



ROYAL  
BALLET  
SCHOOL

SETTING THE STANDARD

## ACCESS & PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2019

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

[www.royalballetschool.org.uk](http://www.royalballetschool.org.uk)

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## ACCESS & PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

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### Introduction

The Royal Ballet School is one of the leading classical ballet schools in the world. The school was founded in 1926 by Dame Ninette de Valois and was awarded its Royal Charter in 1956.

### Admissions

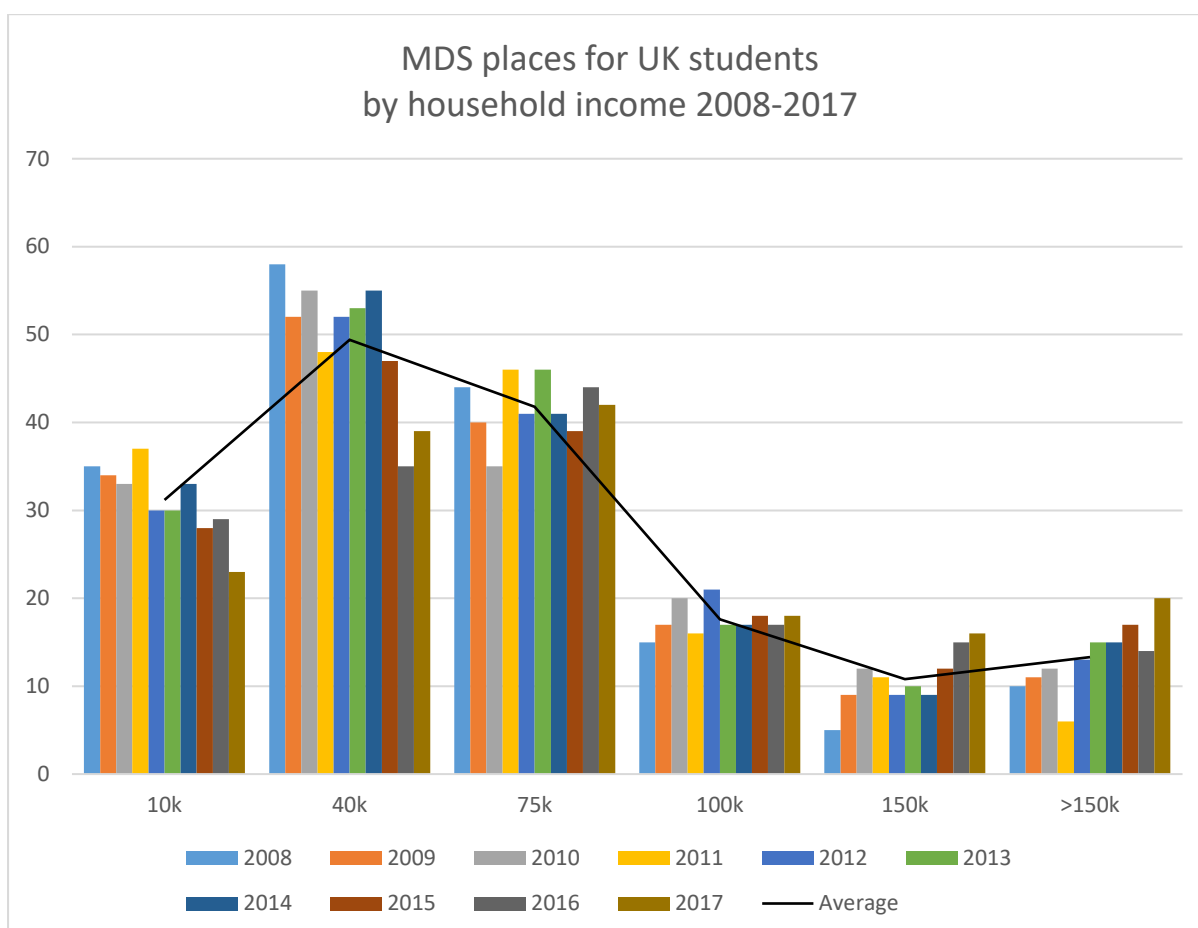
The School admits students purely on the basis of talent, or potential talent, in classical ballet. We have in place the following financial support options that allow students of any economic background to attend the School.

### Music and Dance Scheme

The Music and Dance Scheme, paid for by the Department for Education (DfE), helps talented children, whatever their background, attend the very best Music and Dance Schools in the country.

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. This means that the socio-economic background of the students attending the School mirrors that of the wider society.

The graph below gives a breakdown of the household incomes of families of students attending the School between 2008 and 2017 (the most recently available data)



More detailed information can be found by visiting their website at [www.musicanddanceSchools.com](http://www.musicanddanceSchools.com) or The Royal Ballet School website [www.royalballetschool.org.uk](http://www.royalballetschool.org.uk).

The scheme currently also supports, via a reciprocal agreement, students from the European Economic Area (EEA) with the cost of tuition fees. The School offers further means-tested support with the costs of boarding fees. However, with the UK leaving the European Union this agreement will change and students from the EEA will be classified as International Students (the funding options available to such students is outlined below)

### International Students

Because of its reputation the School attracts students from all parts of the globe hoping to gain entry. With no UK Government support these students are required to meet their fees themselves. The School is able to offer a number of means tested places to international students.

This money is raised by the School and we are indebted to the generosity of the individuals and Trusts that support the School

The table below shows the students nationalities that attended the School

Country	Number
United Kingdom	147
United States	14
Japan	9
Australia	7
France	5
Spain	5
Hong Kong	3
Ukraine	3
China	2
Brazil	2
Sweden	2
Canada	2
India	1
Belgium	1
Republic of Korea	1
Bermuda	1
Italy	1
New Zealand	1
Poland	1
Lithuania	1
Bulgaria	1
Netherlands	1
Denmark	1
Czech Republic	1
Israel	1
Norway	1
Germany	1

### Access

The School has a number of initiatives and programmes that identify talent and offer routes in to the School. The aim of these programmes is to remove any barriers that may exist to students.

### Primary Steps

The Primary Steps programme is a national junior school programme which provides Year 3-6 (age 7-11 years) class groups with a positive introduction to ballet and initial creative ballet training for selected children who would not otherwise have the opportunity. Primary Steps is funded by the DfE and other generous supporters, providing access to creative ballet education for thousands of children, targeting areas of social, economic and cultural diversity.

Primary Steps works through national partnerships to broaden access to and encourage engagement in ballet. In each area we work with a national dance agency, a host secondary school and a cluster of primary and junior schools. The weekly classes are co-led by a classical ballet specialist and a creative dance specialist who work together to develop pupils' creative knowledge and skills through foundation ballet technique. All workshops and classes are accompanied by a professional musician.

### Associates Programme

Based in nine centres across the UK, the course is designed to augment an individual's current training while introducing them to The Royal Ballet School's System of Training, alongside other gifted children who aspire to a career in dance. Pupils continue to study with their regular dance teacher, in addition to their Associate classes each Saturday. Associates make lifelong friends on the course, dancing alongside other gifted children who share their passion for dance.

Associates sometimes have the opportunity to perform with The Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet and other ballet companies, and many have progressed through the School and into the Royal Ballet Companies. Parents can apply for means-tested financial support up to 90% of course fee. All students are offered access to a specialist workshop and/or a visit to the Royal Opera House as part of their annual fee.

Our Associate programme offers regional training to young dancers before they are old enough to apply for full-time training. In 2016, 95% of students accepted into White Lodge were Junior Associates.

In September 2019 a new associate centre in Dundee will open its doors to its first student intake and we are investigating, with a series of workshops, opening a centre in Belfast.

### **Intensive Courses**

**UK** – Based at the School sites these holiday courses offer students an insight in to the training offered by the School. Conducted either by the School's own staff or guest teachers of international repute these courses are selective, due to the standard of teaching, but are intended to have as wide as reach as possible

**International** – A course has been held in Hong Kong over the last two Easter holidays with new courses being held this year in Singapore, Japan and South Korea.

For all courses mean tested support is available.

### **Auditions**

- 1) 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. Overseas applicants may submit a video audition at the preliminary stage. Final auditions are held at White Lodge and Upper School towards the end of the Spring Term.
- 2) Students who participate in Intensive Courses such as the White Lodge or Upper School Spring and Summer Schools may be invited to audition.
- 3) Overseas applicants may be assessed by the Artistic Director, and/or other members of the artistic team by arrangement.

Applicants seen at international competitions such as the Prix de Lausanne or recommended via other routes may be invited to send in additional recorded material and/or to attend audition at Upper School.

Over the last 12 months the School has conducted weekend masterclasses/auditions in a number of European locations (Spain, Italy, Czech Republic). This is a programme we wish to continue and expand.

## **Academic**

A student's academic progress is as important as their artistic development. In year 7 to 11 students follow a traditional GCSE program with a broad range of subjects offered. At the Upper School traditional A 'Levels are taught in conjunction with a BA degree in Classical ballet and Dance (partnered with the University of Roehampton).

No academic selection takes place for entry to the School and a number of students have SEN/D or EAL requirements. The School has in place staff and processes to support these students.

## **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.