



WIDENING PARTICIPATION STATEMENT 2019-20

ArtsEd is committed to enabling people of all backgrounds and ages to access high quality performing arts training, through a broad range of outreach activities run by the ArtsEd Extra and Outreach department. This Widening Participation Statement is published on our website here.

Financial Support

We aim to make our courses as accessible as possible, so we offer a variety of funding options for our students.

Dance and Drama Awards (DaDAs) offer annual scholarships to exceptionally talented performing arts students. Funded by the government through the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), DaDAs offer reduced tuition fees and assistance with living costs for the duration of the course. DaDA funding is linked to Trinity College London Professional Diplomas in Acting and Musical Theatre. Currently students in receipt of a DaDA are means tested according to national scales and may receive support for their course fees and also apply for income assessed maintenance of up to £5,185 a year. This support is in the form of a grant, not a loan. Each year there are a limited number of Awards which are allocated to those students who have been judged at audition to have the most potential to succeed in the profession and are in the most financial need.

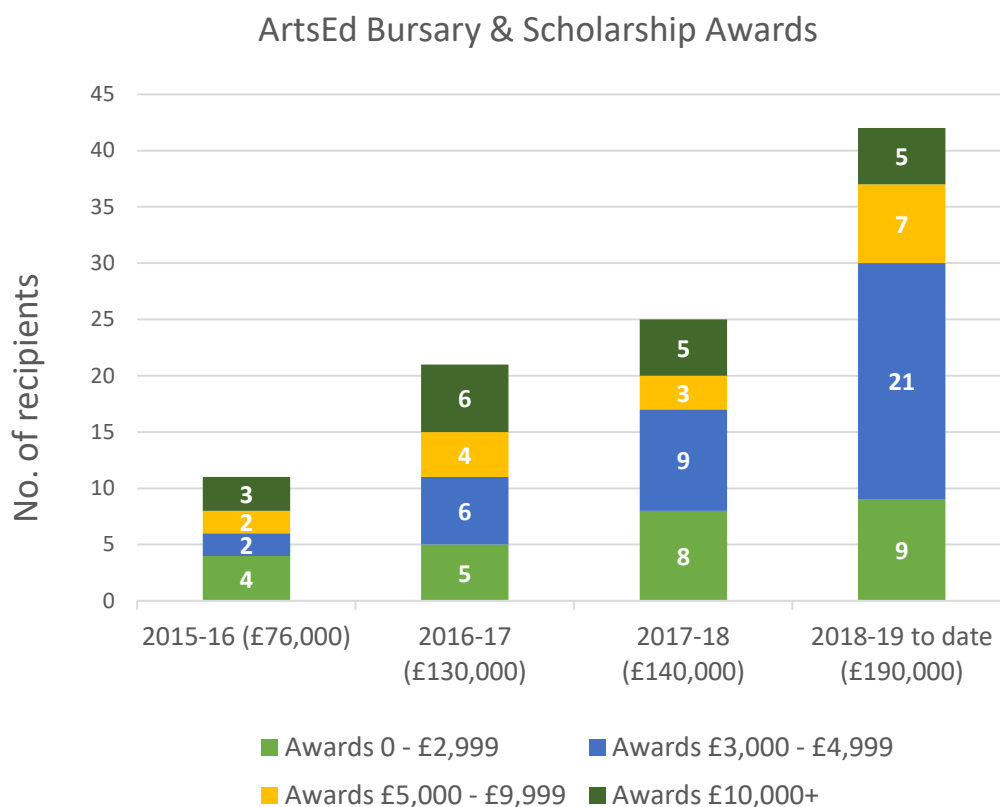
Audition Fee Waivers: We introduced our own audition fee waiver scheme in January of this year, and to date have offered over 110 free auditions entry to our courses in September 2019.

ArtsEd Scholarship & Bursary Fund

ArtsEd is committed to attracting students from as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. Our scholarship and bursary fund is intended to provide fee support to talented young people who would otherwise be unable to study with us. 30% of ArtsEd students receive Dance and Drama Awards and a further 20% of our students receive additional funding, ranging from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Scholarship and Leverhulme Trust Scholarships, to bursary awards from our own funds ranging from £1,000 to £10,000. Bursary awards are

means-tested and may take into consideration a student's talent and commitment. Awards are usually given to contribute to the shortfall between student loan provision and our annual tuition fee.

The following table demonstrates a steady increase in the bursary funding available at ArtsEd since the launch of the scheme in 2015. Support comes from trusts and foundations, individuals and our Friends programme.



Student Loans: ArtsEd is in the 'Approved' category of the Office for Students Higher Education Register, which means that eligible undergraduate and postgraduate students can apply for maintenance loans and for tuition fee loans up to a fee cap of £6,125. Students are also eligible to apply for Disabled Students' Allowance.

Sixth Form: A small number of means-tested scholarships and bursaries are available for students entering Sixth Form and are allocated according to talent and individual circumstances.

Excelerate: ArtsEd is mindful of the high costs of further training in the arts that can exclude young people from developing their skills to a point that they are at the level to excel in the arts as a profession. To address this issue, we developed EXCELeRate: a low cost, part-time intensive version of our Acting and Musical Theatre Foundation courses.

EXCELerate runs three evenings a week over 21 weeks, allowing students to work during the day to help fund themselves. Participants have full access to all ArtsEd facilities including library resources and out of hours rehearsal space to help support their learning. Bursaries for the Excelerate courses are available with four students currently receiving financial support. We also participate in the Stage newspaper's Stage Scholarship scheme.

Promoting Diversity

In contrast to the popular characterisation of drama schools as elitist institutions which favour privately educated young people from wealthy backgrounds, we are committed to attracting students from as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. As well as working to encourage applicants from under-represented groups and those with no family history of higher education, it is an ongoing target to support increasing numbers of BAME students to apply for our courses and the table below shows a year-on-year improvement in ethnic diversity over the past 6 years:

New intake	% BAME
2018-19	29%
2017-18	23%
2016-17	21%
2015-16	20%
2014-15	18%
2013-14	17%
2012-13	11%

ArtsEd is committed to creating and sustaining a positive and mutually supportive working environment for our staff and an excellent teaching and learning experience for our students, where individuals are equally valued and respected. Our Equality Inclusivity and Diversity Officer has been in post since September 2017, with the brief to provide additional support for students and to promote inclusivity in all aspects of our provision. This year we have embarked on a major review of the BA (Hons) Acting programme with the aim of becoming more inclusive and decolonising the syllabus.

Outreach activities

In order to widen access and promote our courses to potential students from a broad range of ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds, ArtsEd has established nationwide partnerships with schools, colleges and arts organisations. We offer free outreach/audition workshops led by ArtsEd staff and graduates and leverage

connections made through staff, students and visiting tutors to create new partnerships each year.

The objective of these workshops is to open pathways into performing arts training for young people from diverse backgrounds who might otherwise consider ArtsEd training unobtainable, primarily due to financial constraints or cultural perceptions. We have well established outreach partnerships with schools and colleges across the UK. We have visited over 60 schools & Youth Theatres this year working with over 1,500 students.

Over 200 students have been given free tickets to our third year shows. We have run TV Acting Workshops for schools who don't have access to professional film and television equipment. We are in close collaboration with The Stage's 'Get into Theatre' initiative and we will be using this platform in outreach workshops to help demonstrate to potential students that actor training is accessible to them. In addition to our programme of Outreach workshops, we have attended career days at a range of institutions including Brit School, Elstree UTC, Ballakermeen High School (Isle of Man), ENCOREE PPA (Ireland)

Regional Auditions. We recognise that auditioning is expensive and that the cost of travelling to London can be prohibitive for prospective students. In order to address this issue and to open access to our courses further we held a very successful and well attended day of regional Auditions in Manchester in February 2019. This was very well attended and we plan to return in 2019-20, and will also be offering regional auditions in Dublin.

Widening participation for young people 4-16+

The Skills Academy is ArtsEd's young people's programme, aimed at ages 4-16+ offering weekly Saturday classes and a range of holiday and half term courses taught by experienced staff members. 25% of the 450 students who attended Skills Academy courses during 2017/18 received either discounted rates or bursary places. Our half term, Easter and Summer Schools attracted over 700 young people in 2018. Bursary places are available for every course and are allocated by the outreach team both locally and nationally as appropriate.

ArtsEd Extra Youth Company is currently in its third year of operation. The Youth Company offers access to excellent training for young people who have little or no opportunity to engage with the performing arts at school. It also provides Skills Academy participants the opportunity to further develop their skills and experience.

50% of the Youth Company places are fully funded with participants identified through open auditions at state schools within a 5-mile radius of ArtsEd. The company meet on Saturdays during term times to work on a variety of projects. Recently the Youth Company performed at the Chiswick Proms.

Lyric Youth: Over the last ten years, the Lyric Hammersmith has established a national and international reputation for its work with children and young people from all backgrounds. We are very proud of the creative partnership that we have built with the Lyric, through both their Youth Company and our own Foundation Acting course, which is based in their space in Hammersmith. To mark the strength of this partnership, we offered a full scholarship to a Lyric Youth member on our full-time Acting Foundation course in 2018/19.

Continuing Participation: Alumni and Professionals

Professionals Hub is a series of affordable courses throughout the year for graduates and professionals. The aim of these non-profit courses is to keep high quality training affordable and to provide a network of support for performing arts graduates who want to refresh their skills and continue to build professional networks. This year we offered workshops with professional practitioners including writers Philip Ridley and Simon Stephens, casting directors Lucy Jenkins and Louis Hammond, and a wide range of skills workshops including auditioning for TV, getting started in voice over, creative mindfulness and making mess to make theatre.

Local Community Participation

Our connections with the local community are very strong and are increasing year on year. ArtsEd Extra focus on community provision, which draws in a wide array of the local community to share in our facilities and expert staff. Over 400 children and adults come through our doors every week to participate in a broad variety of courses run by ArtsEd as well as partner organisations including London Kickboxing, Cecchitti Ballet, Seido Karate and City Academy.

Not only do local residents attend our shows, but ArtsEd plays host to events for the Chiswick Book Festival and Bedford Park Society as well as the Gate Arts Centre and Moment by Moment Theatre company. Students and ArtsEd Extra participants perform at local events including Green Days and fundraisers at St Michal's and All Angels. Students also go further afield, performing songs and poems to residents of care homes for the elderly. In 2018, BA Acting Students performed Shakespeare sonnets to local schools and we collaborated with the local council's Over 60's Activity Programme to offer free tickets to our public productions.

Alongside ArtsEd's own well established term-time and holiday offer for young people, we are working on development of our own adult courses. Working with local organisations including the Chiswick Calendar and Chiswick Buzz, we responded to a lack of high quality drama and musical theatre opportunities locally by creating a community show choir and drama group.