

## MA Performance Lighting 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). We operate a rolling admissions process, meaning that applications will close once our cohort is full. Depending on the volume of applications, a second deadline may be introduced.

We strongly encourage **International Applicants** to apply early, so we can provide as much notice as possible in case you are invited for an interview.

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 Interview

Only Applicants who fulfil the following requirements and demonstrate the relevant experience and qualities will be invited to interview:

#### Experience

Appropriate educational degree level qualifications and/or professional work experience and demonstrated involvement in theatre, performance, or the broader entertainment industry. Candidates must meet at least one of the following criteria from the Programme Specification:

- Foundation Degree in Technical Theatre Arts AND five years of relevant industry experience; or
- Bachelor's Degree (humanities or the creative arts preferred) AND 1 year of relevant industry experience; or
- Five years of relevant industry experience.

Where you have a previous Bachelors or relevant Foundation Degree, you will be asked to provide details of these qualifications and upload both a testamur and academic transcript.

#### Personal Statement

Your personal statement should reflect your suitability, understanding of the course, and relevant experience, with a particular emphasis on enthusiasm for the performing arts, and lighting design specifically. Your personal statement should identify how completing this programme will contribute to your professional and artistic goals. We are interested in the areas of your professional and artistic practice that you wish to develop, and how this programme will contribute to that development.

#### Reference

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. This individual does not need to be a lighting designer, director or other professional live performance practitioner, although that is preferred. It should be someone who can speak to your suitability for the programme and your desire to be a professional lighting designer.

#### Curriculum Vitae

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

- Your previous highest education level; and
- Your previous professional experience; and
- Relevant public lighting design credits; and
- Relevant technical theatre experience.

Your lighting design credits should include public performances to a paying audience for at least one show. You should identify the production by providing, at least:

- Production name; and
- Playwright or other author; and
- Director or creative lead (e.g. choreographer); and
- Set and/or Costume Designer; and
- Venue and/or Company; and
- Year of Performance.

# RADA

## After Application Submission

Once you submit your application, you will receive an automated confirmation email from RADA. The Admissions Team will then contact you to either confirm an interview date or inform you if you were unsuccessful, please note that this could take up to six weeks.

While we strive to provide ample notice, please be prepared for the possibility of short notice-scheduling. We advise that you feel prepared for the interview before submitting your application.

We reserve the right to invite an Applicant to attend a second-round interview. In such cases, the same criteria for assessment will apply (please see below), though the panel may include alternative staff members.

## Interview Process

If your application is successful, you will be invited to an interview, on-site, at RADA. The interview will last no more than 60 minutes. The interview panel will consist of the Panel Chair and two other panel members, appointed by the Programme Leader. You will have the opportunity to ask questions. We may contact you in advance of your interview to gather more information relating to your previous experience and/or qualifications to ensure that this is the right course for you.

On the day of the interview, you will also have the opportunity to tour our facilities. While we aim to show all technical facilities, some areas may be inaccessible due to ongoing work.

At the interview, we will be looking for the following key attributes:

- Fluency in the English language (please refer to the [English Language Requirements document](#)); and
- Openness to learning, feedback and flexibility; and
- Demonstrated interest/passion for working in performance lighting design; and
- Standard of application form; and
- Understanding of the programme and demonstrated background research; and
- Standard of portfolio; and
- Experience of collaboration; and
- Ability to discuss and respond to questions; and
- Ability to contribute to the programme and to the wider RADA community; and
- Capacity and readiness to engage in the training.

## Examples of Work/Portfolio

Please bring a portfolio that highlights your most successful and most challenging lighting designs, presented either physically (e.g., plans of lighting design, photos etc) or digitally (e.g., iPad, laptop). Showcase both your completed work and creative process through photos, notes, sketches, etc. Be prepared to discuss these in detail.

What you show at the interview does not need to be limited to theatre lighting design. While the programme uses theatre as the principal method of teaching, we are interested in Applicants with experience of lighting design for all forms of live performance.

We recommend that, where possible, you evidence the processes you have used to complete work – notes, sketches etc. and be prepared to speak about it.

Photographs are not entirely representative of design for live performance – we encourage you to limit yourself to a few images per production.

## Post-Interview Process

After the interview, an Applicant will be sent an e-mail:

- Informing them that they have not been successful; or
- Asking them to wait whilst other Applicants are interviewed.

If successful, you will receive an offer of a place by e-mail. This email will include our terms and conditions, and further information. We will require a written acceptance of the place offer (e-mail is acceptable).

Applicants are reminded that being asked to wait does not indicate that they are not wanted on a course, but that interviews are still in progress.

## 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.