



ROYAL
BALLET
SCHOOL

SETTING THE STANDARD

STUDENT PROTECTION PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2019

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

www.royalballetschool.org.uk

Updated: 1 September 2019 (JH) Next Review: September 2020

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STUDENT PROTECTION PLAN

The Royal Ballet School

UKPRN: 10016246

**46 Floral Street
Covent Garden
London
WC2E 9DA**

Introduction

This Student Protection Plan sets out what measures The Royal Ballet School has in place to protect you as our student in the event that a risk to the continuation of your studies should arise. The Higher Education & Research Act 2017 requires Higher Education Institutes to maintain a Student Protection Plan (“Plan”) to protect students’ interests in the case of material change (eg programme changes, course cancellation or institutional closure).

The measures contained in this plan are in addition to the protection you have under consumer protection law, and do not impinge on your consumer rights

What type of events will prompt this Student Protection Plan?

The type of event or changes, which might cause such a risk, could be situations such as (but not limited to):

1. School loses its validation from the University of Roehampton
2. School loses its registration with the Office for Students
3. School has to close for financial reasons
4. School loses its UKVI Tier 4 licence
5. School loses is unable to run a course at its Floral Street site
6. School makes substantive changes to the curriculum

Inclusion of a scenario should not be assumed to mean that we consider it likely to occur.

School Protection Measures

In the following paragraphs, a number of risks and scenarios are identified, along with the measures that the School will take in order to protect your continuity of study.

We are confident that all these measures are viable and will take into consideration the needs of all our students, Measures contained in the Plan may be triggered at any time, if, for example, doing so would reduce the impact or likelihood of any interruption to students' studies.

1. School loses its validation from the University of Roehampton

The School is proud to be associated with the University of Roehampton (the "University") and has had a formal partnership agreement with the University since 2017.

The School and the University mitigate against the failure of the partnership agreement by keeping close operational links and strong approval processes, including forward-planning and financial review.

Under the agreement, the School and the University are contractually required to continue the teaching of existing students.

In the event of the University deciding not to continue validation the School would look to either partner with another institution or provide an academic programme of similar standard.

2. School loses its registration with the Office for Students

Where the School's registration with the Office for Students is withdrawn, suspended or is not successfully renewed, and depending on the circumstances of de-designation, the School will appeal the decision and / or make a new application for designation with a view to the restoration of its registration for the next academic year.

Where appropriate, the School will also apply for "teach out designation", allowing eligible existing students to continue to access student tuition, for the remainder of their studies while on their current Course at the School.

3. School has to close for financial reasons

The School faces significant financial headwinds in the coming years. As members of the Music and Dance Scheme we cede the power to set fees to the DfE who have over recent years raised the fees below the level of cost inflation. Coupled with changes to business rates, Teachers' Pension contributions and VAT on fees the School has needed to look at non-core activities to cover any shortfalls.

The Trustees of the School offer significant support to the School in these endeavours and have also overseen the accumulation of a significant endowment fund that will support the School as required.

4. School loses its UKVI Tier 4 Licence

The School is licensed by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) to enrol international students under Tier 4 of the Points Based Systems (“Tier 4 Sponsor Licence”) and has policies and robust systems in place to manage our handling of student visas. The volume of students that the School sponsors is a reasonably small number and therefore the School considers that it is at limited risk of losing its Tier 4 Sponsor Licence.

The School has recently passed an inspection (May 2019) by UKVI however, if we were to have our licence suspended or removed this would not affect those students already in the School. In this situation the School would work to have the licence reinstated.

5. School is unable to run a course at its Floral Street site

All of the HE teaching takes place at the Floral Street site of the School. The School has a long term lease on the site and in the event of a situation that renders the building unusable (Fire, flood etc.) the School’s activities could be transferred to the other School site, located in Richmond Park, Surrey.

6. School makes substantive changes to the curriculum

The School will not look to make significant changes to the content or delivery of the course. If changes are required they will be communicated in advance to the student and to the University as they may require revalidation.

Refunds Policy

The School pays the University an annual flat fee for their validation services that is not dependent on the number of students enrolled on the course. The School reclaims this money from the fees paid by the students which also pay for all costs associated with that student’s board and education.

Fees are paid on a termly basis which means that providing the correct notice is given, as defined by the contract between the School and the parents of the student, no monies would be owed. In the event of a student leaving during an academic year having given the correct notice any shortfall would be borne by the School.

Communication with students

The School will publish the Student Protection Plan on its website at the following address:

www.royalballetschool.org.uk/discover/royal-ballet-school-policies

A copy of the plan will be provided to all students studying for a HE qualification at the start of each academic year.

We will ensure that all staff are aware of the implications of our Student Protection Plan through e-mail communication, internal team meetings and notification at regular Staff Meetings.

The plan will be reviewed on an annual basis