

MA Theatre Lab admissions procedure

- Please make sure you have read these notes prior to applying and retain for your reference.

Applications

Application forms are available on the RADA website. These must be completed and submitted along with the application fee by 27 March 2020.

Send your application form to:

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

Selection for audition

All application forms are read carefully by the Course Leader and all candidates who fulfil the application requirements will then be invited to attend an audition workshop and interview.

We will acknowledge receipt of your application as soon as it has been processed. We will then contact you to confirm if you have been selected for an audition/interview.

Auditions/interviews will be held in February and May 2020. In order to select suitable candidates consideration will be given especially to:

The CV

- The appropriate educational degree level qualifications and/or appropriate professional or work experience.
- The CV should also show an established interest in theatre and acting/performance and also evidence of an ability to take unusual and creative initiatives.

The 800-word statement in support of the application

This should demonstrate a deep understanding and commitment to a future in the theatre. It should also demonstrate a thoughtful consideration of the role of the actor and the applicant's idea of themselves as an actor and performer. It should also give some attention to their present sense of their future pathway.

Audition and interview procedure

You will be invited to an audition, which will comprise of:

- a short written test (applicants who have disclosed SpLD's will be appropriately accommodated)
- a practical workshop (three hours)
- an interview, following your audition, usually on the same day
- in exceptional circumstances you may be invited to a recall audition

You will need to prepare a speech (no more than 20 lines) from Shakespeare or an Elizabethan/Jacobean playwright and a short contrasting speech (no more than 20 lines) from a modern play in English. These should be learnt fluently by heart.

You will be assessed in the following categories:

- Initial impression/presentation of yourself
- Understanding of the actor's contribution to ensemble and performance
- How you approach work on a scene with fellow actors
- An idea of the part that theatre plays in society both historically and today
- Previous experience
- Ability to discuss and focus on questions
- Level of maturity shown
- Ability to learn from and contribute to the course
- Creative potential
- A passion for drama

Following your audition and interview, you will receive one of the following by email and/or post.

- An offer letter – offering a place on the course.
- A waiting list letter - this usually happens after all auditions/interviews have taken place and seeks to advise that you would be eligible for a place if another chosen candidate were to drop out before the enrolment date – ie you are placed on a waiting list to allow for this eventuality.
- An unsuccessful application letter – informing you that your application has been unsuccessful.

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

Additional information

- Audition guidance will be sent to you if you are invited to audition.
- You may be called for an audition at short notice.
- We do not provide feedback to audition candidates.
- The decision of the audition panel is final. If you are unhappy with the process, you may make a complaint under RADA's procedure which is on-line.
- You may apply only once per academic year.

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.

RADA

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.