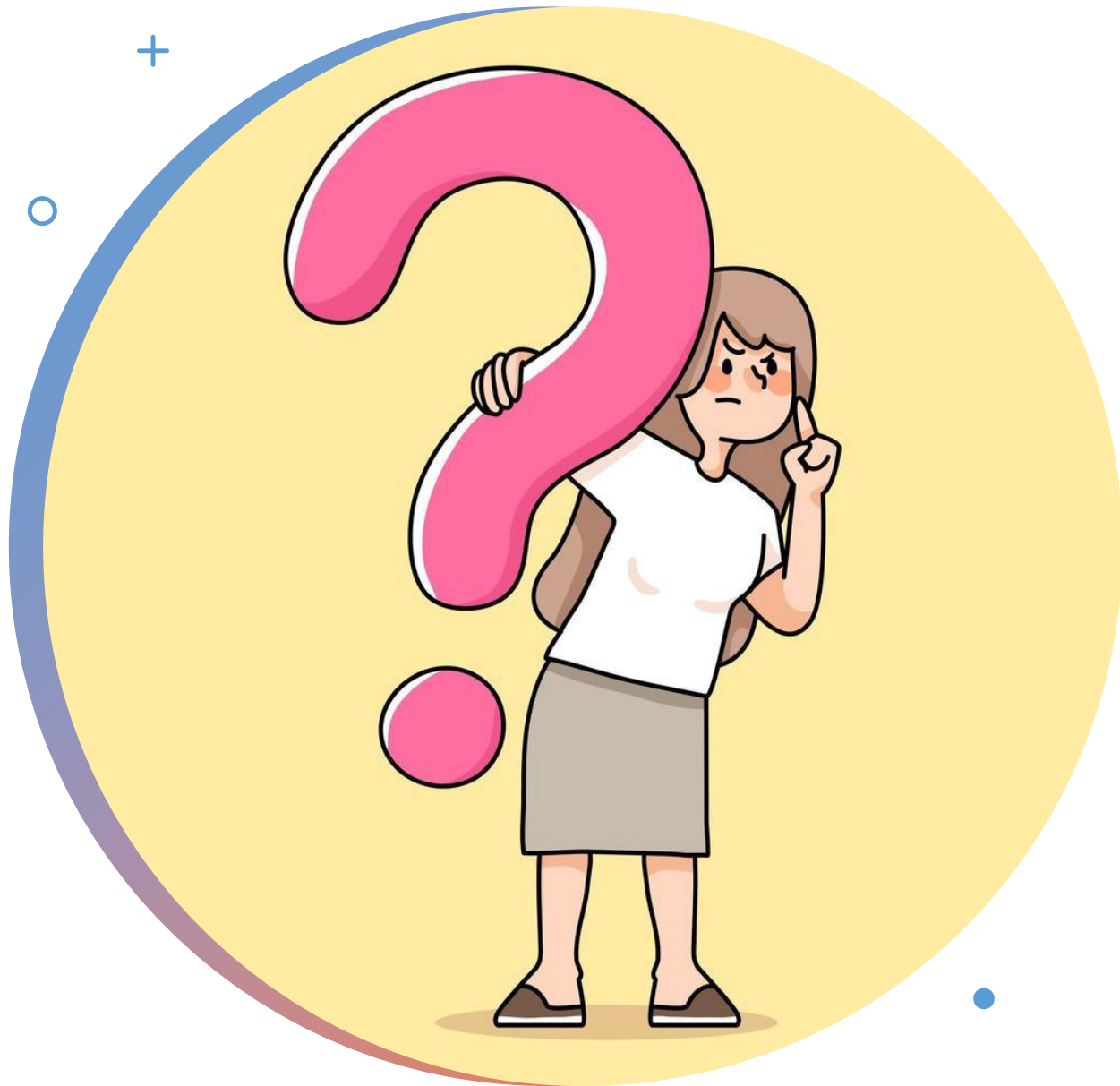


# Applying to study Drama in 2027

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A quick guide



# Do you want to go to University OR to Drama School?

- Make sure that your son/daughter knows where they want to go. Universities and Drama Schools offer quite different experiences.
- Students may need higher grade requirements to go to university.
- Students will have to audition if you want to go to Drama School.

# University Vs Drama School

- Most universities offer a Drama course of some kind. These are VERY varied and could allow you the option to specialise in a particular area. Drama at university is a mixture of practical and academic work- it is NOT a training course for actors/designers/directors, but it can provide experience in other aspects of theatre such as production and marketing as well.
  - **STUDENTS NEED TO DO THEIR RESEARCH. MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE APPLYING FOR THE RIGHT COURSE FOR THEM.**
- Students can apply for both Drama School and University at the same time. It is sensible to keep options open, as Drama Schools are very competitive.

# Applying to university – see SWCHS information

- Students do this through UCAS
- Students can apply to up to 5 different universities
- The deadline for **2027 is 13th January** - although we have an internal deadline of **October half term**
- Look carefully at individual courses. They can be very different. Your son/daughter need to know that the course is what **THEY** want. They may want more composing or more musical analysis. For Drama courses, some are more practical than others. Make sure that the course suits them.
- Look at what their usual offers are. **Don't apply for courses where you are unlikely to meet their requirements.**

You can always do a degree and then a post-grad year of training!!

# Understand What Drama School *Is* (and Isn't)

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- Drama school is **professional vocational training**, not an extension of school drama.
- Training is **intensive, physical, emotionally demanding and highly competitive**
- Students are treated as **adult professionals-in-training**, not children
- Contact hours are long; independent rehearsal is expected evenings and weekends

Parents can best support their child by:

- Respecting that **the student's voice, not the parent's, must lead the process**
- Avoiding comparison with other applicants
- Accepting that rejection is common and **not a judgement of talent or worth**



# Budget Early (The Costs Are Real)

- Drama school can be expensive, even with tuition loans.
- Parents should prepare for:
  - **Audition fees** (often £45–£75 per audition)
  - **Travel and accommodation**
  - **Dance shoes, rehearsal clothing, scripts**
  - **Living costs** (many courses make part-time work difficult)
- Important to know:
  - Some schools **do not guarantee halls**
  - Students may not be able to work during term due to schedules
  - Have **honest family conversations early** about what is affordable.

For **UK/Home undergraduate students**, most recognised drama schools now charge the **government-capped fee: £9,535–£9,790 per year**

Most acting courses last **3 years**, so:

• **Total tuition:**  
~£28,500–£29,400

*These fees are usually **covered by a tuition fee loan** from Student Finance.*

The image features three individuals from the back, dressed in vibrant red traditional robes. Each person is holding a large, circular red umbrella with a black frame and spokes. The umbrellas are held high, partially obscuring the individuals' faces. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting with light-colored walls and curtains. The overall mood is serene and artistic.

How do apply for Drama  
School?

# UCAS Conservatoires

- You **apply through UCAS Conservatoires** if the course is run by a **conservatoire or drama school attached to a conservatoire**.
- This includes schools such as:
  - *RADA*
  - *LAMDA*
  - *Guildhall School of Music & Drama*
  - *Royal Central School of Speech and Drama*
  - *Bristol Old Vic Theatre School*
  - *Royal Conservatoire of Scotland*
  - *Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama*

- You create a **UCAS Conservatoires account**
- You can apply for **up to 6 courses**
- You pay:
  - a **UCAS application fee**
  - **audition fees** (varies by school)
- UCAS handles the paperwork, **but auditions are still in person or online**

# Direct Applications ✖ (apply straight to the school)

- Some drama schools **do NOT use UCAS** at all.

- Examples include:

- *Arts Ed*

- *Italia Conti*

- *ALRA*

- *Drama Studio London*

- *Mountview (some courses UCAS, some direct)*

- You apply **directly on the school's website**

- Separate forms, separate deadlines

- Separate audition fees

- You can still audition for these **alongside UCAS schools**

# Other institutions...

- Are on UCAS but are not considered to be Conservatoires
  - Eg Rose Bruford
  - Royal Central School of Speech and Drama
  - Italia Conti – through the University of East London

For courses beginning **September 2027**, most applications and auditions will happen **in 2026**, not 2027.

### Typical UK Timeline

Spring–Summer 2026

*Research schools, visit open days, start audition prep seriously*

July–September 2026

*UCAS Conservatoires and direct applications open*

Autumn 2026 – Early 2027

*First-round auditions, recalls and final rounds*

March–May 2027

*Offers and decisions made*

2027 Entry via  
UCAS  
Conservatoire

For 2027

Dance, Drama or Musical  
Theatre

13th January 2027



**LAMDA**

Bristol Old Vic  
Theatre School



**ROYAL CENTRAL**  
SCHOOL OF SPEECH & DRAMA  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

# Do your research....

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- Your young person should be looking up lots of different courses at lots of different institutions. You will be surprised by the number of courses AND the huge variety that is on offer.
- Check out the entry requirements. They should not set their heart on something that is not achievable. They should talk to teachers – ask their advice.
- We as Drama teachers are well placed to see if your young person is looking at the right courses. In terms of Drama School, look at their alumni- there are about a dozen Drama Schools which are renowned and will attract agents and casting directors to final shows- so make sure you know what schools these are- again your teachers can advise

# UCAS Conservatoire Entry Requirements – AUDITION

Unlike university, **entry requirements** are based more on your **audition** than your A Level results. Check individual requirements of each Conservatoire. You will have to pay a fee to audition – this can be very expensive, though some Drama Schools have worked hard to reduce costs e.g. LAMDA



# Drama auditions

You don't pick them, they pick you!!!  
Open days – don't waste time visiting more than one.

## Auditions ^

### The four audition stages

- Preliminary audition – November to April
- Recall audition – December to May
- Short workshop (three-hour session)
- Workshop day

- **Can be gruelling! Make sure that you know what to expect.**
- **E.G. RADA**
- **But each School has a different process and may ask for different speeches**



## References for University

For university, this will be done by sixth form tutors at school using information from your young person's teachers.



# References for Conservatoire - Drama

- Please check each institution for their individual requirements – they can vary enormously
- E.g. LAMDA

Please note: LAMDA does not require references as part of your application. If you are only applying to LAMDA, you can write “reference not required” in the UCAS application form text box. This also applies if the other institutions you are applying to are happy to consider your application without a reference.

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# Use the *Search for Courses* tool

This is useful -  
TIPS

UCAS  
Conservatoires

Log in Register

section. - More events

Keyword search

After GCSEs Undergraduate **Conservatoires** Teacher Training Postgraduate Not sure ???

Getting started Find a course Apply and Track Finance and support

Home · UCAS · Conservatoires · Find a course

Choosing courses and conservatoires

Visit conservatoires

**Find a course**

With UCAS Conservatoires you can find performance-based courses in music, dance, screen and drama at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

**How to choose a course**

After [getting started](#) with [what to study](#), [entry requirements](#) and [application deadlines](#), you might still find a large number of courses to choose from around the country.

Browsing through the [search tool](#) might give you inspiration, or you can read our [tips on choosing between similar courses and conservatoires](#), and [visit a conservatoire](#) to see what it's like.

Our [search tool](#) will include courses for 2016 entry from 1 July 2015; you can register to apply for courses starting in 2016 from mid-July 2015.

- Search for courses
- Tips on how to choose a course
- Go to conservatoire open days

UCAS  
Conservatoires

Looking to study...

Give us your feedback

UCAS on Twitter

about an hour ago  
TEACHERS. Get ready for results day with our Confirmation, Clearing and Adjustment brochure [ow.ly/OJURi](#)

about 13 hours ago  
Don't wait until we're open for a #UCAS adviser to answer your question - check out our FAQs! [ow.ly/OduJv](#)

about 14 hours ago  
Did you use Apply 2 to get a place on a teacher training programme? Let us know, we'd really like to hear about your experience

Follow us on Twitter

Search for  
courses

And this...  
OPEN DAYS



# Conservatoires - this is what they say about themselves...

- **What's different about the conservatoire experience?**
  - *UK conservatoires provide specialist professional training. For over a century, Britain's conservatoires have established a model of education which gives talented, ambitious musicians, actors and dancers the training, freedom and encouragement to fulfil their creative and professional aspirations.*
-

+  
•

- Trust the process,  
not the myth

- Drama school is **not a guarantee of fame or employment**, but it can offer:
  - World-class training
  - Discipline and resilience
  - Strong peer networks
  - A foundation for varied careers — onstage, offstage, teaching, creative industries
- Your role as a parent is not to secure outcomes, but to:
  - Provide stability
  - Encourage independence
  - Keep ambition grounded in reality
  - Remind them they are valued **with or without an offer**

# What to do now...

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- Lots of research. Use the UCAS website. Really work out where you want to go and what course you want to study.
- Speak to teachers – find out as much as you can.
- Go to some Open Days – if this is available. This helps you get a feel for the place. This is from RNCM....
- BUT REMEMBER DRAMA SCHOOLS CHOOSE YOU, NOT THE OTHER WAY ROUND SO PROBABLY IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO DO ONE VISIT TO SEE HOW A COURSE OPERATES...

<https://www.rncm.ac.uk/study-here/make-an-application/open-days/>

- Prepare for your audition. Ideally you will already be doing this now.
- Start to write your personal statement...

# Personal Statement – this is what they say...

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- Firstly, leave plenty of time to write it. You'll have up to 4,000 characters of text to show why you'd make a great student – so it might take a few redrafts until you're happy.
- Course descriptions mention the qualities, skills and experience the university/conservatoire would like you to have – take note of these to help you decide what to write about.
- Remember it's the same personal statement for all the courses and conservatoires you apply to. They'll be able to see where else you've applied, so explain why you've chosen those courses.
- Have a look at our personal statement mind map for more ideas, or use our personal statement worksheet to write down answers to these questions and more.

# What to include....

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- **What to write about**
- Why you are applying – your ambitions and what interests you about the subject, university or conservatoires and higher education.
- Your reasons for choosing the courses you have listed. Remember that each conservatoire will be able to see the other conservatoires and courses you've applied to.
- What interests you about your chosen study area (playing an instrument, singing, conducting, composing or another specialist area).
- Your experience within your chosen specialist area and in any other activity related to the course(s) for which you have applied. Masterclasses you have attended. Bands you have been in.
- What makes you suitable – membership of national/international orchestras, choirs or chamber groups (such as NYO, National Youth Theatre, Britten Sinfonia Academy) and any other relevant skills and achievements gained from education, work or other activities. Masterclasses you have attended. Performance experience. Teaching experience.

# Use the UCAS/Conservatoire website...

There is lots of useful advice

The screenshot shows the UCAS website interface. The main navigation bar includes 'UCAS', 'Advisers', 'Providers', 'Corporate', 'Events', and 'Connect'. A 'Log in' button and a 'Register' button are visible in the top right. The left sidebar contains a menu with items like 'Key dates', 'Filling in your application', 'Writing a personal statement' (highlighted in red), 'References for conservatoires', 'Track your application', 'Auditions and offers', 'Replying to your offers', 'Making changes', 'Results', and 'FAQs'. The main content area is titled 'How to write it' and features a numbered list of four points: 1. Structure your info to reflect the skills and experience the conservatoires value most. 2. Write in an enthusiastic, concise and natural style – nothing too complex. 3. Try to stand out, but be careful with humour, quotes or anything unusual – just in case the admissions tutor doesn't have the same sense of humour as you. 4. Proofread aloud and get your teachers, advisers and family to check – then redraft until you're happy with it and the grammar, spelling and punctuation are correct. Below this list, there is a paragraph of advice: 'We recommend you write your personal statement in a word processor first, and then copy and paste it into your online application when you're done. Check the 4,000 character and 47 line limits though – some word processors get different values if they don't count tabs and paragraph spacing as individual characters. When you do add it to your application, make sure you save it regularly, as it times out after 35 minutes of inactivity.' A red dropdown menu is open, showing 'International and EU students'. Below this, a section titled 'What happens to personal statements that have been copied?' is highlighted with a blue arrow. The text under this section reads: 'We screen all personal statements across Copycatch our Similarity Detection system – so make sure your personal statement is all your own work. Don't copy from anyone else or from the internet and don't share your personal statement with other applicants. If we find any similarity in your personal statement, your application will be flagged. Then we'll email an alert to you and your conservatoire choices and this could have serious consequences for your application.' At the bottom, there is a section 'Other pages to look at'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 10:23 AM on 6/18/2015.

And don't copy it!

Applying to conservatoire/drama school is very competitive - few actors get accepted on their first round: many audition 2 or 3 times , before getting in ...so it is really important to.....

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**Have a Plan B!**