

2021 Berklee Post-Graduation Survey | Results Summary

The following summary infographic shows the results of Berklee's 2020-2021 Post-Graduation Survey, administered to recent Berklee College of Music, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Berklee Valencia, and Berklee Online graduates. Data reflects respondents who graduated between September 2020 and September 2021. For more information, please contact the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment at institutionalassessment@berklee.edu.

RESPONDENTS

556
graduates

38%
response rate

View a dashboard of results by learning environment, level, and program: <https://bit.ly/3BrmgJx>

KEY FINDINGS

1. **52% of graduates reported COVID-19 impacted their plans after Berklee, down from 83% in 2020.**
See page 2 for comments from graduates about how COVID-19 has impacted their plans after Berklee.
2. **Compared to 2020, there has been an increase in the proportion of graduates finding jobs in live music, and a decrease of those working in education.**
3. **This year's graduates reported being slightly less satisfied with various aspects of their Berklee experience than in previous years.**
4. **A higher rate of graduates are living outside of the United States (28%) than in 2020 (16%).**

SATISFACTION WITH EXPERIENCES AT BERKLEE

Percent of respondents who were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the following at Berklee.

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Professors	86%	86%	92%	91%
Program of study	83%	87%	91%	88%
Overall experience	82%	84%	85%	85%
Service from faculty and staff	-	-	85%	80%
Activities and events	70%	67%	71%	62%
Sense of belonging and community experienced	-	-	67%	67%
Preparation for plans after graduation	-	77%	60%	63%
Likelihood to recommend Berklee to others	79%	81%	82%	80%

CAREER CENTER

63%
of respondents reported attending Career Center activities while at Berklee.

78%
of those who attended Career Center activities were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with those activities, up from 76% in 2020.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Of students who participated in on-campus student employment...

92%
reported being satisfied with their student employment experience.

83%
reported their student employment experience provided them with skills they can use in their future career.

MOST COMMON LOCATIONS AFTER BERKLEE

Country: United States (72%), Spain (7%), China (4%), Canada (2%), and France (2%).

State: Massachusetts (24%), California (23%), New York (15%), Tennessee (6%), Texas (4%).

PLANS AFTER BERKLEE

Primary activity after graduation

Activity	2020	2021
Seeking employment	25%	32%
Self-employed or freelancing	33%	26%
Employed	30%	24%
Continuing education	7%	9%
Internship or Fellowship	3%	7%
Other	2%	1%

Of the 66% of respondents who indicated they were employed, self-employed, or in an internship...

Industry	2020	2021
Live music	10%	16%
Recording industry	17%	15%
Education (inc. music education)	21%	14%
Film, video, and television	9%	10%
Music and audio tools	7%	9%
Artist services	4%	6%
Technology	6%	3%
Radio and streaming music	<2%	3%
Healthcare (inc. music therapy)	<2%	3%
Church and worship	<2%	2%
Arts administration	<2%	2%
All other industries	<2%	

83%

of those employed, self-employed, or in an internship are related to the entertainment industry, up from 80% in 2020.

Of those continuing their education...

Level of education pursued	2020	2021
Master's Degree	57%	84%
Bachelor's Degree	9%	6%
Other Degree/Certificate	17%	6%
Doctoral Degree	17%	4%

Most common schools include: Berklee Valencia (4 graduates), Berklee Online (3), and Manhattan School of Music (3). For a list of all schools and programs, please see page 6.

229 graduates responded to the open ended question, "How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted your plans after graduation?"

Common Themes	%
Career/Job Opportunities	53%
Relocation	25%
Live Performances	23%
Travel Restrictions or Visa	12%
Networking Opportunities	10%
Learned to Innovate and Adapt	9%
Berklee Experience was Impacted	8%
Changed Education Plans	8%
Finance	7%
General	7%
Motivation	2%
Health/Mental Health	1%
In-person Teaching	1%

Note: Comments may be coded with multiple themes.

Some graduates have been exploring new ways to work in a strongly impacted industry.

"Live work is less, but it shaped it for the better, allowing me to focus primarily on production, and hone new crafts. I became better, and adjusted to the new reality, music always comes first."

"I planned to work more on the live performance industry but as COVID stopped live events worldwide I had to pivot and ended up working as a manager and other artists services more related to record labels and marketing. Still developing live shows as a freelancer but not in a major scale."

"Before COVID, I supported live event only, but over that past year I have shifted to an editor for marketing videos and podcast, in addition to producing virtual events."

"It caused me to consider different career paths, such as voice over work, that I had not considered before."

"I'm possibly looking to do more sync licensing to have a more stable income for the times where I won't be able to tour and such."

"I had time to really think about where my natural talents and passions intersect with everything I learned at Berklee and the current marketplace. I studied MP&E/EPD and now I'm getting hired in the creative side of the business."

"Change of career plans. I was going to apply for internship positions at large game companies in my country. Now I'm leaning towards my original plan of composing for television and furthering my education."

KEY FINDINGS

Some recent graduates are having trouble finding opportunities in performing arts and entertainment, especially when they have limited work experience. Recent graduates also report experiencing limited opportunities due to travel restrictions, OPT challenges, and the inability to move to new cities.

"Little to no companies want to hire straight out of university students, let alone when a company is already tight on a budget and are letting people go because of the pandemic."

"I'm still waiting for theaters to open up. Many dance companies can't afford to hire new artists since they haven't been able to perform this past year."

"Every person I've contacted about looking for a job has told me that they aren't hiring until they recoup their losses from the pandemic. [I] managed to find an internship but it doesn't start until the winter so I'm just hanging in limbo until then."

"Had to choose a job not involved within performing arts for now. I plan to move to New York when more opportunities arise after the pandemic."

"Because of COVID, I need to go back to Taiwan, which means that I kind of gave up the opportunity to apply for OPT and lost the chance to possibly get a job in the US."

"I would have liked to be touring post graduation however COVID has severely limited live music and the ability to tour."

"I wanted to apply for OPT and Grad School but due to the pandemic I had to rebuild my economy and I ended up losing my F-1 status. Now I have to renew my tourist Visa in order to enter the US again and the US embassy in Argentina isn't giving appointments until late 2022. It's so sad."

"There are much fewer employment opportunities for opera singers, so I have taken a job in Arts Administration for the next year."

"I wasn't able to audition for shows to secure a job out of school, also [the] showcase was online so I didn't get an agent."

"The pandemic also prohibited me from engaging with necessary career preparations, such as participating in an internship."

"Due to the pandemic live performance has been put on pause. This made it impossible to gain the experience needed to land jobs out of graduation. Instead I am going to a 1 year grad program to further my education while allowing time for the world to heal again."

"I planed to travel to Boston and start planning an Ecuadorian tour for my band. All got cancelled."

"I was planning to stay in Boston and seeking music-related jobs, but I moved back to my home country before graduation and I couldn't come back to Boston before my visa was expired. So, I work as a self-employed musician in Japan."

"As someone who focuses on the Live Practicum and has a desire for international career, both areas are still in limbo as far as finding jobs and it is much more difficult to positively say that traveling for work is an option."

Opportunities to collaborate and network have been very limited.

"The pandemic continues to complicate networking and limit the job market, particularly as it relates to live music."

"[The pandemic is] preventing me from being in the city and building a relationship with local musicians/studio for a year and a half. [There are] less opportunities to work with other people and build a strong portfolio."

"Most of my challenges are around building connections and networking. I suppose COVID made this easier in terms of being able to zoom and remote connect, but it is still a challenge time and effort wise to make new connections."

"Having a hard time getting with people to play music."

"Although I am working, I am also seeking other opportunities which was been a little harder than usual due to less in person networking events."

"The interview process has been much more difficult online, as well as networking."

"The entertainment industry is in a slump and now isn't the time to go out to mixers, seminars and other networking events. I will have to connect virtually."

"Not being able to travel was one of the issues, but the biggest one was not having the opportunity to make connections within the music industry or even locating music related job opportunities."

"I feel as though graduating during a pandemic has hindered my ability to collaborate with others at times."

KEY FINDINGS

Graduates shared suggestions for improving coursework and curriculum.

"I only wish that there were a focus on teaching us how to create a business/brand as freelance producer/engineers."

"I think the curriculum should be looked over and redistributed so that students aren't taking 5 classes that give them the same information."

"My only feedback would be some of the courses felt outdated. We were learning about things such as social media platforms, digital streaming services, and more, that were outdated and no longer relevant."

"Please require legal aspects or some social media class."

"There needs to be a thorough review of the degree requirements and an assessment made whether some the courses really justify the high cost for students."

"It would be great to have captions for all of the video content within the courses. I saw that some captions were already being rolled out. I think it would be a great addition to an already solid course structure, especially for those who are hard of hearing or have to watch the videos on public transit."

Some graduates shared general dissatisfaction with administrative support and communication during the pandemic.

"I feel that there was a great disconnect between the administration and the teachers and students. Throughout my final semester especially during which I was enrolled in the hybrid option I was constantly unsure of what would be happening next. Would my class be in person, would there be yet another restriction added by the administration, were my questions ever going to get answered?"

"I won't ever forgive Berklee for not hosting an in person graduation ceremony when every other school in the area was able to do so."

"My only critique would have to be the organization of the administrators. I often found myself confused regarding steps to take within the school and felt as though I would be sent on wild goose chases trying to receive help."

"I also think that staff as a whole could have taken more time to figure out what us students needed most in this time of COVID. I understand that these new precautions and hybrid learning was new for you all as well, but if you actually communicate with the students and ask what's helpful then a better balance would be struck."

"Berklee is not interested in hearing feedback throughout the year, and don't want to try to help the students with their concerns."

"There have been multiple moments experienced by students in various programs that show that the higher ups and administration don't actually care about their students as much as they claim to. Obviously with COVID, they are dealing with some very difficult situations and making tough calls, but their lack of communication or follow up hurts their relationship with students."

Graduates communicated their experiences with the climate of diversity, equity, and inclusion while at Berklee.

"The institutionalized racism and sexism needs to be seriously addressed, not just talked about."

"Your diversity initiatives mean very little if you don't account for economic stratification. The institution has worked hard to create an environment that's accepting of diverse identities, but nobody ever expects a student to be poor."

"I beg for more diverse faculty to be hired."

"I've experience a lot of ableism during my time at Berklee, and there wasn't enough information to educate students about ableism, and the little there is, nobody knows because it's not announced."

"I am confident that my experience was spoiled by never feeling understood by my profs as a trans person."

"Classes need to be updated in terms of systemic racism. Some classes still use mainly white male composers, writers, conductors, philosophers as the models for great works. They are still the reference and point of study. It created barriers for my studies."

"Should I recommend this institution to prospective students, I would only do so with the assurance that diversity, equity, and inclusion concerns from the students over my four years there have been solved or close to."

"I don't think students should have to use the Boston Globe, social media, and other tactics as leverage to get Berklee to address those issues, a college should just take that seriously to begin with. Concern for students should come before concern for the reputation of an institution."

Graduates highlighted their experiences with faculty and classmates.

"...[I] was very impressed with the talent that my peers and teachers possessed. I felt everyone learned a little something from each other and having the flexibility to choose when to work on things helped me a lot."

"Berklee is so much more than a college, Berklee became part of my family. The professors are beyond professional, they actually believe in you and work hard to help you reach your dreams."

"The teaching faculty and student body are what really made my experience here valuable. I feel fortunate to have attended Berklee."

"Overall, this was a really wonderful experience that set me up to pivot my career into the music supervision industry. All of the professors were engaging and informative."

"I had a wonderful education and great professors and I am so grateful for them."

"I would just like to tip the cap to my wonderful professors for their knowledge, engagement, and devotion to enabling a brighter musical future."

"I loved the faculty and I loved the visiting artist series (since they were remote, I was able to attend way more!)"

"The faculty at Berklee is incredible."

164 graduates responded to the open ended question, **"Is there anything else you would like to add about your experience at Berklee that was not already asked in this survey?"**

Common Themes	%
Curriculum	24%
Overall Experience	23%
Faculty/Staff	16%
General / Miscellaneous	13%
Administration	13%
Community/Environment	12%
Diversity and Inclusion	12%
Career Preparation	10%
Finance-Tuition/Financial aid	7%
COVID-19	5%
Resources/Facilities	5%
Official Communication	5%
Career/Job Opportunities	4%
Opportunities	2%

Note: Comments may be coded with multiple themes.

2021 Berklee Exit Survey | Jobs and Employers

The following are a list of job titles and employers of those who listed their primary activity after graduation as employed.

Employer	Job title
Berklee College of Music Graduates	
Alacran Studios	Assistant Engineer
Alta Resources/Johnson & Johnson	Document Control Lead
Apple	Operations specialist
Atlantic Records	A&R Assistant
Auri Productions	Social Media and Outreach Coordinator
Bach to Rock	Vocal Instructor
BeatStars	Jr. Publishing Assistant
Berklee	Production Manager
Berklee	Five-Week Office Assistant
BILIBILI	Music Copyright Commercial Attache
Blue Erro Soul LLC	Intern
BMG	Coordinator, Royalty Services
Boys and Girls Club of Boston	Youth Music Program Assistant
Bytedance	Audio Engineer
Cover story entertainment	Lead wedding band singer
Darcie Nicole	Artist Relations/Research
David Vose	Intern
Department of Homeless Services	IT Project Specialist/E-Learning Video Developer
Dreamstage Inc	Marketing Coordinator
Energy BBDO	Production Intern
Escobar Music	Assistant
Fuller Hospital	Music Therapist
Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman	Royalty Analyst
Gelfand, Rennert and Feldman	Royalty Analyst
GoPuff	Operational Associate
Igloo Music	Intern
Independently Thinking Music	Composer's Assistant
Jake Monaco & Zach Marsh	Assistant to Composers
James Taylor	Medical Office Assistant
Jeff Novack	Piano Teacher
Kuroneko Yamato courier company	Sales Driver
Love Art	Team Member
Massachusetts General Hospital	Music Therapist
Murata Electronics North America	Business Development Engineer
Music&Arts	Piano Teacher
New England Treatment Access	PSA
New Life Baptist Church	Musician
pentecostal tabernacle	Music director and IT director
Powerstation at Berklee NYC	Assistant
Powerstation at Berklee NYC	Client Services Associate (CSA)
Powerstation at Berklee NYC	Customer Services Associate
Ra'anana Music Center	Teacher
Rebel 11 Studios	Assistant Engineer
Riot Games	Audio Intern
Rob Rivers The Salon + Spa	Front Desk Receptionist
SIA education	Music Teacher
Songtradr	Music Operations Intern
Sony Music Publishing	Intern
South Shore Conservatory	Music Specialist/music therapy
The Castle Recording Studio	Intern
The Village	
The Village Studio	Runner
Thirty Tigers	Project Management Intern
Tin Man Music	Composer's Assistant
Universal Music Publishing Group	Administrative Assistant
Urban Outfitters	Sales Associate
Warner Chappell Music	A&R Analyst/Coordinator

Employer	Job title
Berklee College of Music Graduates (Continued)	
Watertown Middle School	Music/Choir/Drama Teacher
Ymca of Greater Westfield	Music Teacher
Yoh Services LLC	Music Services Assistant

Berklee Online Graduates	
A3 Communications	Field Supervisor
Ambassador Theatre Group	Marketing Coordinator
Annie's Playhouse	Music Teacher
Auclairs Market	Lead Cashier
Berklee	Assistant Professor
Berklee	Manager Audition Operations
Broadberry entertainment	Day of show help
Cali Co Music Group	A&R
CD Baby	Creator Services Representative
Cisco Systems Inc	Software Engineer
Clovis Community College	Music Instructor
Connect Music	Private Lesson Instructor
Downtown Credo	Barista
DreamScope Entertainment	Associate
Esteban Molina	Administrative Assistant
Eyecare MD of New Jersey	Medical Receptionist
Facebook	
GMT Marketing LLP	Apprentice Watchmaker
Hexany Audio	Studio Assistant
Houston Police Department	Sergeant
Knoxville Academy of Music	Guitar Instructor
Livingston Health Care	EVS Technician
Marva Maid Dairy	Sales rep
MJ Consulting & Development inc	Senior Vice President
Multiple productions	Music Supervisor/Orchestrator/Arranger
Music Supervisor Inc.	Music Supervisor Intern
Musicians Institute	Internship Coordinator
NoMa Records	Chairman
Rachel Alina	Intern
Semilab	Technician 3
SHAPE International Band	SNCOIC, NATO Brass Ambassadors
Skyterra	Chef de Partie
Springfield Fire Department	Administrative Assistant
St Andrews Assembly of God	Office Admin
Stockton Unified School District	CTE Mariachi Teacher
Sussex County Community College	Exec. Assist. Pres. & BOT/Adjunct Faculty
The Arts Center at New York University Abu Dhabi	Front of House and Box Office Manager
The Film Center	Manager
TikTok	Quality Analyst
Tisbury Tours	Production Assistant
TSE Entertainment	Artist Promotions and Bookings Intern
Tshwane University of Technology	Lecturer
Tunecore	Manager, Writer and Publisher Relations
UMG	Admin Asst Artist Development
Union Stage Presents	Talent Buyer
Western Analytical Laboratory	Sample Technician

2021 Berklee Exit Survey | Jobs and Employers (continued)

The following are a list of job titles and employers of those who listed their primary activity after graduation as employed.

Employer	Job title
Berklee Valencia Graduates	
Altafonte	Director Rest of the World
Bytedance	Artist Service Product Manager
Curiosibot	
El Spot Studios	Engineering Intern
Groover	Ambassador: Spain & LATAM
Hipgnosis Songs Fund	Intern
Immersive Lab	Intern
Jazztone	Engineer Recording
Key Royalty Partners	Music finance & data analytics intern
Key Royalty Partners	Business Analyst/Tech Head
LEASETIC	business developer
Live Nation	Ticketing
Lucas Vidal	Intern
Malik Berrabah	Studio Intern
MPath	Intern
MusicSupervisor.com	Intern
Pirate	Radio Promotion Intern
Q&A	Ops & services Intern
Rich Music Ltd.	A&R Intern
Status Audio	Community Manager
Studio Amsterdam	Assistant
Superfly	Music Location Based Entertainment
Tencent	Research Intern
United Talent Agency	Booking Agent Assistant
Universal Music France	A&R and Digital Project Manager
Wisseloord Studios	Studio Intern

Boston Conservatory at Berklee Graduates	
Ashley Nemeth	Dance teacher
Berklee	Career Services Advisor
Berklee	Student Employment Coordinator
Ethos Music Education	Music Consultant
Finnegan's Wake Irish Pub	Bartender
Gateways Community Services	ABA Therapist
Oracle	Business Development Consultant
Philadelphia International Music Festival	Chamber Music Coordinator
VOICES Boston	Program & Operations Coordinator
Williamstown Theatre Festival	Development Coordinator

2021 Berklee Exit Survey | Programs of Continuing Education

The following are a list of schools and programs students enrolled in after graduating from Berklee.

School	Level	Program
Berklee College of Music Graduates		
Berklee Boston	Master's Degree	M.M. in Contemporary Performance (Global Jazz Concentration)
Berklee NYC	Master's Degree	M.A. in Creative Media and Technology, Writing and Design for Musical Theater Specialization
Berklee NYC	Master's Degree	M.A. in Creative Media and Technology, Writing and Design for Musical Theater Specialization
Berklee Online	Master's Degree	M.M. in Film Scoring
Berklee Valencia	Master's Degree	M.M. in Music Production Technology and Innovation
Berklee Valencia	Master's Degree	M.M. in Contemporary Performance (Production Concentration)
Berklee Valencia	Master's Degree	M.M. in Music Production Technology and Innovation
Boston College Law	Master's Degree	Juris Doctor
Carnegie Mellon University	Master's Degree	M.M. in Composition
Eastman School of Music	Master's Degree	
Longy School of Music	Master's Degree	Jazz Performance
Manhattan School of Music	Master's Degree	Jazz Composition
Manhattan School of Music	Master's Degree	Jazz Performance
Northwestern University	Master's Degree	Sound Art and Industry
Northwestern University	Master's Degree	M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology
RPI	Master's Degree	Architectural Acoustics
School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Master's Degree	New Arts Journalism
Suffolk University	Master's Degree	M.B.A.
University of East Anglia	Master's Degree	Global Media Economics
University of Massachusetts Amherst	Master's Degree	Masters in Jazz Composition and Arranging
University of Toronto	Master's Degree	M. Mus. Music Technology and Digital Music
USC Thornton School of Music	Master's Degree	Screen Scoring
USC Thornton School of Music	Master's Degree	Masters in Screen Scoring
Berklee Online Graduates		
Berklee Online	Master's Degree	M.M. in Film Scoring
Berklee Online	Bachelor's Degree	B.P.S. in Guitar
Berklee Valencia	Master's Degree	M.A. in Global Entertainment and Music Business
Emerson College	Master's Degree	M.F.A. in Film and Media Art
Florida Institute of Technology-Online	Master's Degree	M.B.A. in Marketing
Pulse College	Other Degree / Certificate	Post Production and Sound Design
University of Alabama at Birmingham	Bachelor's Degree	Electrical Engineering
Boston Conservatory at Berklee Graduates		
Boston Conservatory at Berklee	Master's Degree	
Boston Conservatory at Berklee	Other Degree / Certificate	
Boston University	Master's Degree	M.M. in Voice Performance
Brandeis University	Master's Degree	Music Composition and Theory
Butler School of Music	Master's Degree	Mezzo-Soprano: Opera Performance
Longy School of Music	Other Degree / Certificate	MHTP
Lynn Conservatory at Lynn University	Master's Degree	M.M. in Violin Performance
Manhattan School of Music	Master's Degree	Contemporary Performance Program (CPP)
San Francisco State University	Master's Degree	M.F.A. Playwriting
UMass at Amherst	Master's Degree	Collaborative Piano
University of Cincinnati	Master's Degree	M.B.A./M.A. in Arts Administration
University of Hartford	Master's Degree	M.B.A. in Entrepreneurship
University of Michigan Ann Arbor	Master's Degree	Composition
University of New Hampshire School of Law	Doctoral Degree	Juris Doctor