Royal Academy of Dramatic Art

RADA Connect Policy (for entry in September 2025)

1. Definitions

In this document, "you" and "your" means the applicant; "we", "us" and "our" mean RADA.

The term "applicant" refers to someone who has submitted an application to one of our full-time HE Courses.

"Scheme" refers to the RADA Connect Scheme

"Programme" refers to our undergraduate HE Courses.

"Participant" refers to an applicant who has been accepted onto the RADA Connect Scheme.

When we describe an offer of a place, this will refer to the RADA Connect Scheme only. A place on the RADA Connect Scheme does not guarantee a place on the BA in Acting or the FdA in Technical Theatre and Stage Management programmes.

Definition of terms in this document – please refer to information in the Appendices for full definitions:

- **New to Higher Education -** In the context of the UK, "new to higher education" typically refers to individuals who are entering the higher education system for the first time. Higher Education qualifications are outlined in Appendix 1
- **Black and Global Majority** - Global Majority is a collective term that refers to people who are Black, Asian, brown, dual heritage, indigenous to the global south and/or have been racialised as "ethnic minorities"
- **Care experienced** - The term 'care leaver/care-experienced' refers to anyone who has been or is currently in care or from a looked-after background at any stage in their life, no matter how short, including adopted children who were previously looked-after.
- **Disability** - Applicants who have (or are awaiting) a formal diagnosis of a physical or mental impairment
- **Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)** - We measure this using the Government's Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Applicants must live in a decile 1 or 2 area (quintile 1). In other words, they must be in an area that is classified in the bottom 20% of the country in terms of perceived deception

2. Introduction

2.1. RADA Connect is a scheme which forms part of our commitments to Access and Participation. This commitment is outlined in our 2020 – 2025 Access and Participation Plan. The aim of our Access and Participation work is to ensure that our full-time training is accessible to students and practitioners from all backgrounds; to increase diversity across the Academy; and to affect change in the industry in which our students gain employment.

2.2. RADA Connect offers free applications to our full-time undergraduate courses, workshops, free tickets to RADA productions and other events, travel bursaries and guidance to eligible applicants throughout their application process.

2.3. The programme offers online and in person (where possible) contact and provides the opportunity for applicants to interact with graduates, current students, teaching staff and the building and facilities at RADA.

2.4.   Through RADA Connect we aim to reduce financial and other barriers to applying; support applicants in their journey to RADA and Higher Education; help applicants feel prepared for their interview or audition process; build community and connection.

3. Scheme overview

3.1.   The RADA Connect Scheme is only open to applicants from the UK who meet the specified eligibility criteria in point 4.

3.2.   The Scheme will be open for a period of 3 months from 2nd September 2024 to 2nd December 2024. Note that this is different to the undergraduate admissions cycle – please check our website for the relevant opening/closing dates for your chosen course for which you will need to make a separate application.

There is no limit to the number of places we will offer on the RADA Connect Scheme.

3.3.   During the application process, you will be required to upload evidence (see point 5.3) as proof of your eligibility. This evidence will then be verified by the team who will confirm your eligibility for the Scheme.

3.4.   If you are deemed to be ineligible for the Scheme, you will be redirected within the admissions process.

This RADA Connect Policy is considered to be in-line with the RADA Admissions Policy and RADA Contextual Admissions Policy

4. Eligibility

The eligibility criteria for places on the RADA Connect Scheme are detailed below.

4.1.   **Primary Criteria**

Applicants must meet ALL primary criteria:

i. Be applying for BA (Hons) in Acting or FdA in Technical Theatre and Stage Management.
ii. Have attended a UK State-funded school and/or college for the entirety of your primary and secondary education
iii. Be eligible to pay UK/ Home tuition fees at the time of applying (please refer to the UKCISA website for further guidance):
   - Ordinarily resident in the UK for the past three consecutive years OR
   - Ordinarily resident in the UK with refugee status.
iv. Have a combined household income under £45,000
v. Be new to starting Higher Education*

   * Please refer to Appendix 1

4.2.   **Secondary Criteria**

In addition to the above primary criteria, applicants must also meet at least ONE of the secondary criteria (please refer to Appendix 2):

i. Be from a Black and Global Majority background
ii. Be care experienced
iii. Have a disability which is declared on your application form
iv. Have a home postcode which is classified as Decile 1-4 in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Government dataset.
v. Have a combined household income under £25,000 per year.

Adhering to these eligibility criteria will ensure that we are working with the underrepresented groups identified in our Access and Participation Plan to improve access to Higher Education.

5. Application Process

5.1.   The RADA Connect Scheme will open on 2nd September 2024 – this is earlier than the undergraduate admissions cycle (due to open in October) to allow us time to verify evidence submissions. The Scheme will close on 2nd December 2024.

5.2.   Applicants will apply directly to the Scheme via the online application form.

5.3.   You must upload supporting evidence as part of the application form to demonstrate that you meet the criteria. Please refer to Appendix 2

5.4.   If you are aged under 18, we will also require consent from a parent/guardian to confirm their consent for you to participation in the Scheme.

5.5.   Eligible applicants offered a place on the Scheme will be notified via email, along with further details about your supported application process.

5.6.   You will then be required to complete an application for your chosen course of study. If you apply before the admissions cycle opens, we will email you to tell you when the course applications are open.

6. Benefits of the Scheme

6.1.   Free applications for the BA in Acting programme. There is no application fee for our FdA in Technical Theatre and Stage Management programme.

6.2.   One to one support from our Admissions Team for completing the application form (if needed)

6.3.   Workshops and events related to audition/interview preparation. Please note that in the case of limited workshop spaces, we may need to prioritise allocating space to applicants who have been successful during the audition/interview processes.

6.4.   Access to exclusive content relating to financial support, wellbeing and resilience

6.5. Free tickets to RADA Productions and/or external productions**

6.6. Priority travel bursaries are available for participants who meet multiple Secondary Criteria points. Travel bursaries may be applied for Technical admissions interview/workshop or a final round Acting admissions workshops (3rd/4th round). RADA. Please note the following:

- We have limited funding available so we may not be able to cover the full cost of your travel
- We may recommend (and contribute to) the purchase of a railcard if it significantly reduces the cost of travel
- Applies to UK standard class travel only

6.7. Participants who then go on to accept a place on a RADA programme will receive support when applying for scholarships and in transitioning into Higher Education.

6.8. Students who have been accepted via the RADA Connect Scheme will continue to receive support for the duration of their training.

** where we have a limited number of tickets available for productions, priority will be given to participants who meet multiple Secondary Criteria points.

7. Participant Responsibilities

7.1. Any participant under the age of 18, at the time of applying, must have parental consent to join the Scheme.

7.2. Participants of the Scheme will need to submit an additional application to one of our undergraduate programmes, once the admissions cycle opens in October 2024 and abide by the published admissions deadline for their chosen programme.

7.3. Participants of the Scheme are also expected to adhere to our Admissions Policy.

7.4. Participants must provide accurate information regarding their eligibility for the Scheme.

7.5. We retain the right to cancel a place on the Scheme if incorrect or misleading information is provided with regards to declaration of evidence.

8. Evaluation and Monitoring

8.1. Participants on the RADA Connect Scheme will be asked to complete evaluations for all activity they attend. Robust evaluation is essential to the success of Access and Participation activity, and a key requirement of the Office for Students.

8.2.   Each year we will report on the number of RADA Connect participants, their characteristics and background (relevant to the Access and Participation targets), and the outcomes of their applications. This reporting will be anonymised.

9. Data Protection

9.1.   Information about applicants will be treated as personal and sensitive data and stored in a secure records system to ensure that confidentiality can be maintained. Information about personal data collection can be found in RADA's Privacy Notice

9.2.   Data relating to applications, offers on programmes, acceptances, enrolments and progressions will be collected to facilitate analysis and ensure the integrity of data included in statutory reports, including monitoring reports relating to the Access and Participation Plan with the Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT), Office for Students and statutory returns to bodies such as the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

9.3.   By applying to the RADA Connect Scheme, participants give permission for the processing of their personal data for the purposes of evidence review, managing selection and admissions procedures for the maintenance of student records and for statutory returns.

10. Safeguarding

The Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for RADA is Angela Taylor, Registrar and Secretary. For further information please refer to the Safeguarding Policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for the RADA Connect programme is Sarah Agnew, Deputy Registrar (Admissions and Student Services)

Original Policy created	October 2023
Policy Updated	July 2024
Document Approved by	Academic Board
Date Approved	
Version	1.1
Review Date	Annually, July 2025
Owner	Sarah Agnew, Deputy Registrar

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Definition of Higher Education Qualifications

The table below highlights the hierarchy of HE qualifications and relevant levels (2).

Level in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales	Level in Scotland	Qualification examples
4	7	Certificates of Higher Education
5	8	Diplomas of Higher Education Higher National Diplomas Foundation Degrees (N/A in Scotland)
6	9	Bachelor's Degrees Graduate Diplomas Graduate Certificates
	10	Bachelor's Degrees with Honours
7	11	Master's Degrees Postgraduate Diplomas Postgraduate Certificates
8	12	Doctoral Degrees

(1) https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/promoting-equal-opportunities/access-and-participation-glossary/#D
(2) Quality Assurance Agency (2014) The Frameworks for HE Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies. Available at: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks; Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (2017) The SCQF Interactive Framework. Available at: https://scqf.org.uk/about-the-framework/interactive-framework/

Appendix 2 – Evidence requirements

Criteria	Evidence required	How to submit
Have attended a UK publicly funded (State) school/college between the ages of 5 and 18	Letter from state school and/or college confirming you attended OR Or exam certificates (with full name and school/college name) confirming you attended	Upload into RADA Connect application form
UK domiciled – meaning the UK Is your permanent home and you have UK/Home student status England: HE fee status	Proof of current home address e.g. Bank statement Utility bill (phone, gas, electric) Council tax statement	Upload into RADA Connect application form
Have a combined household income of under £25,000 OR Have a combined household income under £45,000	An official letter confirming you are in receipt of means tested benefits OR An official letter confirming you are in receipt of Free School Meals OR An official letter confirming you are in receipt of a 16-19 bursary OR P60(s) confirming your household income is below £45,000 per year.	Upload into RADA Connect application form
New to Higher Education	Higher Education qualifications are outlined in Appendix 1 (We may make an exception to this rule, if you are care experienced. Please contact outreach@rada.ac.uk)	We do not require evidence at this stage. If you are offered a place on one of our HE Courses, we will need evidence of your highest qualification on entry
Black and Global Majority	We do not require evidence.	
Be care experienced	Letter from a social worker OR Local authority OR Your legal representative confirming you are care experienced	Upload into RADA Connect application form
Have a disability which is declared on your application form	Letter/assessment from a medical professional OR Copy of your school EHCP OR Letter confirming Personal Independence Payments (PIP)	Upload into RADA Connect application form
Have a home postcode which is classified as Decile 1-4 in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Government dataset	Proof of current home address e.g. Bank statement Utility bill (phone, gas, electric) Council tax statement	Upload into RADA Connect application form