

MA Theatre Lab admissions procedure for entry 2026

- Please make sure you have read these notes prior to applying and retain for your reference.
- All Applicants must be 18 or over by the start of the autumn term of their year of entry.

Applications

Please apply via the RADA website using our online application form. Your application must be completed and submitted by 18 March 2026 at 11.59pm (UK time).

Please note that owing to the number of applications we receive, we do not routinely provide feedback.

We strongly encourage **International Applicants** to apply early, so we can provide as much notice as possible in case you opt for an in-person audition and are invited to come to London for the workshop.

The application form provides space for you to disclose any disability or learning difference. Sharing this information helps us prepare and discuss any reasonable adjustments that may support your interview and participation in the programme.

Selection for audition

All application forms are carefully reviewed by the course leader. If your application is shortlisted, the course leader will review your preferred format (in-person workshop or self-tape) and, if appropriate, invite you to the next stage of the audition process. Both options are given equal consideration, with no advantage or disadvantage to either method.

Once we have received and processed your application, we will contact you to confirm whether you have been invited to audition. At this stage, we will provide further details about the audition process and what you will need to prepare. Please note that applying later in the cycle may result in a workshop or deadline for video submission being scheduled soon after the admissions closing date, so we encourage you to apply as early as possible.

Spaces for in-person auditions are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. These auditions are scheduled for the week of 30 March 2026, and we recommend submitting your application as early as possible to avoid disappointment. Please note that dates may be added or removed depending on the number of applications received.

For digital auditions, you will be given a 2-week deadline by the Admissions department if your application has been successful.

Only Applicants who fulfil the following requirements, meet the stated criteria, and demonstrate the relevant experience and qualities will be invited to audition:

English Language Requirements

For students who do not have English as their first language, you must provide proof that you can read, write, speak and understand English to a high level on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) scale. For the MA Theatre Lab, you must have CEFR level C1 or IELTS 7.0 overall with a minimum of 6.5 in all areas. It will speed up your application if you are able to upload evidence of this at the time of applying.

Experience

Academic Criteria

Applicants should normally have a first degree in English, Drama, Theatre, Performance Studies, or another related humanities subject. However, those with professional performing experience or appropriate prior learning (such as significant experience in the field) will also be considered.

Non-Academic Criteria

Applicants should have a strong interest in performance and related activities.

- Essential: Applicants must have at least three years of acting or performance experience, whether at university, amateur, or professional level. All types of performance will be considered relevant. For example, not only theatre and devised performance, but also dance, circus, live art, immersive work, etc.
- Highly desirable: Professional experience as an actor or performer.

To reiterate, Applicants from other fields of study may be considered if they have sufficient practical experience in theatre and performance. In some cases, RADA may also consider Applicants with exceptional experience in performance and theatre who do not hold an undergraduate degree or equivalent Level 6 qualifications. This is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Curriculum Vitae

You must upload a curriculum vitae (CV) of no more than two A4 pages, listing:

- Relevant degree-level qualifications and/or appropriate professional or work experience.
- Engagement in theatre and acting/performance.
- Evidence of an ability to take creative initiative.

RADA

Personal Statement

Your 800-word personal statement should demonstrate your understanding of the course and relevant experience in the field. It should also reflect your perspectives on the role of theatre and performance in society and outline the kind of work you aspire to engage with in the future.

Reference

Your referee should be someone who knows your work and can speak to your commitment, practice and creativity. They do not need to be from the industry but should be able to comment on your suitability for the programme.

You must provide the name and email address of your referee, who will be contacted directly to upload a professional reference. Your application can be submitted before the reference is received, however, it will not be considered complete until the reference has been uploaded.

The final application deadline is **18 March 2026**. Referees will have an additional one-week grace period, until 25 March 2026, to submit their reference. If you choose to apply close to the deadline, please ensure your referee is aware of the extended submission window so they have adequate time to complete it.

After Application Submission

Once you submit your application, you will receive an automated confirmation email from RADA. The Admissions Team will then contact you within six weeks to either, depending on your preference:

- Provide a save-the-date for your in-person audition OR
- Give you a self-tape submission deadline for your digital audition OR
- Inform you that your application was unsuccessful.

While we aim to give ample notice, please be prepared for the possibility of short-notice scheduling. We strongly recommend that you begin preparing for your audition or self-tape before submitting your application to ensure you are ready when invited.

Audition Process

If your application is successful, you will be invited to audition, which will take place either in-person at RADA (read the in-person guidance here) or by submitting a self-taped audition video (read the self-tape task guidance here). Please state your preference in the appropriate place on the application form. The Admissions team will keep you informed of the format of the audition. In exceptional circumstances, you may be invited to a recall audition. But this outcome is extremely rare.

The in-person audition will take place at RADA and will comprise:

- a short, written task which will be emailed to you in advance of your audition.
- a practical workshop (three to four hours) - during which you'll participate in exercises, share your audition speeches, and explore creative collaboration. You will have the chance to reflect on the workshop and ask any questions to the Course Leader at the end of the workshop.
- For the workshop, you will need to prepare a speech (no more than 20 lines) from a classical or heightened piece of text from a play or performance; and a contrasting speech (no more than 20 lines) from a contemporary performance or play (both in English) which should be learnt fluently by heart.

The self-taped audition video will comprise:

- Your audition speeches and a personal statement.
- A piece of physical performance.
- A creative piece of your own making, possibly responding to one of the given stimuli, which shouldn't be extracts from existing filmed performances but instead, pieces specifically made for this submission.

Post-Audition Process

Following your in-person or digital (self-tape) audition, the Admissions Team will then contact you within six weeks to either:

- Provide a save-the-date for your online interview OR
- Inform you that your audition was unsuccessful

Interview Process

- Interviews will be online and take place during the week of 4 May 2026.
- Over the whole process you will be assessed in the following categories:
 - Understanding of the actor / performer's contribution to the ensemble and performance
 - Creative potential, demonstrated by your practical work and experience
 - How you approach your work with fellow applicants
 - Your engagement with the role that theatre and performance can play in society
 - Previous experience
 - Ability to discuss and focus on the interview questions
 - Capacity for reflection
 - Ability to learn from and contribute to the course
 - A passion for the field

RADA

Post-Interview

Following your interview, you will receive one of the following:

- An email informing you that you have not been successful, or
- An email asking you to wait whilst other Applicants are interviewed, or
- An email inviting you to join our waiting list – this typically happens after all interviews have taken place and means you may be offered a place if another applicant declines their offer or does not enroll.
- An email offering you a place on the course, which will include an offer letter, our terms and conditions, and other relevant information. We will require a written acceptance of the offer - an email is fine.

In some cases, unsuccessful Applicants will be encouraged to gain more experience and reapply for entry in the following academic year.

Additional Information

Final Decision: The decision of the Panel is final. If you are unhappy with the process, you may submit a complaint under our Admissions, Appeals & Complaints process.

Application Limits: Applicants may only apply once per academic year.

Transfer to other Programmes: It is not possible to transfer to other programmes at RADA. You should apply only for programmes you wish to complete. You can view our academic policies and procedures [here](#).

Accessibility and Support for Applicants with Disabilities

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

We encourage Applicants to declare any disability early so that we can work together to ensure appropriate support is in place as soon as possible. The term 'disabled' refers to individuals with physical or sensory impairments, such as limited mobility or hearing loss, learning difficulties like dyslexia or dyspraxia, autism spectrum conditions, or mental health conditions like depression.

Please be advised 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

- Remember that many Applicants and students with disabilities and specific learning difficulties (SpLDs) have thrived, and we're committed to ensuring you have the support you need to do the same.
- 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.
- Our admissions team is here to provide any additional support or adjustments you may need during your audition or interview. Please don't hesitate to let us know how we can assist you.
- 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.

Be advised that all of our programmes are highly physical, and most auditions will include games or warmup exercises involving eye contact and/or physical contact. Let us know if you have concerns, and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

How do RADA support disabled students?

RADA has a long-standing commitment to supporting students with disabilities. We will ensure that reasonable adjustments are made to enable your full participation 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 Head of Student Wellbeing 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](#).

Accessibility and Support for Applicants with Disabilities cont.

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.

Support for students with specific learning difficulties (SpLDs) and autism

For students with specific learning difficulties, we have relationships with external specialists who can undertake a diagnostic assessment, should there not already be a diagnosis in place. For students who have not yet received a diagnosis, RADA will cover the cost of the initial diagnostic assessment. Ongoing support, including 1:1 Study Skills or mentoring, will be covered by the Disabled Students' Allowance to help you throughout your training. Please note, the Student Loans Company may ask students to contribute to additional costs (for example, choosing an Apple Mac over a PC). 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.