

RADA

BA (Hons) in Acting

- 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

Please apply via the RADA website using our online application form. Your application must be received by the closing date of 15 January 2021 to be considered.

Audition procedure - academic year 2021-22

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 with information on how to submit your video audition. **You will receive a two-week deadline for submitting your video to RADA so please do ensure that you feel prepared to record your video, prior to submitting your application.**

Preliminary, recall and short workshop auditions will take place digitally, via video submission. We hope that the full workshop days will take place in-person in London. Travel bursaries are available for the workshop audition stages.

We take the government guidance on social distancing very seriously and, if we are unable to hold in-person workshops, an alternative schedule will take place via Zoom.

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 - October to January
- ② Recall audition - October to January
- ③ Short workshop (three-hour session via Zoom)*
- ④ Full workshop day*

* 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 suitable adjustments will be made, where possible.

① Preliminary audition

Preliminary auditions open in October 2020 and applicants are invited to submit a video application between October and January.

Your video will be seen in the preliminary round by two members of the audition panel. The preliminary audition will consist of three, audition speeches and a song. Each speech should last a maximum of two and half minutes. You are also required to sing an unaccompanied song (verse and chorus only).

• 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 - Alternative Classical

You must have an alternative classical piece prepared (same rules as Speech A).

• Speech C - Contemporary

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

• Song

The song should be unaccompanied and consist of a verse and chorus ONLY.

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:

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

RADA cannot provide advice on the suitability of your speech choices before you submit your video audition.

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② Recall audition

Video submissions of successful candidates from the preliminary stage will be passed to a recall panel consisting of four panel members.

③ Short workshop

A three-hour workshop. You should be prepared to perform both classical speeches (Speech A and Speech B) and the contemporary speech (Speech C) from earlier rounds. The workshop leader will choose one classical speech for you to perform.

Each candidate will work with a director on their 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.

④ Full workshop day

This is the final stage and you may need to prepare a new audition speech of your choice. It can be from any era, Greek to contemporary.

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 and will work individually on a piece of text. 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

The whole group performs their chosen speech in front of each other and members of the panel.

Interview

You will then have an individual interview with a senior panel member, lastly approximately 20 minutes.

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

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 an email:

- informing them that they have not been successful
- or notifying them that their video submission will be viewed by a recall panel

After a recall audition a candidate will be sent an email:

- informing them that they have not been successful
- or inviting them to a short workshop

After a short workshop a candidate will be sent an email:

- informing them that they have not been successful
- or inviting them to a workshop day

After a workshop day a candidate will be sent an email:

- 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 wait 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 candidates 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.

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 applicants. Applicants 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.

Please note that if you do disclose a disability or impairment on your application form, this may be shared with the panel.

You are not required to include this information at application 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, where possible.

During an audition/interview

- A member of the admissions team will be on hand as 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 applicants and students with disabilities and SpLDs have been to RADA before.

Do note that all of our programmes are very physical. Most auditions will involve games or warmup exercises which are likely to include eye contact and/or physical contact. Adjustments to this may not always be possible.

How do RADA support disabled students?

RADA will make reasonable adjustments for all students who declare a disability or impairment and require reasonable adjustments to enable them to participate 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 Counselling & Wellbeing Manager, 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 that 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 do try to apply early. RADA can help with the DSA application process. Student Loans Company will require evidence of the disability in order to make an assessment for DSA. There is more information [here](#).

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.

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Support for students with specific learning difficulties (SpLDs)

For students with specific learning difficulties, we have relationships with external specialists who can undertake a diagnostic assessment, should there not already be one in place. RADA will pay for the initial assessment and the Disabled Students' Allowance will cover the cost of other support. The Student Loans Company may ask the student to make a contribution to costs (for example, if you prefer an Apple Mac to a PC), but 1:1 Study Skills or mentoring support will be covered. 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.