

## **Audition information and Entry Criteria**

# **ACTING**

Arts Educational Schools London (ArtsEd) follows the Code of Practice for Auditions prepared by the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT).

### **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 for the 3-year course.

## 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
  - details of the audition day
  - directions to ArtsEd
- Audition requirements - **Acting**
  - for the first audition, candidates must prepare two monologues
    - one monologue from a modern play written after 1990: two minutes max
    - 10-12 lines of heightened text from a classical verse play, written before 1700
  - Candidates who are successful in the first round of auditions will be invited to a recall. At the recall they will be asked to present their two monologues again and the BA (Hons) Acting candidates will be asked to prepare a short duologue film scene which will be sent to them in advance.
    - We do our best to accommodate students' wishes if they need to change their audition date, however, we cannot guarantee that this will always be possible.

- **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 (for the BA)
- A BA degree in any subject (for the MA)
- Where English is a second language a TOEFL score of 120 or equivalent

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. Applicants are asked to prepare one contemporary speech and one classical speech, both of which they must commit to memory. BA candidates should expect to be at ArtsEd all day, MA auditions take an afternoon. Auditionees are greeted by a member of staff who acts as their steward and guide throughout the afternoon.

Applicants are asked to wear/bring sensible, plain clothes and comfortable flat footwear that allow them to move freely. It is not advisable to wear jeans, skirts, hipster trousers or revealing tops. Applicants should wear no make-up and also wear only necessary jewellery (no dangling earrings or necklaces). As the morning will start with a warm up and movement workshop we advise applicants should eat well before arriving for their audition day.

- It is ArtsEd policy that all auditions are conducted by tutors who teach core subjects on the course.
- Members of staff 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.
- The first-round audition – BA (Hons) Acting
  - welcome and question and answer session
  - acting, voice and movement workshops
  - a tour of the facilities
  - candidates perform their speeches to the audition panel in a group setting
  - a short individual interview with a core member of the faculty
  - selected candidates may be asked to perform their contemporary monologue to camera
- The first-round audition – MA Acting and Foundation
  - welcome and question and answer session

- a short improvisation workshop
- a tour of the facilities
- candidates perform their speeches to the audition panel in a group setting
- After the first round a shortlist of applicants is drawn up for recall. For MA and Foundation candidates this will normally be on the same day; BA candidates will be invited to return at a later date.
- At the recall, applicants each perform their speeches again for a panel of senior tutors. MA and Foundation recalls include an interview with a member of senior staff.
- BA 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.

### **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:**

##### *Workshops:*

- demonstrates commitments to the rigour actor training
- potential to train, vocal, physical and imaginative skills
- active participation when working with others
- open, responsive and curious
- adaptability
- energy

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

- an awareness of the text and rhythm of the piece
- understanding and interpretation of dramatic text
- communication

- use of imagination to bring the audience into the world of the piece(s)
- use of language
- vocal quality
- physicality
- spatial awareness

Acting applicants are graded 1 to 5, where

- 1 = Huge potential (many good features, some outstanding)
- 2 = Well suited to training (good features and no major shortcomings)
- 3 = Satisfactory but trainable (some good features and some shortcomings)
- 4 = Not ready for training (many shortcomings)
- 5 = No potential for training (shortcomings in all areas)

### **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.