

**Auditioning for further vocational training at Dance / Drama School**

**A (non-exhaustive) list of schools**

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| **School** | **Performance courses available** | **Website** | **Notes** |
| ALRA- The Academy of Live & Recorded Arts | 3 year Acting BA (Hons)  3 year Level 6 Diploma | <http://alra.co.uk> | Audition Fee: £45  Student loans and DaDas are available but will not cover all your fees.  There are two campuses, one in London and one in Lancashire.  Applications are direct through the website NOT UCAS.  They do not have a definitive deadline for applications, but their last auditions take place in April. |
| Arts Educational Schools | 3 year BA (Hons) Acting / 3 Year Level 6  Diploma in  Professional Acting  3 year BA (Hons) Musical Theatre / 3  Year Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre | artsed.co.uk | Audition Fee: £45  Student loans and Dadas are available but will not cover all your fees.  Applications are direct through the website NOT UCAS.  Closing date for  course applications is around the end of February |

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| **School** | **Performance courses available** | **Website** | **Notes** |
| Birmingham School of Acting (BSA) | 3 year BA (Hons) Acting  3 year BA (Hons) Applied Performance (Community and Education) | bcu.ac.uk | Audition Fee: £46  Tuition fees will be fully covered by a student loan.  Applications are direct through the website for BA in Acting or through UCAS for the BA Applied Performance |
| Drama Centre  London | 3 Year BA (Hons) Acting Course | csm.arts.ac.uk | Audition Fee: £50  Will come up as University of the Arts London on UCAS.  Tuition fees will be fully covered by a student loan. |

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| **School** | **Performance courses available** | **Website** | **Notes** |
| East15 | 3 year BA Acting and  Stage Combat  3 year BA World  Performance  3 year BA Acting  3 year BA Acting and  Contemporary Theatre  3 year BA Physical  Theatre  3 year BA Acting and  Community Theatre  1 year Certificate of Higher Education in Theatre Arts | east15.ac.uk | Audition Fee: £55  Applications are made through UCAS but applicants have  to make an additional application via their website.  This school has many courses and often make offers for courses for which you haven’t necessarily applied.  Tuition fees will be fully covered by a student loan. |

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| **School** | **Performance courses available** | **Website** | **Notes** |
| Guildford School of Acting (GSA) | 3 year BA (Hons) Musical Theatre  3 year BA (Hons) Acting  3 year BA (Hons) Actor  Musician | gsauk.org | Audition Fee: £45  Applications are  made through UCAS.  Tuition fees will be fully covered by a student loan. |
| Guildhall School of Music and Drama | 3 year BA (Hons) in  Acting | gsmd.ac.uk | Audition Fee: £63  The deadline for applications for auditions in London, Bristol and  Newcastle is around the middle of January  Apply directly through school website NOT UCAS.  Tuition fees will be fully covered by a student loan. |
| Italia Conti | 3 year BA (Hons) Acting | http:// [www.italiaconti-](http://www.italiaconti-) acting.co.uk/ | Audition Fee: £45  Apply through UCAS. Student loans or  DaDas are available. |

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| **School** | **Performance courses available** | **Website** | **Notes** |
| LIPA | 3 year BA (Hons) Applied Theatre and Community Drama  3 year BA (Hons) Acting | lipa.ac.uk | Audition fee: £45?  Applications are made through UCAS but applicants have  to make an additional application via their website.  Tuition fees will be fully covered by a student loan. |
| MMU- Manchester Metropolitan University School of Theatre | 3 year BA (Hons) Acting | theatre.mmu.ac.uk | Audition fee: £45  Application is through UCAS.  Tuition fees will be fully covered by a student loan. |

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| **School** | **Performance courses available** | **Website** | **Notes** |
| Mountview School of Theatre Arts | 3 year BA (Hons) in Performance - Acting/ 3 year Diploma in Professional Acting  3 year BA (Hons) in Performance - Musical Theatre/ 3 year National Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre  3 year BA (Hons) in Performance - Actor Musician | mountview.org.uk | Audition fee: £45  Student loans and Dadas are available but will not cover all your fees.  Applications are direct through the website NOT UCAS.  Closing dates for courses vary - check  ‘Applying’ section of website |
| The Oxford School of Drama | 3 year Acting Course | oxforddrama.ac.uk | Audition fee: £45  Not eligible for student loans but eligible for DaDas.  Applications are direct through the website NOT UCAS.  Applications deadline towards the end of April |

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| **School** | **Performance courses available** | **Website** | **Notes** |
| Rose Bruford | 3 year BA (Hons) in  Acting  3 year BA (Hons) Actor  Musicianship  3 year BA (Hons) European Theatre Arts  3 year BA (Hons) American Theatre Arts | bruford.ac.uk | Audition fee: £50  Applications are via  UCAS. |
| Royal Central School of Speech and Drama | 3 year BA (Hons) Acting (Acting Pathway) | cssd.ac.uk | Audition fee: £55  Tuition fees will be fully covered by a student loan.  Apply via UCAS. |

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| Bristol Old Vic  Theatre School | 3 Year BA (Hons) in  Professional Acting | oldvic.ac.uk | Audition fee: £50  They only take 12 students a year.  All applications are made direct to the Theatre School NOT UCAS.  Tuition fees will be fully covered by a student loan.  Deadline for applications end of February |

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| LAMDA | 3 year BA (Hons) in  Professional Acting | lamda.org.uk | Audition Fee - £49 by credit or debit card or  £63 by cheque  Applications  close end of February  Applications are direct through the school’s website NOT UCAS.  Student loans or  DaDas are available. |

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| RADA | 3 year BA (Hons) Acting | [www.rada.ac.uk](http://www.rada.ac.uk) | Current audition fee unavailable but last year was around  £55/£85 depending on when the application was submitted.  Applications are direct to the school, not through UCAS, but this does not affect the ability to obtain financial support.  Student loans and scholarships available. |

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| M.T.A. | 2 year Musical Theatre course | themta.co.uk/ | Current audition fee £45  Applications are direct to the school, not through UCAS |

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| P.P.A. | 3 year BA (Hons) Acting, Musical Theatre | ppacademy.co.uk | Current audition fee £45  Applications are direct to the school, not through UCAS |

These are high quality performance courses which are do not offer conservatoire level vocational training but do provide a pipeline of talent into the wide range of careers in the Creative and Cultural Industries.  
The following institutions are recognised:

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| **School** | **Performance courses available** | **Website** | **Notes** |
| Arts University  Bournemouth | 3 year BA (Hons) Acting | aub.ac.uk | Application is via  UCAS |
| City Lit | 1 year Access to Higher Education Diploma- Drama | citylit.ac.uk | This is not a degree but can offer a respected part time training option. |
| Liverpool John Moores University | 3 year BA (Hons) Drama | ljmu.ac.uk | Application is via  UCAS |
| Staffordshire  University | 3 years BA (Hons) Acting and Theatre Arts | staffs.ac.uk | Application is via  UCAS |
| University of Central Lancashire | 3 year BA (Hons) Acting | uclan.ac.uk | Application is via UCAS. |
| University of the West of Scotland | 2 year BA Musical Theatre or 3 year BA (Hons)  2 year BA (Hons) Performance (3rd year entry)  2 year BA (Hons) Contemporary Screen Acting (3rd year entry) | uws.ac.uk | Application is via  UCAS |

NB: All these courses are eligible for student loans.

**Other courses**

Other degree courses will also be available through UCAS. On the UCAS website you can search for courses using key words. Not all courses with the same title are the same so I would recommend you research thoroughly.

Key words to search for might be:

- Acting

- Drama

- Musical Theatre

- Performance Studies

- Performing Arts

- Theatre Studies

Schools which qualify for DaDa awards are usually offering higher level Trinity diplomas which means that they have been quality checked.

**Funding your training**

Choosing drama school has always been an expensive option. Most schools are in London and this also makes living expenses higher. Many schools also forbid you from taking work during term time. Even if they don’t, this kind of training involves long hours so your availability to work will be limited.

**Student loans and grants**

Many (but not all) courses are eligible for a student loan. A loan will normally cover all of your tuition fees up to £9,000. NB: This is not the case for ALRA and Arts Ed.

You will also be eligible to apply for a maintenance loan to help fund living expenses.

You may also be entitled to extra grants if you have a disability. You can apply online via the government website.

**Your repayments are linked to your income. You only make repayments when your income is over £21,000 a year. Repayments are put on hold**

**if your income drops below £21,000. Each year you pay back 9% of any income over £21,000.**

**DaDas**

**Dance and Drama Awards**

Dance and Drama Awards (DaDA) are scholarships funded by the Education Funding Agency and are awarded to students who display the most potential to succeed in the profession. Only students taking an approved Trinity College London qualification are eligible to apply for an award. Awards offer greatly reduced tuition fees and access to an income-assessed student support fund.

You could get a Dance and Drama Award (DaDA) to help with fees and living costs at one of 19 private dance and drama schools.

Apply direct to the dance and drama school you want to go to. Tell them you want to apply for a DaDA.

You must be 16 or over and show talent and a likelihood to succeed in the industry.

The amount you get depends on:

- your household income

- where you live and study

Qualifications

You must be studying for one of these Trinity College London Diplomas: Level 6 Diploma in Professional Acting (3 years)

Level 5 Diploma in Professional Acting (1 year)

Level 5 Diploma in Professional Dance (Classical Ballet or Contemporary

Dance) (2 years)

Level 6 Diploma in Professional Dance (3 years)

Level 6 Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre (3 years)

**You are not eligible to have both a student loan AND a DaDA.**

The following schools currently offer DaDAs:

ALRA (Academy of Live and Recorded Arts) Arts.Ed, London

Bird College - Dance and Drama Theatre Performance

Cambridge Performing Arts at Bodywork

Elmhurst School for Dance in association with Birmingham Royal Ballet

English National Ballet School

The Hammond School

Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts

Laine Theatre Arts

Liverpool Theatre School and College

Millennium Performing Arts Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts Northern Ballet School

The Oxford School of Drama

Performers College

SLP College Leeds

Tring Park School for the Performing Arts University of Surrey / GSA Conservatoire Urdang Academy

Courses which qualify for DaDA but were not DramaUK Accredited

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| **School** | **Course** | **Website** | **Notes** |
| Bird College - Dance and Drama Theatre Performance | 3 year Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre | <http://bird-> college.com | Apply direct to school. Audition dates until May. |
| Laine Theatre Arts | 3 year Level 6  Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre | <http://www.laine-> theatre-arts.co.uk | Apply direct to school. |
| Liverpool Theatre  School and College | 3 year Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre | http:// liverpooltheatrescho ol.co.uk | Apply direct to school. |
| Millennium  Performing Arts | 3 year Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre | http:// hol215.wix.com/ mpa-theatre-school | Apply direct to school. |
| Performers College | 3 year Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre | http:// [www.performerscoll](http://www.performerscoll) ege.co.uk | Apply direct to school. |
| SLP College Leeds | 3 year Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre | http:// [www.slpcollege.co](http://www.slpcollege.co). uk | Apply direct to school. |
| Urdang Academy | 3 year BA (Hons) in  Professional Dance  & Musical Theatre | http:// [www.theurdangaca](http://www.theurdangaca) demy.com | Apply direct to school. |

**Developing an offer for**

**drama schools**

You need to develop a repertoire of speeches (and possibly a song) for your drama school auditions.You need to try and make a package which shows off your best attributes and as much diversity as possible.

First, and I cannot stress this enough, choose your schools and look at their audition notes. Some schools may specify a list of Shakespeare speeches. Where possible check these lists and see if there is any overlap. As a rule most schools advise against choosing a magical character like Puck or Ariel. Try and find the speech on their list which best fits you for type. Depending on the school’s criteria you may have to prepare more than one Shakespeare speech.

• Birmingham School of Acting has a *suggested* list for classical speeches which is only available after application.

• Central has a fixed list of speeches available on their website.

• RADA don’t release their specific guidelines until you apply.

Once you have locked a Shakespeare piece it is easier to start to build your modern pieces in contrast. Think in broad strokes. If your Shakespeare is regal and powerful try and find a modern character which is lower class and humble.

If you check the guidelines carefully from the start you should be able to develop an offer which can be adapted to suit each school which consists of,

• Two/three Shakespeare speeches.

• Two/three modern speeches.

• One/two songs

**Working on your speech**

Ultimately you are responsible for your own speeches but we will provide as much support as possible. You will not be offered one to one support until you have committed to your speeches and you know them by heart.

There is no one way to approach your speech. We will seek to give you a variety of ways to work and you will need to find what works for you. Once you have worked on your speech it is a good idea to run it regularly but not do it to death. It needs to feel well-rehearsed but also fresh at the audition.

This is definitely a situation where you can have too much input. What your old drama school teacher, housemate or mum think is very interesting but the school is ultimately looking for your voice, a sense of ‘you’ within the work – and they are looking for potential not polish.

Some drama schools will give you feedback on your speeches and all feedback will be different (CENTRAL, MTA)

**The Audition Day**

**Dos and Don’ts**

**DO**

• Plan your journey in advance and double your journey time. You don’t want to be late.

• Make sure you have their number with you in case you’re unavoidably detained.

• Try and relax, particularly when taking part in workshops. They are looking for people they would like to work with and who work well with other people.

• Wear comfortable clothes and tie long hair back.

• Listen carefully to interview questions and answer what they are actually asking not what you have planned to say.

• Read up on the course you are applying for and prepare well informed questions.

• Find a way to anchor yourself and combat your nerves.

**DO NOT**

• Allow other candidates to put you off or wind you up.

• Wear huge amounts of makeup.

• Wear all black.

• Be unprepared.

• Self sabotage.

• Allow rejection to break you.