



# Audition information and Entry Criteria

## ACTING

Arts Educational Schools London (ArtsEd) follows the Code of Practice for Auditions prepared by Drama UK and the Council for Dance Education and Training (CDET).

### 1: ArtsEd undertakes to consider all applications

- All candidates will be offered an audition, provided they meet the following criteria:
  - All candidates must complete an online application form, including a written statement, a photograph, and payment of the required audition fee.
  - The candidate must meet the age requirements of their course at the start of their first year of study.
  - Applications must be received by the deadline; this is usually the end of February for a September intake, although this may be later for some courses.
- Candidates are invited to disclose any access or learning requirements on their application form, so that any reasonable adjustments to the audition or interview process can be made.
- In order to ensure that ArtsEd can offer as much support as possible, candidates are invited to disclose any long term health issues on their application form so that these may be discussed at the interview stage of the audition.
- ArtsEd does not discriminate on grounds of age, background, race, colour, disability, family circumstances, gender, nationality, political beliefs or party membership, religion, sexual orientation, trade union membership or on any other grounds deemed to be irrelevant to participation in the course.
- ArtsEd is committed to providing access to our courses to as wide a range of ethnic and social groups as possible. Auditions take place at ArtsEd from October to June, and our Outreach teams work with youth groups around the country to encourage talented candidates from under-

represented groups to apply for auditions. Free auditions may also be offered to candidates who would otherwise be unable to attend.

- ArtsEd offers Foundation Courses for young people interested in preparing for a full-time training course in acting. Foundation students are offered a free audition.

## **2: ArtsEd undertakes to provide candidates with the necessary information before and at the selection process**

### BEFORE THE AUDITION

- All applications are made on line. Candidates have a choice of three audition dates, giving students at least four weeks to prepare. ArtsEd guarantees to confirm the audition date within one week, although confirmations are usually sent within 48 hours. Candidates will be sent an email to confirm their audition date and time. This email provides candidates with a link to the applications portal on our website.

The portal provides candidates with the following information:

- audition requirements
  - texts candidates need to prepare
  - details of the audition day
  - directions to ArtsEd
- Audition requirements - **Acting**
  - candidates must prepare two monologues
    - one monologue from a modern play written after 1980: two minutes max
    - one monologue from a classical play, preferably Shakespeare: two minutes max
    - candidates must be prepared to take part in an improvisation workshop on the audition day
  - For BA Acting auditions candidates who are successful in the first round of auditions will be invited to a recall where they will be asked to present their two monologues again and prepare a short dialogue scene which will be sent to them.
  - We do our best to accommodate students' wishes if they need to change their audition date.
  - **Experience, prior learning, audition and formal qualification**  
ArtsEd, in common with other drama schools, accepts applicants who have followed unconventional academic pathways, applicants who have changed careers later in life, and applicants who have little experience in acting but who show great potential. The implications of these factors are that:

- There is no alternative to audition as a means of admitting students to the course.
- The cultural and academic diversity of student cohorts is likely to be greater than is common in many other areas of arts education and training.

## ENTRY CRITERIA

- **Formal Entry Qualifications**

While audition is the primary means of determining the applicant's suitability for entry, ArtsEd normally requires the following additional formal qualifications:

- Passes in two subjects at A-level or a BTec National Diploma
- Where English is a second language a TOEFL score of 6 or higher

When the School is satisfied that an applicant from an unconventional academic background without formal qualifications nevertheless fulfils the audition criteria (*see below*) it may waive the academic requirements, although fluent spoken English is a requirement for all our courses.

- **Audition Criteria**

The aim of the audition is to provide the applicant with the opportunity to demonstrate the quality of their work and their potential to benefit from the course. Auditions are conducted by panels of teaching staff. The panel looks for reasonable evidence that the applicant:

- is able to portray a character convincingly
- is able to apply their intelligence to the understanding of text and the communication of meaning
- is capable of work of distinctive individuality
- is able to work effectively with others
- is flexible, industrious and receptive to suggestions
- possesses the vocal and physical potential to work as an actor
- possesses the work ethic, motivation and stamina to participate in the training and successfully complete the course

### 3: ArtsEd undertakes to provide candidates with information on the availability of and criteria for the allocation of public funding

Fees and funding information is included on the web pages of all vocational courses at <https://artsed.co.uk/>

Following the auditions, successful candidates will be informed of the range of funding options available to them.

#### **4: ArtsEd undertakes to give candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their potential to fulfil the aims of the course**

Every effort is made to ensure candidates feel at ease, are given ample opportunity to demonstrate their potential for training, and are given opportunities to ask questions.

- ***Audition Day Procedure - Acting***

Applicants are invited to attend as part of a group of 40 to 45 candidates for the first round. Applicants are asked to prepare one contemporary speech and one classical speech, both of which they must commit to memory. The audition begins at 12.15pm and normally ends at 5.30pm. Auditionees are greeted by ex-students who act as their stewards and guides throughout the afternoon.

- It is ArtsEd policy that all auditions are conducted by tutors who teach core subjects on the course. Audition recall panels are usually made up of four of the following six tutors: the Head of Acting, Head of Film and Television, Head of Voice, Head of First Year, Acting Tutor and Screen Acting Tutor.
- Student helpers are on hand to answer any questions, and candidates are encouraged to ask as many questions as they can, in order to find out whether this is the right course, and the right school, for them.
- Audition candidates are welcomed to the school by the Head of Acting or another senior tutor, who introduces the tutors on the panel who will be conducting the auditions.
- The tutor then gives an explanation of the audition process and how the day will work.
- Candidates take part in a short improvisation workshop, led by one of the audition panel.
- The audition candidates perform their speeches in front of different members of the panel, but not in front of each other.
- At this point applicants will have completed the first round of the audition process.
- After the first round a shortlist of applicants is drawn up for recall.
- On the recall audition day the recalled applicants each perform their speeches again for another panel of senior tutors, and are interviewed by a member of senior staff.
- Candidates also perform a duologue to camera from a script sent to them in advance of the recall audition. A student helper will play the other

character in the scene, and candidates will be given direction to see how well they respond.

- At the end of the recall audition process, the panel meet the candidates as a group, to talk about the ArtsEd student experience, giving an overview of the following:
  - the course structure and content
  - funding systems
  - student accommodation
  - pastoral support
  - dyslexia and other learning support
  - how graduates are marketed to the profession in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year
  - graduate successes

Candidates are encouraged to ask questions at this meeting.

- Finally the shortlisted candidates are given a tour of the facilities by the student helpers, giving them another chance to ask questions. They are also shown a copy of the student timetable, setting out how a normal teaching week is organised.

### **Precept 5: ArtsEd undertakes that the decision-making process is fair and transparent**

#### *Selection process*

Each member of the audition panel completes a detailed Audition Report form on which they record comments about each stage of the audition process, and give grades on the candidates' potential for training. If there are any discrepancies of opinion amongst the panel, the candidates in question are auditioned further and extra time is allocated for this purpose.

The scores for each element of the recall are amalgamated with the scores awarded for Part One of the audition. The Audition Report form records each panel member's comments about each stage of the audition process, and gives grades on a number of criteria, as detailed below:

#### **Criteria for selection – ACTING:**

##### *Improvisation Workshop:*

- working with others
- adaptability
- energy
- spatial awareness
- presence

##### *Audition speech and screen test:*

- variety
- inner life
- communication

- use of emotion
- use of text
- vocal quality
- physicality

Acting applicants are graded 1 to 4, where

1 = Excellent (some outstanding features)

2 = Good (no major shortcomings)

3 = Satisfactory (sound but unremarkable)

4 = Poor (many shortcomings)

### **Precept 6: ArtsEd undertakes to ensure that candidates are informed of the outcome of an audition**

All candidates are informed in writing within a week of their audition, although we aim to inform them within three days.

Since different drama schools are looking for different qualities and skills in their candidates, ArtsEd does not give advice or feedback to unsuccessful candidates in case our advice is inappropriate for entry to other institutions.