

RADA

Royal Academy of Dramatic Art

RADA Connect Policy (for entry in September 2024)

1. Definitions

In this document, “you” and “your” means the applicant; “we”, “us” and “our” mean RADA.

The term “applicant” refers to someone who has submitted an application to one of our full-time HE Courses.

“Participant” refers to an applicant who has been accepted onto the RADA Connect Programme.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. RADA Connect is a programme that comes under our commitment to Access and Participation. This commitment is outlined in our 2020 – 2025 [Access and Participation Plan](#). The aim of our Access and Participation work is: to make sure that our full-time training is accessible to students and practitioners from all backgrounds; to increase diversity across the Academy; and to affect change in the industry in which our students gain employment.
- 2.2. RADA Connect offers free applications, workshops, free tickets to RADA productions, travel bursaries and guidance to eligible applicants throughout their application process. It is specifically targeted at applicants from low-income households who may be less likely to apply due to financial barriers.
- 2.3. The programme offers online and in person contact and provides the opportunity for applicants to interact with graduates, current students, teaching staff and the building and facilities at RADA.
- 2.4. Through RADA Connect we aim to reduce financial barriers to applying; support applicants in their journey to RADA and Higher Education; help applicants feel prepared for their interview or audition process; build community and connection.

3. RADA Connect programme overview

- 3.1. Places on RADA Connect will be offered to applicants who meet the specified eligibility criteria.
- 3.2. All eligible applicants will be offered a place. We are not limiting the number of places on RADA Connect for entry in September 2024 for the BA (Hons) in Acting and FdA in Technical Theatre and Stage Management.
- 3.3. During the application process, you will be asked if you believe you are eligible for the programme. You will then be required to upload evidence. This evidence will then be verified by the Access & Participation team who will confirm your eligibility.

4. Eligibility

The eligibility criteria for places on the RADA Connect programme are detailed below.

4.1. Primary Criteria

Applicants must meet ALL primary criteria:

- i. Be applying for BA (Hons) in Acting or FdA in Technical Theatre and Stage Management.
- ii. Have attended a state school and/or college for the entirety of your primary and secondary education
- iii. Be a UK/ Home fee student (Have been ordinarily resident in the UK for the past three consecutive years OR have been ordinarily resident in the UK with refugee status. Please refer to the [UKCISA](#) website for further guidance)
- iv. Have a combined household income under £45,000
- v. Have no previous experience of Higher Education/ university*

* if the applicant has started a university course, but has completed less than one year of this, please contact the [Access and Participation](#) team to discuss.

4.2. Secondary Criteria

Applicants must also meet ONE of the following:

- i. In addition to the above primary criteria, RADA Connect eligible applicants must also meet at least one of the below criteria:
- ii. Be Black and Global Majority
- iii. Be care experienced
- iv. Have a disability which is declared on your application form
- v. Have a home postcode which is classified as Quintile 1 or Quintile 2 in the POLAR4 data.
- vi. Have a home postcode which is classified as Decile 1-4 in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Government dataset.
- vii. Have a combined household income under £25,000 per year.

Adhering to these eligibility criteria will ensure that we are working with the underrepresented groups identified in our Access and Participation Plan and working towards improved access to Higher Education.

5. Applications

- 5.1. Applicants will apply directly to the programme via the BA (Hons) in Acting or FdA Technical Theatre and Stage Management course application form. You must provide supporting evidence as part of the application form to demonstrate that you meet the criteria. Guidance on accepted evidence will be detailed on the relevant webpages and guidance.
- 5.2. If you are aged under 18, we will also require consent from a parent/guardian to confirm their consent for you to participate on the programme.
- 5.3. We ask that applicants to the RADA Connect are committed to their drama school application process and the RADA Connect sessions they sign up to.

6. Confirmation

- 6.1. Eligible applicants offered a place on RADA Connect will be notified via email, along with further details about your supported application process.

7. RADA Connect Programme Content

- 7.1. Across the programme, participants will have the opportunity to engage in workshops and events relevant to the course you have applied to, attend a free stage production at RADA and receive advice and guidance from the Access and Participation Team throughout the audition and interview process.
- 7.2. Participants who then go on to accept a place on an undergraduate course will receive support when applying for scholarships and in transitioning into RADA.
- 7.3. We will provide priority travel bursaries, to applicants who live more than 50 miles away from RADA, towards the cost of travel for interview and/or audition and a minimum of one in-person RADA connect workshop when on-site at RADA. This is for UK standard class travel only.
- 7.4. Workshops will be offered online and on-site. They are not compulsory, but you will benefit most from the programme by participating in activity. Once you have signed up to an event, you are expected to attend, and should notify outreach@rada.ac.uk, in advance, if you are no longer able to make it.
- 7.5. For BA (Hons) in Acting workshops and events, priority will be given to applicants who remain in our audition process, though invitations will be extended to unsuccessful applicants where space allows.
- 7.6. Applicants can only apply to one course per year. For example, if you have applied for FdA TTSM you cannot also apply for the BA (Hons) in Acting and vice versa.

8. Promotion

- 8.1. RADA Connect will be advertised between October 2023 and January 2024 via:
 - a) Our website
 - b) Our social media accounts
 - c) Promotional material sent to Access & Participation mailing lists, identified schools, colleges, youth arts organisations and local authority programmes for care leavers.

9. Monitoring

- 9.1. Each year we will report on the number of RADA Connect participants, their characteristics and background relevant to the Access and Participation targets, and the outcomes of their applications. This reporting will be anonymised.

10. Evaluation

- 10.1. Participants on RADA Connect will be asked to complete evaluations for all activity they attend, and the end of application cycle survey, which will also collect destination data. Robust evaluation is essential to the success of Access and Participation activity, and a key requirement of the Office for Students.

11. Data Protection

- 11.1. Information about applicants will be treated as personal and sensitive data and stored in a secure records system to ensure that confidentiality can be maintained. Information about personal data collection can be found in RADA's [Privacy Notice](#)
- 11.2. Data relating to applications, offers on programmes, acceptances, enrolments and progressions will be collected to facilitate analysis and ensure the integrity of data included in statutory reports, including monitoring reports relating to the Access and Participation Plan with the Office for Students and statutory returns to bodies such as the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).
- 11.3. By submitting an application to RADA Connect, applicants give permission for the processing of their personal data for the purposes of evidence review, managing selection and admissions procedures for the maintenance of student records and for statutory returns.

12. Safeguarding

The designated safeguarding officer for RADA is Angela Taylor, Registrar.

The designated safeguarding lead for the RADA Connect programme is Axa Hynes, Director of Access and Participation

Original Policy created	October 2023
Policy Updated	New
Document Approved by	Academic Board Chair's Action
Date Approved	
Version	1.1
Review Date	Annually, September 2024
Owner	Axa Hynes, Director of Access and Participation