

MA Theatre Lab admissions procedure

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

Applications

An online application form is available on the RADA website. This must be completed by 11.59pm on 7 June 2021.

Selection for audition

All application forms are read carefully by the course leader. All candidates who fulfil the application requirements will then be invited either to attend a live audition workshop and interview, or submit a self-tape audition.

Once we receive and process your application, we will contact you to confirm if you have been selected for an audition/interview. At this point we will send you the full details about the auditions and what you will need to prepare. Please apply early if you wish to audition via self-tape, to ensure you have plenty of time to work on your submission.

In order to select suitable candidates, consideration will be given especially to:

The CV

- Appropriate educational degree level qualifications and/ or appropriate professional or work experience.
- Your engagement in theatre and acting/performance, and evidence of an ability to take creative initiative.

The 800-word statement in support of the application

This should demonstrate your understanding of the course and share your experience in the field. It should also reflect on your thoughts concerning the potential role of theatre and performance in society, and give some attention to envisaging the work you'd like to be involved with in the future.

Audition and interview procedure

If your application is successful, you will be invited to audition, which will take place either in-person at RADA or by a submitting a self-taped audition video. Please state your preference in the appropriate place in the application form. The Admissions team will keep you informed of the format of the audition. In exceptional circumstances you may be invited to a recall audition.

The in-person audition (subject to change) will comprise:

- a short written task (applicants who have disclosed SpLDs will be appropriately accommodated)
- a practical workshop (three hours) - during which you'll participate in exercises, share your audition speeches, and explore creative collaboration
- an interview, following your audition, usually on the same day

You will need to prepare a speech (no more than 20 lines) from a classical or heightened piece of text from a play or performance; and a contrasting speech (no more than 20 lines) from a contemporary performance or play in English. These should be learnt fluently by heart.

You will be assessed in the following categories:

- Understanding of the actor's contribution to ensemble and performance
- Creative potential, demonstrated by your practical work and experience
- How you approach your work with fellow actors
- Your engagement with the role that theatre and performance can play in society
- Previous experience
- Ability to discuss and focus on questions
- Capacity for reflection
- Ability to learn from and contribute to the course
- A passion for the field

The self-taped audition video will comprise:

- Your audition speeches and a personal statement
- A piece of physical performance
- A creative piece of your own making, possibly responding to one of the given stimuli. These shouldn't be extracts from existing filmed performances, but instead pieces specifically made for this submission.

Following your audition, you will receive one of the following by email:

- An offer letter – offering a place on the course.
- A waiting list letter – this usually happens after all auditions have taken place and advises that you would be eligible for a place if another chosen candidate were to drop out before the enrolment date (i.e. 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 can be found on the RADA website.
- 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.

Please note that the BA in Acting, Foundation Course in Acting and MA Theatre Lab programmes are very physical. Most auditions will involve games or warm-up 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.

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.

Guidance for disabled applicants continued

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.