

MA Theatre Lab Admissions Procedure – Entry January 2025

Please make sure you have read these notes before applying and retain them for your reference.

Applications

An online application form is available on the RADA website. This must be completed by 11.59 pm (UK Time) on 05 June 2024.

Selection for audition

All application forms are read carefully by the course leader. If you are selected for an audition, we will invite you to participate in an in-person audition and interview on the same day at RADA, or to submit a self-tape audition video followed by a digital interview at a later date. We give equal weighting to in-person and self-tape auditions; there is no advantage or disadvantage to auditioning by either method, but please be aware that spaces for the in-person auditions are limited so will operate on a first-come, first-served basis, therefore you are advised to submit your application as early as possible.

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 more details about the auditions and what you will need to prepare.

In order to select suitable applicants, consideration will be given especially to the following:

The CV

- Appropriate educational degree level qualifications and/or appropriate professional or work experience.
- 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 ([read the in-person guidance here](#)) or by submitting a self-taped audition video ([read the self-tape task guidance here](#)). 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 which will be emailed to you in advance of your

audition

- 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.

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, which shouldn't be extracts from existing filmed performances but instead, pieces specifically made for this submission.
- A digital interview, which will take place after your self-tape submission has been reviewed. The admissions team will contact you to arrange this.

You will be assessed in the following categories:

- Understanding of the actor's contribution to the 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

Post-interview process

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

- an unsuccessful application letter – informing you that you have not been successful, or
- a letter asking you to wait whilst other Applicants are interviewed, or
- a letter asking you to be on our waiting list – this usually happens once all auditions have taken place and means you may be offered a place if another applicant does not accept their offer or enrol
- a letter offering a place on the course. This will also include an offer letter including our terms and conditions and other relevant information. We will require a written acceptance of the place offer (e-mail is fine).

RADA

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

Additional information

- While we will do our best to accommodate your choice of audition format (in-person or digital) we may have to offer the alternative option.
- Further 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 applicants.
- The decision of the audition panel is final. If you are unhappy with the process, you may make a complaint under [RADA's Appeals and Complaints 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 Applicants with disabilities, including dyslexia, dyspraxia, and other Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLDs).

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

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 on your application form, this may be shared with the panel.

You are not required to include this information at application stage, but we strongly 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

- Do not worry and remember the audition/interview panel wants you to do your best in your audition/interview. The panel will be made aware of your access requirements if you have made them clear on your application.
- A member of the admissions team will be on hand in case you need any kind of additional support or adjustment during your audition or interview.
- Please tell us if you would like to be seen first and we will try to accommodate this.
- 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 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 does RADA 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 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 whom 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, we strongly advise that you apply for DSA at the same time you send your application to RADA. Student Loans Company will require evidence of the disability 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.