



ROYAL
BALLET
SCHOOL

SETTING THE STANDARD

ADMISSIONS POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2021

Registered address: 46 Floral Street • Covent Garden • London WC2E 9DA

www.royalballetschool.org.uk

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ADMISSIONS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Royal Ballet School admits students on the basis of talent, and potential, in classical ballet. Students are admitted to the School following an audition process which usually takes place in the Spring Term for admission in the September of that year. The decision of the audition panel is final and there is no opportunity for an appeal to be made. Due to the very large number of applicants to the School it is not possible to provide individual feedback to applicants.

The Programmes at the Royal Ballet School are designed to support and develop young dancers to excel in the art form and prepare them for the next stage of their training.

To access the next stage of the School's training programme, all students are required to audition as follows:

In year 9 to access the Development Programme
In Year 11 to access the Advanced Programme
In Year 13 to access the 'Pre-Professional' Programme

Students who are unsuccessful in their audition are supported in finding a new institution in which to continue their training or to move on to another, non-vocational school.

The School is a member of, and abides by the admission conventions of the DfE's **Music and Dance Schools** and many UK applicants will be eligible (under means testing) for up to 100% support with School fees under this scheme. Until September 2021, students over the age of 16 and from the European Economic Area may be eligible for up to 100% support with tuition fees. You are advised to visit the DfE's website at www.musicanddanceSchools.com or The Royal Ballet School website for further details. Details of the Admissions process with application forms and relevant dates are published on the Training & Access pages of the School website.

It is not possible to give preference to siblings, or the children of former students, or members of staff, in admitting students to the School.

A limited number of full and part bursaries are provided for students entering the School and details of these are usually discussed with relevant applicants during the Admissions process.

Equality Legislation

The Royal Ballet School is allowed lawfully to operate a "permitted form of selection". This exception to the usual anti-discrimination rules is found in Schedule 11, Part 3, Paragraph 8 of the Equality Act 2010: Part 3: Disability discrimination: Permitted form of selection:

8 (1) A person does not contravene section 85(1), so far as relating to disability, only by applying a permitted form of selection.

(2) In relation to England and Wales, a permitted form of selection is—

(c) in the case of an independent educational institution, arrangements which provide for some or all of its pupils to be selected by reference to general or special ability or aptitude, with a view to admitting only pupils of high ability or aptitude.

Applicants to White Lodge undertake a literacy and numeracy task and take part in an interview; for applicants to Upper School any predicted or actual results (for instance at GCSE or qualifications from their home country) are looked at. This is only to ensure that the School can adequately provide for each student's academic and pastoral needs.

The School asks that parents disclose any disability and/or Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND) that their child has, and is committed to deal appropriately and supportively with these in the admissions' assessment process. The Royal Ballet School accepts students who are dyslexic, have specific learning difficulties or for whom English is not their first language. No applicant or student will be discriminated against because of their individual needs in these areas. Students for whom English is an Additional Language (EAL) will be asked to undertake an English Language assessment at audition stage and will be expected to undertake suitable preparation in the English Language before they begin attendance at the School to prepare them for the required academic study when they become students. Specialist support is available to EAL students at White Lodge and Upper School.

The Royal Ballet School aims to promote diversity, tolerance and respect for individual students irrespective of their social, racial or cultural background. Every reasonable adjustment will be made to accommodate specific dietary, religious or cultural needs.

Audition routes for The Royal Ballet School

Full details for each academic year are provided on the School website but, typically:

- 1) UK students for White Lodge or Upper School apply at the end of the Autumn Term. Preliminary auditions are held at locations throughout the UK in early spring.
- 2) International students can attend preliminary auditions in select international venues from September to April of the following year.
- 3) International applicants may submit a video audition if unable to attend a preliminary audition in person. Details can be found on the website.
- 4) Final auditions for selected students from either UK, international or video auditions are held at White Lodge and Upper School usually in March. Dates are advertised on our website.
- 5) Students who participate in Intensive Courses such as the White Lodge or Upper School Spring and Summer Schools may be invited to audition or offered a place at the School.
- 6) Students who participate in our International Intensive Courses, auditions and master classes currently running in Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Italy, Spain, Czech Republic and the USA, may be invited to audition.

- 7) Applicants seen at international competitions such as the Prix de Lausanne or recommended via other routes may be offered a place at the School, and/or invited to send in additional recorded material and/or to attend an audition.

Responsibility and review

The Artistic Director will ensure that students are admitted only in accordance with this policy, and that all statutory requirements are met. All members of staff are expected to follow this policy when advising prospective parents. The number of students on roll and the results of the auditions processes will be reported to the governing body and the information will also be incorporated into the School's annual report. The School will complete and hold an Admissions Register.