



## Application Guidance

### Background

We auditioned around 1000 applicants last year. We are a small school and will always remain so, taking no more than 19 students on each of the One and Three Year Courses. For the Six Month Foundation Course, we accept 3 groups of 16 students per year.

### Entry Requirements

Entry to the School is by audition only; there are no academic requirements.

### Age requirements:

One Year Course – 21 years old

Three Year Course – 18 years old

Foundation Course – 18 years old

There is no upper age limit for any of our courses. It is essential however, that you meet the minimum age requirement by the time the course starts in September 2021.

### The Application Procedure

Applications for entry in September 2021 open on 13 October 2020 and will close at midnight on 31 May 2021. We advise you to apply as early as possible.

The only way to apply is online via our website.

First Round and First Recall auditions will be via self-tape. Second Recall auditions will be held in-person at the School.

Please follow the instructions below regarding submitting your First Round audition with your application.

### What to prepare for your online audition

1. You will need to film and submit two speeches of no more than 2 minutes each. The speeches are of your choosing, but if you would like to take one of our suggestions for your classical speech, the list is available to download as a PDF document on the *Apply Now* page on our website.

- A classical speech from the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century. This can be Shakespeare or any other writer from that period; for example, John Ford, Ben Jonson, Mary Pix, Christopher Marlowe, Aphra Benn.
  - A contrasting (a different subject, theme or emotion) speech from a 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century play.
2. Film a close up of your face introducing yourself (quite brief – name, age, course(s) you are applying for and the names of the pieces) and then change position by moving back from camera to a waist up shot and do the two pieces. Your eyeline should be to the side of the camera.
  3. Then move closer to the camera again and answer the following question:
 

***Choose a moment from a play or film which really impacted on you emotionally and tell us about it. How did you feel? (2 minutes)***
  4. Upload your audition to Vimeo/YouTube. Copy and paste the link into the indicated field on the application form. Please also include the names of your monologues in the indicated fields on the application form.
  5. Please ensure that you check the video for any audio issues etc before you submit your application.
  6. Please also ensure that the settings are not set to “private” and that there is no expiration date on the video.

### **General advice on your online audition**

- Watch the short film clip offering advice and tips for recording your audition video: <https://vimeo.com/398892665/3a0e767110>
  - Stand away from the background which should be plain and not distracting. •
- Pick a quiet room with some space to move and no background noise.
- Be aware of your distance from the camera/mic and speak up (project) when further away.



- Make sure the room is bright and you can be seen clearly - lit from the front rather than above.
- Do not place yourself in silhouette - be careful of windows.
- Try and use a tripod – not handheld. If you don't have a tripod, spend a bit of time experimenting to ensure that your smartphone is secure.
  - Avoid props, costume and make up. We are interested in you and your ability.
- Please ensure that you check the video for any audio issues etc. before you upload the link to the application form.
- Please also ensure that the settings are not set to “private” and that there is no expiration date on the video.

### **Choosing your pieces**

- Choose pieces which excite you and to which you feel a strong connection. Feel free to choose speeches for either male or female characters.
- Make sure that you read the whole play; don't just learn the speech. •

Remember that we are judging your potential, not your proven ability.

### **Completing the Application Form**

**Upload your Photo:** Your photo should be a JPEG or png file no larger than 2000KB. Please make sure there are no special characters within the file name, otherwise it won't upload properly. It is not necessary for your photo to be a professional headshot; a close up (head/shoulders) photo taken with your phone is fine.

**Course choice:** On the application form, you have the option to apply for up to two courses. Please only select a second course choice if you are willing to be considered by the audition panel for that choice, otherwise leave the second course choice blank. Please note that It is only possible to submit one application per academic year.

**Education History:** We ask you to provide details about your education history for information only. There are no academic requirements for any of our courses, and we



do not ask for educational references or certificates.

Please use the “**Something about you**” section of the application form to list any additional activities relevant to your application. Although we do not require a full personal statement, this space can be used to outline supplementary experience or provide background information to support your application. You may want to type this up first into a Word document, and then paste it into the form.

**Credit/debit card details:** When you save your application, you will be put through to the WorldPay section to make your audition fee payment by card. Once the payment has been submitted, your application is complete.

### **Outcomes from the First Round audition**

You will be contacted with the outcome of your First Round audition within 4 weeks of submitting your application. Please contact the school if you have not heard from us after 4 weeks. The e-mail address is [auditions@oxforddrama.ac.uk](mailto:auditions@oxforddrama.ac.uk)

Please ensure that you also check your Spam folder for any communication from the School.

If your First Round online audition is successful, you will be asked to submit a First Recall audition, which will also be online. You will be contacted with details of what you will need to prepare and the submission deadline.

Following your First Recall audition, if you are successful, and have applied for either the One Year Course or Three Year Course, you will be invited to attend a Second Recall audition. Second Recall auditions will be held in-person at the School.

Applicants who have applied for the Six Month Foundation Course will either be offered a place or not, following their First Recall audition, and would not be required to attend a Second Recall.

If you are offered a place on the Foundation Course, you will be asked to pay a £500 deposit to secure your place. This will be returned to you at the end of the course. If you would like to continue auditioning for other schools, you may do so. If you wish to accept a place at another school, then we will refund the deposit in full, provided that



you let us know by 30 June 2021.

With all our courses, you may be offered a place on the waiting list. We cannot offer all our places until we have finished auditioning, so we use a waiting list system to ensure that the process is fair for everyone.

Please note that you may have to wait some time before you receive our final decision, especially if you auditioned early in the season.

### **Feedback**

If you are not offered a place following your First Round/First Recall audition, we will contact you and you will be notified of when you will be able to call the School to obtain feedback on your audition.

Feedback will be provided by the Admissions Administrator, who will have the notes from the audition panel. Please note that we are only able to provide feedback over the phone; we do not provide written feedback.

### **Appeals procedure**

The School aims to be fair, clear and open in both its audition procedure and allocation of Dance and Drama Awards. Entry for an audition is on the understanding that there is an acceptance of the judgement of the audition panel. The only grounds for appeal that will be considered are those which claim irregular procedure on behalf of the School. Legitimate grounds for appeal could be:

- On the basis of open and fair procedures
- On the use of clear, accurate information

For instance:

- The decision was made based on information that was factually incorrect • There



was inappropriate conduct on the part of a member of the audition panel

If the auditionee wishes to appeal against a decision at audition, they should write to the Executive Director, Liz Wilson, no later than 21 days from the date of the audition, stating clearly the grounds on which the appeal is being made and supported by supplementary evidence; e.g. witnesses or written testimony. This appeal should be co-signed by the applicant's parent or guardian in the case of applicants who are 17 years old at the time of auditioning.

For a full copy of the appeals procedure, please contact the School.

## **Some Frequently Asked Questions**

### **I am an international student – can I apply for any of your courses?**

The Oxford School of Drama does not hold a Tier 4 Sponsor licence, therefore only UK nationals or those with indefinite leave to remain in the UK; i.e. permanent residency, are able to apply for our courses.

Citizens of the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland will not be eligible to apply for our One Year Course or Three Year Course, unless they have pre-settled or settled status in the UK.

- settled status (5 years continuous residence in the UK)
- pre-settled status (less than 5 years continuous residence in the UK)

It is possible for citizens of the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland to apply for the Six Month Foundation Course, as for courses of a 6 month duration or less, it will not be necessary to obtain entry clearance to the UK in advance.

If accepted onto the Six Month Foundation Course, citizens of the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland will be able to apply for a Short Term Student Visa (STSV) on their arrival at the UK port of entry. Their passport will be stamped at the Immigration Desk with a STSV, valid for 6 months.

### **Can I attend my First Round/First Recall audition at the School?**

Due to current social distancing restrictions, and to ensure that the process of



auditioning is fair for everyone, all first round and first recall auditions for entry to the School in September 2021 will be held online. If you get through to the Second Recall stage, we will contact you via e-mail to inform you of the arrangements for Second Recall auditions.

### **Do you offer audition fee waivers?**

We aim to make our training as accessible as possible and encourage applications from students whose backgrounds are underrepresented in higher education.

Please contact [auditions@oxforddrama.ac.uk](mailto:auditions@oxforddrama.ac.uk) to find out more about the free audition eligibility criteria.

### **Can I come and look around the School before I apply?**

It is only possible to come and look around the School on our Open Days, which would usually be held twice a year, in February and October. Due to the current social distancing restrictions and the limited space at the School, a date for the next Open Day has not been confirmed. Any Open Days planned for 2021 will be announced on our website.

### **When do applications close for entry in September 2021?**

Applications will close at midnight on 31 May 2021. We will not be able to accept any applications after this date.

### **Why do you offer a diploma rather than a degree?**

At the Oxford School of Drama, our focus is on training actors to work in the industry, rather than training students to get a degree. For this reason, we have decided against offering degree courses.

Nevertheless, we do understand that our students want recognition for their achievements in the form of a national qualification. Therefore, our Three Year and One Year Courses are certified as follows on the National Qualification Framework:

		Qualifications Framework
Three Year Course	One Year Course	
	Level 6 on the Regulated	Level 5 on the Regulated

