

BA (Hons) in Acting and Foundation Course in Acting admissions procedure

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

Applications

Application forms are available on the RADA website. These must be completed and posted along with the application fee by 28 February 2020. Different audition locations have different deadlines – please check the application form for details.

Send your application form to:

Admissions, RADA, 62-64 Gower Street, London WC1E 6ED

Audition procedure - academic year 2020-21

We will acknowledge receipt of your application as soon as the application fee (or assessment for a free audition) has been processed. We will then contact you to offer an audition date. **While we always try to give plenty of notice, there may be occasions where we call to audition at short notice so please do ensure that you feel prepared for your audition, prior to submitting your application.**

Preliminary and recall auditions do take place at some regional locations. Short workshop and full workshop days will only take place in London. Travel bursaries are available for the workshop audition stages.

Do note that, due to the volume of candidates 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 April
- ② Recall audition - December to May
- ③ Short workshop (three-hour session)*
- ④ Full workshop day (usually on a Saturday)*

* 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 where possible suitable adjustments will be made.

① Preliminary audition

Preliminary auditions are held between November and April. You will be seen at preliminary auditions by two members of the audition panel. The preliminary audition usually consists of two, but sometimes three, audition speeches. Each speech should last about two minutes, and certainly no longer than three minutes. The panel may stop you if your speech is longer than three 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.

• Speech B - Contemporary

The contemporary piece should provide a clear contrast to the classical piece and be written after 1960.

• Speech C - Alternative Classical

You must have an alternative classical piece prepared (same rules as Speech A), which you may or may not be called upon to perform.

Choosing your speeches

Do:

- 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:

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

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other speeches

RADA cannot provide advice on the suitability of your speech choices before you come for audition.

② Recall audition

Speeches presented at the preliminary audition are repeated at the recall audition, unless you have been recommended to prepare a new audition piece. You are also required to sing a prepared unaccompanied song (verse and chorus only).

③ Short workshop

A three-hour workshop. Bring both classical speeches (Speech A and Speech C) and the contemporary speech (Speech B) from earlier rounds.

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. If you have not used Speech C in previous rounds you may choose this.

The sessions will include:

Movement

An introductory session of games and exercises. The teacher will be noting the students' use of body and spatial awareness. Students who have disclosed a physical or sensory impairment will be accommodated, and all students are invited to disclose temporary injuries.

Voice

Students will take part in groups in voice exercises, ear tests and individual pieces of sight reading. Applicants who have disclosed sensory impairments or SpLD's will be appropriately accommodated. The teacher will be noting vocal flexibility, fluency of reading and vocal health. The student will not be rejected specifically because of their performance in any of these classes but if the voice teacher believes the voice is in a chronically poor condition, requiring medical intervention before training can be safe and beneficial, RADA may ask for a specialist report from a laryngologist before offering a place. This could result in a place being offered on the condition that the candidate take up vocal therapy prior to the beginning of the programme.

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

Each candidate will work with a director on their new speech, to realise 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. The whole group then performs these speeches in front of each other and members of the panel. As well as the above the panel will be looking for candidates' 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
- choose and work on appropriate audition speeches, responding to, and building on, professional direction

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.

Further process

After a preliminary audition a candidate will be sent a letter or email:

- informing them that they have not been successful
- or inviting them to a recall audition

After a recall audition a candidate will be sent a letter:

- informing them that they have not been successful
- or inviting them to a short workshop
- or asking them to wait whilst other candidates are auditioned

After a short workshop a candidate will be sent a letter:

- informing them that they have not been successful
- or inviting them to a workshop day
- or asking them to wait whilst other candidates are auditioned

After a workshop day a candidate will be sent a letter:

- informing them that they have not been successful
- or asking them to wait whilst other candidates are auditioned
- a successful candidate will be telephoned with the offer of a place; this will be followed by a letter, 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 considerable waiting 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 RADA's Admissions, Appeals & Complaints process (details are on the course pages of the website).

You may apply only once per academic year.

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

Guidance for Disabled Applicants

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

A high proportion of RADA students come with some form of impairment, mostly specific learning disabilities (SpLDs) such as dyslexia or dyspraxia or with mental health conditions. We have fewer students with physical or sensory impairments (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.

Our admissions decisions are based on the audition/interview process alone.

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

RADA is committed to admitting and supporting disabled students. Students 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.

You are not required to include this information at this stage but we 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 eg adjustments to the audition/interview timings or extra time for a written task

During an audition/interview:

- A member of the admissions team will be on hand from your arrival at RADA and we understand that you might feel nervous.
- Please tell us if you would like to be seen first and we will try to accommodate this
- Do not worry. The panel will be aware of your particular circumstances if you have made them clear on your application.
- It's fine to ask the panel to repeat any question.
- Take your time.
- Remember that many students with disabilities and SpLDs have been to RADA before.

Do note that the BA in Acting, Foundation Course in Acting and MA Theatre Lab programmes are very physical. Most auditions will involve games or warmup exercises which are likely to include eye contact and/or physical contact and adjustments to this may not always be possible.

How do we 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 & Academic Services working with your Course Director. We will usually encourage students who disclose a disability to speak with their Course Director as they will be able to advise on adjustments and what would be most helpful in your learning. You can also talk to RADA's Counselling & Wellbeing Manager, if you are concerned about sharing this information in the first instance.

We encourage students to tell us about any condition or impairment 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 or impairment, and if necessary, we will produce a 'Learning Agreement'. 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 you, the student, and the agreement will only be shared with the people that you have agreed will have access to it.

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)

If you are a UK student we advise that you make an application for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) through the Student Loans Company. More information can be found at www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas. 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 the earlier you apply the better. RADA can help you apply for the DSA. Please note that students on the Foundation Course in Acting are not eligible for DSA.

You will need to provide evidence of your disability to be eligible for DSA and you can find out more at www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/eligibility.

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Students from the Republic of Ireland may be entitled to funding via the Fund for Students with Disabilities (which is funded by the Irish Government). For further information about the fund, guidance on making an application and other financial support, please visit <https://hea.ie/funding-governance-performance/funding/student-finance/fund-for-students-with-disabilities/>.

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