

## Foundation Course & One Year Course Bursaries



### Introduction

The Oxford School of Drama is committed to promoting inclusivity in the arts and is working proactively towards greater diversity in the range of actors training for the profession.

Lack of available funding, which disproportionately affects those applying for our Foundation courses, has long been a barrier to talented prospective students.

As part of our commitment to ensuring fairer access, we offer **3 bursaries** for students accepted onto our Six Month Foundation Course in Acting/ Foundation Course in Acting with Musical Theatre for entry in September 2026.

For the Foundation Course bursaries, applications are welcomed from anyone with a household income under £35,000, for whom the total fee amount acts as a barrier to accepting a place.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for either of our bursaries, you must meet all of the criteria listed below:

- You are serious about becoming a professional actor through drama training
- You are resident in the UK
- You are aged 18+
- You live in a household with a gross annual income of below £35,000

Priority for all our bursaries will be given to applicants who meet any of the following additional criteria:



- You live in a household with a gross annual income of below £25,000
- You are from a Black, Asian or minority ethnic background
- You have a declared disability
- You will be considered to be a care leaver when you begin your training.

*A Recent Care Leaver is defined as a young person aged 16-25 years old, who has been in local authority care for a period of at least 13 weeks in the last 5 years.*

- You are an estranged student (i.e. you are not supported by a family)

*Estrangement is defined as having no contact with your parent(s) during the last 12 months and the possibility of having a relationship with your parent(s) again is very unlikely.*

- You are new to higher education

## **How to Apply:**

Note that you are required to include financial evidence from the last financial year (1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026) so please apply once you have this information available, and after you have accepted a place and paid the course deposit.

The deadline for applications is **3 July 2026**.

We will therefore let you know the outcome of your application shortly after this date.

- Request and complete the application form.
- Make sure to include a supporting statement or video that you feel will aid your application.
- E-mail the application form, with copies (please do not send originals) of your supporting documents, as proof of eligibility (see below), to: [L.murray-white@oxforddrama.ac.uk](mailto:L.murray-white@oxforddrama.ac.uk)
- Put 'Bursary Application' in the e-mail subject line.

The final decision will be based on the bursary applicant's ability, their supporting statement, and their financial need, and priority will be given to those who meet any of the additional criteria listed above.

**If you are applying on the basis of household income, any of the following may be used as proof of eligibility:**

- P60 for the previous tax year  
*If you are financially independent of your parent(s)/guardian(s), please send a copy*



*of your P60. If you are supported by one/two parents/guardians, please send us copies of their P60(s).*

- SA302 Tax Calculation form
- Confirmation of income-related benefit payments (e.g. Jobseeker's Allowance, Universal Credit, Income Support)

**If you are applying as an estranged student or a recent care leaver**, please provide a statement from an independent person with good standing in the community, that has known you for a substantial period of time and is not a relative or family friend. It might be a teacher, social worker or doctor. Make sure that your statement from an independent person is on headed paper where possible, and that it includes a telephone number and e-mail address.

*Stand Alone* is a charity that provides support to estranged students in higher education. Please go to <https://www.standalone.org.uk/students/> for additional information.

**If you have a declared disability**, please provide a letter or document from a medical professional.

*If you are eligible to apply for the Bursary Scheme, please be reassured that any information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence and only viewed by the Senior Staff; the audition panel will not be made aware that you have applied for a Bursary.*