

RADA

BA (Hons) in Acting

- Please make sure you have read these notes prior to applying and retain for your reference.
- All eligible Applicants who apply before the closing date will receive an audition.
- All Applicants must be 18 by the start of the academic year for which they are auditioning.

Applications

Please apply via the RADA website using our online application form powered by Embark. Your application must be completed and submitted by 17 January 2024 at 11:59 pm to be considered.

Audition procedure - academic year 2024-25

You have the option to submit your self-tape audition at the point of application. If you aren't ready to submit your self-tape when applying, you can go ahead and submit your application and upload your self-tape within two weeks.

The preliminary stages (first and second rounds) are by self-tape, the third round will be a live digital workshop, fourth rounds will take place in person at RADA (we will also have the option of a digital workshop for those applicants who are unable to travel to London)

Do note that, due to the volume of Applicants we audition, we do not provide feedback – please refer to the RADA Admissions Policy for more information.

The four audition stages

- ① Preliminary audition – November to February
- ② Recall audition – November to March
- ③ Short workshop (three-hour session via Zoom)* - Feb to April
- ④ Full workshop day* April to May

* Workshops in the third and fourth stages will replicate the working experience at RADA, and in the profession, and may include physical and close eye contact with other applicants. If you have difficulties with these working methods, please alert the Admissions team prior to these audition rounds and suitable adjustments will be made, where possible.

① Preliminary audition

Preliminary auditions open in October and applicants must submit their self-tape audition prior to the closing date

Your video will be seen in the first stage by two members of the audition panel. Your self-tape will consist of three audition speeches and a song. Each speech should last up to two minutes. You are also required to sing the verse and chorus of a song, unaccompanied.

The song should last up to one and a half minutes.

• Speech A - Classical

The classical piece should be from Shakespeare or an Elizabethan/Jacobean playwright (Jonson, Marlowe, Webster, etc.). It should be originally written in English - so do not choose a piece from a Greek tragedy or a Molière comedy, for example. You can perform a monologue in your native language (mother tongue) if you prefer, but it must be accompanied by the same piece performed in English.

• Speech B - Alternative Classical

You must have an alternative classical piece prepared (same rules as Speech A).

• Speech C - Contemporary

The contemporary piece should provide a clear contrast to the classical pieces and be written after 1960. Do not use Chekhov or Shaw for this piece.

• Song

The song should be unaccompanied and consist of a verse and chorus ONLY.

Choosing your speeches

Do:

- choose contemporary/classical PLAYS only, not from a film/television.
- choose at least one speech from a character close to your age
- choose contrasting pieces: dramatic/comic, serious/light, active/reflective
- imagine the person you are speaking to; be familiar with the rest of the play and the context in which the speech appears
- choose a speech about which you are excited as a performer and can imagine playing one day
- use your natural speaking voice for the classical speech

Don't:

- worry about how original your choice of speech is
- assemble a speech from lines of dialogue where another character's interjections are an important part of the scene
- use an accent you are not confident in
- choose speeches by characters who are mad, drunk or wildly out of control: these are very difficult
- mimic the performance of someone else you've seen act the speech: we want to see your original work.

We cannot provide advice on the suitability of your speech choices before you submit your video audition.

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② Stage two

Video submissions of successful Applicants from Stage one will be passed to a secondary panel consisting of three panel members.

③ Short workshop

A three-hour workshop. You should be prepared to perform both classical speeches (Speech A and Speech B) and the contemporary speech (Speech C) from earlier rounds. The workshop leader will pick one of your classical speeches for you to perform.

Each Applicant will work with a director on their speech, to explore fully the material and opportunities within it. The director will be looking for an imaginative response to the text and character, physical and vocal adaptability, the ability to take direction.

④ Full workshop day

This is the final stage and you will need to prepare a new audition speech of your choice. It can be from any era, Greek to contemporary. We need to see a speech you have not shown or worked on in earlier stages.

The sessions will include:

Movement

An introductory session of games and movement exercises taught at RADA. The teacher will be noting the students' use of body spatial awareness and physical imagination.

Voice

Students will take part in groups in voice exercises and will work individually on a piece of text. The teacher will be noting vocal flexibility, fluency of reading and vocal health.

Scene study

Students work with a director in small groups on a scene from a play. The director will be looking for the ability to understand character and situation, to respond to direction and the capacity to work with other actors.

Speeches

The whole group performs their chosen speech in front of each other and members of the panel.

Interview

You will then have an individual interview with a senior panel member, lastly approximately 15 minutes.

As well as the above, the panel will be looking for Applicants' ability to:

- commit to the working life of a group for the duration of the workshop
- respond to professional teaching and develop physical, vocal, imaginative and interactive skills in support of other members of the group

Our intention is that the day is relaxed and enjoyable for all applicants so that, regardless of the outcome, you will have had an enriching experience.

Foundation Course in Acting

If you are also applying for the Foundation Course in Acting, more information will be sent to you about the admissions process for this course once you have been selected for audition.

Further process

After Stage one an Applicant will be sent an email:

- informing them that they have not been successful
- or notifying them that their video submission will receive a secondary review

After Stage two an Applicant will be sent an email:

- informing them that they have not been successful
- or inviting them to a short workshop

After a short workshop an Applicant will be sent an email:

- informing them that they have not been successful
- or inviting them to a workshop day

After a workshop day an Applicant will be sent an email:

- informing them that they have not been successful
- or asking them to wait whilst other Applicants are auditioned
- a successful Applicant will receive an offer of a place by e-mail, which will include our terms and conditions and other relevant information. We will require a written acceptance of the place offer (email is fine).

Additional Information

As indicated, there may be a wait time following each audition stage.

The decision of the panel is final. If you are unhappy with the process, you may make a complaint under our Admissions, Appeals & Complaints process (details are on the [Regulations and Policies page](#) of the website).

You may apply only once per academic year.

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An Applicant who is 'on hold' may accept a place at another drama school and hand that place back at any time. An Applicant may not hold more than one place at any one time.

Guidance for Disabled Applicants

RADA welcomes applications from Applicants with disabilities, including dyslexia, dyspraxia, and other Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLDs).

A high proportion of RADA students come with some form of disability, mostly specific learning disabilities (SpLDs) such as dyslexia or dyspraxia or with mental health conditions. We have fewer students with physical or sensory disabilities (although they are welcomed on our courses, and we support students from all backgrounds) and an increasing number of students who we describe as 'neurodiverse' who are on the autistic spectrum or have ADHD.

Accessibility

RADA's main training buildings in Gower/Malet Street and Chenies Street are fully accessible to those with limited mobility.

Tell us about your disability

Applicants are encouraged to declare a disability so that appropriate support can be put into place as soon as possible. The term 'disabled' includes people with a physical or sensory impairment such as limited mobility or hearing loss; a learning difficulty such as dyslexia or dyspraxia; or a mental health condition such as depression.

Please note that if you do disclose a disability on your application form, this may be shared with the panel.

You are not required to include this information at application stage but we strongly recommend that you do in order to give us time to prepare and arrange suitable support. It will also mean that we can provide appropriate arrangements during the admissions process, where possible.

During an audition/interview

- Do not worry and remember the audition/interview panel wants you to do your best in your audition/interview. The panel will be made aware of your access requirements if you have made them clear on your application.
- A member of the admissions team will be on hand in case you need any kind of additional support or adjustment during your audition or interview.
- Please tell us if you would like to be seen first and we will try to accommodate this.
- It's fine to ask the panel to repeat any question.
- Take your time.
- Remember that many applicants and students with disabilities and SpLDs have been to RADA before.

Do note that all of our programmes are very physical. Most auditions will involve games or warmup exercises which are likely to include eye contact and/or physical contact. Adjustments to this may not always be possible.

How do RADA support disabled students?

RADA will make reasonable adjustments for all students who declare a disability and require reasonable adjustments to enable them to participate in the training.

RADA's support is currently jointly managed by the team in Student and Academic Services working with your Course Leader. We will usually encourage students who disclose a disability to speak with their Course Leader as they will be able to advise on adjustments and what would be most helpful in their learning. Students can also talk to RADA's Counselling & Wellbeing Manager if they are concerned about sharing this information in the first instance.

We encourage students to tell us about any condition that might affect their training, and that they should do so knowing that we will handle that sensitive information in accordance with data protection legislation.

Once we know about a particular condition, we will produce a 'Learning Agreement', where necessary. This outlines the adjustments that will be made, who needs to know about this and when it should be reviewed. This will be done with the student, and the agreement will only be shared with the people whom the student has agreed will have access to it.

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)

UK students are advised to make an application for [Disabled Students' Allowance](#) (DSA) through the Student Loans Company. This can provide valuable financial assistance to help with the adjustments required for learning for example, particular software for learning support, or a one-to-one session with an experienced learning support practitioner. It can take several months from the point of application before full support is implemented, therefore, we strongly advise that you apply for DSA at the same time you send your application to RADA. Student Loans Company will require evidence of the disability to make an assessment for DSA. There is more information [here](#).

Students who are not eligible for a UK Disabled Students' Allowance should, in the first instance, seek funding from their own country, funding body, sponsor or other source. However, RADA can offer some Study Skills support sessions and you should contact Student and Academic Services for more information.

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Support for students with specific learning difficulties (SpLDs)

For students with specific learning difficulties, we have relationships with external specialists who can undertake a diagnostic assessment, should there not already be one in place. RADA will pay for the initial assessment, and the Disabled Students' Allowance will cover the cost of other support. The Student Loans Company may ask the student to make a contribution to costs (for example, if you prefer an Apple Mac to a PC), but 1:1 Study Skills or mentoring support will be covered. Students may also receive additional funding for printer supplies and photocopying, for which receipts should be submitted to SLC at the end of the year for reimbursement.