a Best Student Arrangement prize, at the discretion of the adjudicators and UniBrass Organising Committee, on the basis of the number of entries under each category.

- 15.3.** The award for Best Student Composition or Arrangement is open to all students enrolled at a university on the date of the contest.
- 15.4.** The awards for Best Student Conductor are open to all students enrolled at the university of the band they are conducting on the date of the contest.
- 15.5.** In the case of a points tie for any other placings, musicality points will be taken over entertainment points (if the bands are still level then they shall be jointly placed). In the case of one of the bands receiving a time penalty, the original musicality points before the penalty will be used.
- 16.** If any band is not ready to perform when requested, then the issue will be resolved at the discretion of the UniBrass Organising Committee.
- 17.** Virtually performing bands must record their performance in a single take ahead of the contest day at a time agreed by the UniBrass Organising Committee. A representative of UniBrass will witness the performance over Zoom, but a higher quality recording of this performance should be made on a separate device. No significant editing to the entries may be carried out in advance of submission, however effects that would be possible live (i.e. switching between different cameras) are allowed.
- 18.** Any band found to be using inappropriate language, props, or making comments likely to cause offence or be deemed as discriminatory in any shape or form may be disqualified. Discrimination or behaviour likely to cause offence will not be tolerated. Any disqualification may mean that a band is prevented from entering in subsequent contests. Bands are encouraged to speak to the UniBrass Organising Committee in advance if they have any concerns.
- 19.** All participants must follow the instructions of the UniBrass Organising Committee at all times, including, but not limited to, the COVID Safety guidance issued ahead of the contest by the UniBrass Foundation. Bands found to not be following these instructions may be disqualified.
- 20.** Scores as assigned by the adjudicators are final. The application of all other rules is at the discretion of the UniBrass Organising Committee. The decision of the UniBrass Organising Committee is final.