



Higher Education Access and Participation Statement

A. Our Approach

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 and through the provision of barrier free Higher Education learning.

This document forms our Access and Participation Statement for 2022/23 and is published on our website.

B. Our focus for 2022/23

In 2022/23

- i. We will work to continue to increase our provisions for current students and applicants who identify as disabled.
- ii. We will seek to ensure students from low participation backgrounds are supported to be able to continue and able to fully participate in their studies.
- iii. We will take the opportunity to review our applicants and students' data to establish new targets aimed at supporting and increasing the participation of underrepresented groups at ArtsEd.

C. Financial support to learners

Funding is secured from a wide range of sources to help gifted students and applicants access our training and see it through to completion. Most of our Higher Education students have access to a student loan, whilst one third of our student body receive Dance and Drama Awards, a means-tested, government funded scholarship scheme. We support as many students as we can through our own bursary scheme and in total nearly half of the students who study with us receive a form of financial support (not including student loans).

- i. **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 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.

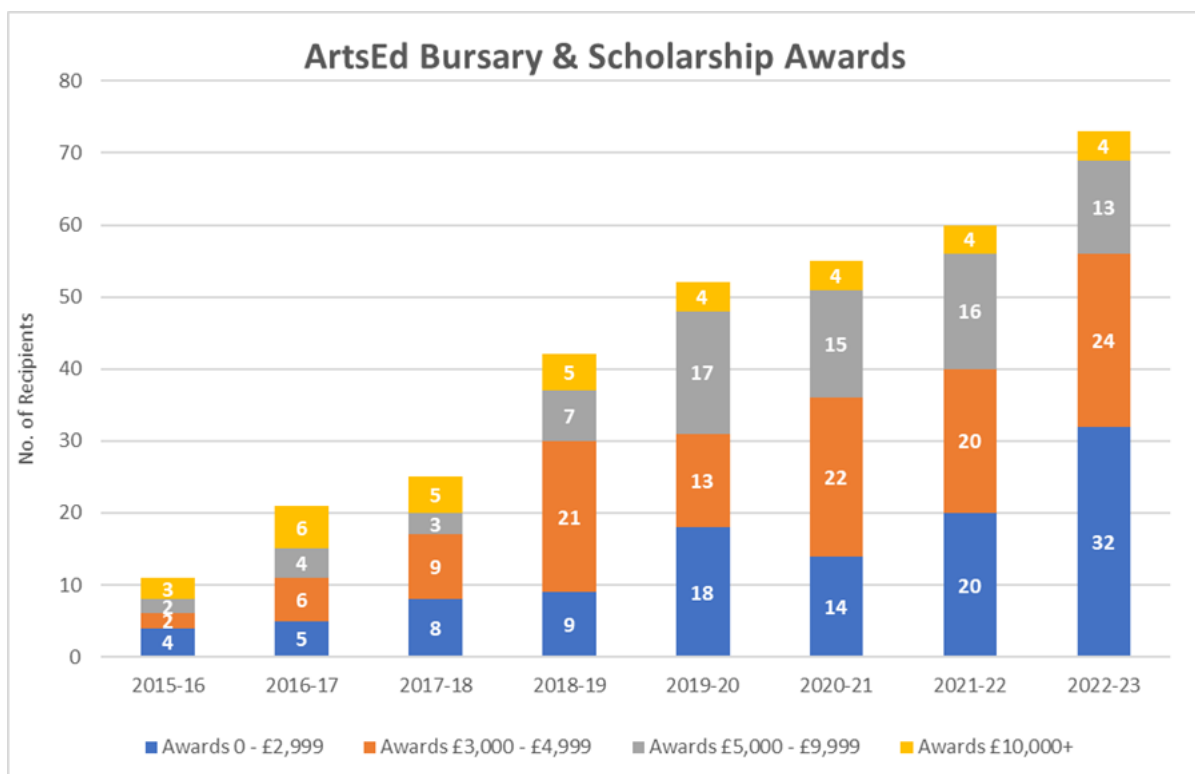
- ii. **Student Loans:** ArtsEd is in the 'Approved' category of the Office for Students Higher Education Register, which means that eligible undergraduate and full-time Foundation students can apply to Student Finance England for maintenance loans up to £12,667 and tuition fee loans up to £6,169. MA Acting students can apply for a maximum of £11,836 towards maintenance and/or tuition fees.

Students on a low income may be eligible for income support. Students are also eligible to apply for Disabled Students' Allowance.

iii. ArtsEd Scholarship & Bursary Fund

- 1. **Additional External Funding:** Every year we are invited to nominate or invite students to apply for awards from external organisations. Students have recently been successful in securing awards through the following schemes: Equity Student Bursary, The Laurence Olivier Bursary, Lilian Baylis Awards, Spotlight Prize, Lionel Bart Foundation Award, Sir John Gielgud Charitable Trust Bursary, BAFTA UK Scholarship, and Ian Fleming Musical Theatre Awards.

The following chart demonstrates the steady increase in the bursary and scholarship funding available at ArtsEd since 2015. This includes support via the ArtsEd Scholarship & Bursary Fund, trust scholarships (Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, Leverhulme Arts Scholarships) and corporate support, alongside other sources. In total, over £300,326 has been awarded for the 2022/23 academic year.



2. **ArtsEd Student Support Fund:** An internal fund that helps us to provide ‘emergency’ support to students who find themselves facing unexpected financial constraints. The fund is administered internally and directly to students and tends to be needed for things like living costs, medical fees or transport costs.
3. **Sixth Form:** Means-tested scholarships and bursaries are available for students entering Sixth Form and are allocated according to talent and individual circumstances.
4. **Audition Fee Waivers:** Since January 2019 we have offered our own audition waiver scheme. In the academic year 2021/22 we offered 183 free auditions for entry to our courses in September 2022.

D. Promoting Diversity

In contrast to the popular characterisation of drama schools as elitist institutions which favour privately educated students from wealthy backgrounds, we are committed to attracting students from a diverse range of backgrounds. 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 recruit increasing numbers of students who identify as ‘Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic’ to our courses. The table below shows a year-on-year increase in our BA programmes from 2017/18 until 2021/22.

New intake	% of students who identify as 'Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic'
2021-22	41%
2020-21	29%
2019-20	29%
2018-19	23%
2017-18	21%

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. We provide Bias training to all our HE staff, are signed up to the commitments set out in the Drama School Students Alliance manifesto.

E. Outreach Activities

ArtsEd’s outreach programme is central to our commitment to access and inclusion. We aim to build strong connections and long-lasting relationships with our local communities and youth groups providing resources, mentorship, and practical programs inspiring people of all backgrounds to explore the diversity of the arts.

ArtsEd was invited to Platform Youth Hub in Islington as part of RADA’s half-term programme. The aim was to deliver a 5-day course to residents living in Islington aged 16 to 24 who were interested in applying to drama schools. The course gave insight into the application process, an introduction to the industry and offered tips on auditioning to drama schools.

In 2022, ArtsEd's Youth Theatre took part in the National Theatre Connections programme, which is aimed at 14-18 year olds interested in acting. 50% of the participants on the Youth Theatre programme were awarded means tested bursaries to partake. As part of the programme, the National Theatre commissioned ten plays for participants to work on and perform 'bringing together some of the UK's most exciting writers with the theatre-makers of tomorrow'. The Youth Theatre performed their final show 'Chat Back' by David Judge to over 80 people at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre.

Artistry Youth Dance are a contemporary dance company who showcase and celebrate performers aged 12-19 of African and Caribbean descent. In October 2022 ArtsEd hosted the AYD100's Outreach program, which included jazz, hip-hop, contemporary and Bollywood dance workshops, industry panel discussions and workshops from Rambert, Trinity Laban, London Studio Centre, Bird, The Place London, MPAA and The Dang. ArtsEd awarded talented 5 Artistry Youth Dance students at ArtsEd EXTRA scholarships

We offer several bursaries to our partners for fee paying short courses. In 2022/23 we awarded three bursaries to low-income students for our ten-week Saturday Skills Academy.

F. Auditions.

We recognise that auditioning is expensive and that the cost of travelling to London can be prohibitive for prospective students. We provide audition fee waivers to students based on need and we have kept the audition fee low by charging £15.

G. Widening Participation

- i. **Part-time Foundation Courses:** ArtsEd is mindful of the high costs of further training in the arts that can exclude students 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 our Part-time Foundation Courses: low cost, part-time intensive versions of our Acting and Musical Theatre Foundation courses.

Classes run 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 Part-time Foundation courses are available.

November 2022