



BA Acting self-tape guide for entry 2027

Please make sure to read this guide before recording as it will tell you what to include in each tape, how to film it and what to check before uploading. The [BA Acting admissions procedure](#) explains the full audition process and dates, please make sure to read it.

A note from our BA (Hons) Acting Course Leader

I am Richard Keith, the Course Leader of the BA Acting programme at RADA. I wanted to say a few things before you submit your application.

Firstly, please make sure you have read all our notes about choosing speeches, preparing, filming, etc. This guidance is to help you perform at your best.

Secondly, it's important to remember that we are not interested in what you may or may not have done in the past, or how much acting you have or haven't done up until now. We take people onto the course from all different backgrounds and with different levels of experience. We are looking for potential for excellence.

Thirdly, avoid spending time trying to work out what we are looking for, because there is no single way to perform a speech. Your only task is to perform the speeches in your own way, which will give us the chance to see the real you.

Finally, we understand what you are feeling right now. Many members of the panel have been actors, or are currently actors themselves, so we know what it's like to audition. Ultimately, the panel wants you to do well: so please try to relax and enjoy the process, even in the early rounds of submitting self-tapes.

Thank you for choosing to audition at RADA. We look forward to seeing your work!

With best wishes,

Richard Keith (he/him)

BA (Hons) Acting Course Leader and Chair of the Acting Admissions Panel

What to include in your tape

What to include	Stage 1 Preliminary	Stage 2 Recall
Introduction	Up to 1 minute*	Up to 1 minute**
Classical speech	Classical speech Up to 2 minutes	Additional classical speech. Up to 2 minutes.
Additional speech	Contemporary speech Up to 2 minutes	A repeated performance from your first round (your choice of either classical or contemporary). Up to 2 minutes.
Song	Not required	Verse and chorus of a song <u>or</u> spoken word. Up to 1.5 minutes. No backing music.
Submission deadline	Two weeks from the self-tape instructions email sent by Admissions. Your automated application confirmation <u>will not</u> include this deadline	One week from the Stage 2 invitation email, which confirms your result and submission deadline.

*** In your Stage 1 introduction**, tell us your full name, postcode and which course you are applying for: 1) BA Acting only, 2) BA Acting and Foundation Course in Acting, or 3) Foundation Course in Acting only. Tell us the names of your two speeches and briefly explain why you chose them.

**** In your Stage 2 introduction**, tell us your full name, postcode and which course you are applying for: 1) BA Acting only, 2) BA Acting and Foundation Course in Acting, or 3) Foundation Course in Acting only and **all** pieces you will perform.

Please keep to the time limits shown above. If you exceed these limits, the panel may stop watching your tape before the end, and you may be disqualified from the audition process.

Admissions will send your Stage 1 deadline shortly after you apply. If invited to Stage 2, you will be contacted within maximum one month of submitting your Stage 1 tape and given your Stage 2 deadline. Submit one video file at each stage. The filming advice below applies to both self-tapes.

Choosing your pieces

Classical speech

Choose a speech from Shakespeare or another Elizabethan or Jacobean playwright, such as Ben Jonson, Christopher Marlowe or John Webster. The play must have been originally written in English, so do not choose a piece translated into English, such as a Greek tragedy or a play by Molière.

For Stage 2, choose an additional **classical speech** following the same guidance above.

Contemporary speech

Choose a speech from a play written after 1960. It should contrast with your classical speech and show us something different about you as a performer.

When choosing your speeches

Do:

- Choose speeches from plays, not material from film or television.
- Choose at least one character who is close to your own age.
- Choose contrasting pieces. For example, you might consider dramatic/comic, serious/light or active/reflective.
- Read and understand the play. Know who you are speaking to and what is happening at that point in the story.
- Choose material you connect with and would be excited to perform.
- Use your natural speaking voice for your classical speech.

Avoid:

- Worrying about whether your choice is unusual or original. We are interested in what you do with the speech.
- Piecing together lines of dialogue that rely heavily on another character speaking in between.
- Using an accent you are not confident with.
- Avoid pieces that rely heavily on extreme states or behaviours, as these can make it harder for the panel to see the range and detail of your work.
- Copying another actor's performance. We want to see your interpretation.

Song or spoken word – Stage 2

Choose a piece that allows you to explore **voice, rhythm, musicality, storytelling and personal expression**. You can perform either a verse and chorus of a song, unaccompanied, or a spoken-word piece. Your performance should be no longer than 1.5 minutes. If English is not your first language, you may perform in your mother tongue. Please just make sure to mention this in your

introduction. Please note Admissions cannot advise you on whether a particular speech, song or spoken-word piece is suitable before you submit your tape.

How to film your tape

Camera and background

You can film at home on a phone. Keep it steady by propping it against furniture or books and film in landscape. If possible, choose a plain, light-coloured background. You do not need specialist equipment, costumes or props.

Check your camera settings: make sure your camera is not set to High Efficiency. On an iPhone, choose Most Compatible in the camera settings.

Framing

For the introduction, start with your full body in the frame and leave a little space above your head. If possible, move closer for a mid-shot of your speeches, from your waist to above your head. If space is limited, show as much of yourself as you can.

Lighting and sound

Use daylight with the window behind the camera or place a lamp behind the camera. Choose a quiet room and remember soft furnishings can reduce echo.

Perform for the camera

- Where possible, record your self-tape in one go and keep it as continuous as you can. This helps recreate the experience of an in-person audition and allows the panel to assess your work consistently. If you need a break, pause and continue when you are ready. Please avoid recording different sections on different days or in different locations, as significant changes in setting, lighting, sound or appearance can make the assessment more difficult.
- Look slightly to the side of the camera, as if speaking to the person in your scene. Someone may stand there for you to address.
- Test a few lines, then play them back. Check that we can see and hear you clearly. If you want another take, take a break and try again - you do not need to record repeatedly.

Before you upload

- Check that your introduction comes first, followed by all your pieces in the order shown in the table.
- Watch the whole file. Check the sound, lighting, framing and speech lengths.
- Upload one file per stage. If you recorded sections separately, combine them into a single file before uploading.
- Please make sure to follow the tape submission link and stick to the deadline in the message you have received from the Admissions team.