

AUDITIONS POLICY

English National Ballet School adheres to The Code of Practice for Auditions and Interviews as a CDMT Accredited School, January 2017.

English National Ballet School is a talent led organisation and admits students on the basis of talent, in classical ballet. Students are admitted to the School following a class-based audition, orthopaedic assessment and interview along with financial and visa checks being completed and any pastoral needs considered. The application process is open to any student that wishes to join the School aged 16 or 17 in the year they begin the course.

Preliminary Audition Routes

There are two routes to being selected for the School's live final audition.

Audition Route 1 – Application and Live Preliminary Auditions

1. Application

- 1.1. To be considered for entry to our live preliminary auditions, all candidates must complete one of the online application forms on the School's website.
- 1.2. All candidates (UK and international) must submit photographs using the guidelines in the Audition Pack provided on the website.
- 1.3. All candidates (excepting those detailed in 1.5) must submit a video using the guidelines in the Audition Pack provided on the website.
- 1.4. All candidates applying for the live preliminary auditions in London will be required to pay a £45 application fee.
- 1.5. The only exceptions to the above are if candidates intend to audition in person at one of the live preliminary international auditions. Candidates attending these auditions will be required to supply photographs and a completed application form prior to the audition; they do not have to send a video. The application fee for these auditions should be paid directly to the organiser.
- 1.6. The School aims to contact all candidates within 14 days following the application closing date to confirm whether they will be invited to a live preliminary audition.
- 1.7. The Artistic Director reviews all applications with input from the Artistic Staff.

2. Live Preliminary Audition

- 2.1. Candidates will be invited to the School to take part in a live preliminary audition based on the content of their application form, their photographs and their video. Candidates will be assessed by the Artistic Director and the Artistic staff with the criteria listed in this document.
- 2.2. Live preliminary auditions take place within the School or at other approved locations. Audition groups contain up to 25 candidates in total.

- 2.3. Candidates provide their name at registration and are given 45 minutes to register and warm up. Candidates are responsible for their own warm up which the School provides studio space for.
- 2.4. The audition class runs for a maximum of 2 hours.
- 2.5. The class starts at the barre followed by work in the centre, before pointe work for the ladies.
- 2.6. All auditions are recorded.
- 2.7. The audition panel is constituted of a minimum of three members of the Artistic staff and the Artistic Director.
- 2.8. Results from the live preliminary audition are communicated via email within 14 working days.

Audition Route 2 – English National Ballet School Intensive Courses, Overseas Workshops, Individual and Group Auditions

3. Intensive Courses and Overseas Workshops

- 3.1. Students attending an English National Ballet School intensive course or overseas workshop who are interested in applying for the School may be directly invited to either a live preliminary or final audition, following an invitation at the Artistic Director's discretion. Typically, this is following being viewed in a class for a minimum period of 1.5-2 hours, although the selection usually takes place over a longer period of time.
- 3.2. The Artistic Director works with Partner Organisations and the Artistic staff throughout this selection period.
- 3.3. To be accepted to the final audition, candidates must also complete an application form, and selection will follow the same assessment criteria as those applying through Route 1.

4. Individuals

- 4.1. Individuals can be invited to the School for a private audition to be observed by the Artistic Director and/or a member of the Artistic staff.
- 4.2. As a minimum requirement, candidates are asked to join a suitable class for their age group of approximately 1.5-2 hours.
- 4.3. Candidates may be invited to a 'short stay' visit to the School by the Artistic Director if further consultation is needed, or the Artistic Director feels it is appropriate.
- 4.4. Individual auditions are recorded.
- 4.5. Private auditions and invitations to the Final Audition may be offered by the Artistic Director when visiting competitions such as Prix de Lausanne or Youth America Grand Prix.

5. Group Auditions

- 5.1. Groups may be invited by the Artistic Director, or on their authority, to a private audition at any point throughout the year.
- 5.2. Groups may range in number from 2-25 candidates in a class at any one time.
- 5.3. Auditions for groups are run to class length of a minimum of 1.5-2 hours but may be extended if the Artistic Director feels this is appropriate.
- 5.4. Groups are observed by the Artistic Director and members of the Artistic Staff.
- 5.5. Group auditions are usually reserved for international candidates traveling together.
- 5.6. Group auditions are recorded.

Live Final Audition

6. Live Final Audition

- 6.1. Live final auditions take place at the School.
- 6.2. The class process for final audition runs in the same way as the live preliminary audition, with a higher level of ballet technique, followed by up to 30 minutes of contemporary technique.
- 6.3. The audition panel is constituted of a minimum of three members of the Artistic staff and the Artistic Director.
- 6.4. In addition to the ballet class and contemporary classwork, orthopaedic assessments and interviews are scheduled for candidates over a two-day period.
- 6.5. Orthopaedic assessments are carried out by our resident physiotherapists and interviews are conducted by members of the Senior Management Team.
- 6.6. Candidates are contacted within two weeks after the final audition, and candidates who are offered a place are given one week to provide their acceptance.

Assessment Criteria

The assessment criteria for all audition routes (including the video pre-selection for the live preliminary auditions), are as follows:

1. Potential capacity to execute classical ballet vocabulary **including**:
 - i. sustained use of turnout
 - ii. mobile feet
 - iii. stable balance
 - iv. clarity of body line and design
 - v. correct carriage of the arms.

For auditions organised by English National Ballet School or partner organisations, candidates are marked by a panel of Artistic Staff using a standardised marking sheet which scores the areas below:

1. Potential capacity to execute classical ballet vocabulary **including**:
 - i. use and sustaining of turnout;
 - ii. accurate and efficient transfer of weight;
 - iii. accurate execution of leg extensions;
 - iv. correct carriage of the arms;
 - v. stable balance and clarity of body line and design in *adage*;
 - vi. swift transfer of weight, assured balance and correct use of head in *pirouettes*;
 - vii. correct technical requirements of various steps of elevation, including use of the floor, use of legs and feet, and use of *ballon*. (50)
2. Clarity of body line and design, including use of focus and eyeline. (10)
3. Spatial awareness. (10)
4. Use of phrasing and dynamics. (10)
5. Use of projection. (10)
6. Memorise combinations of steps and *enchaînements* set in audition. (10)

Comments are written, and a final score given for each candidate. A candidate must have a minimum score of at least 50 to be considered for the final audition. Following completion of the audition, marks are discussed by the panel before the Artistic Director makes the final decision.

Communication with Candidates

Following the closing date for applications (Route 1), the Artistic Director and/or the Artistic staff will review the candidate's photographs, video and online application form. The School aims to contact all candidates within 14 days following the closing date to confirm whether we will be inviting them to a live preliminary audition.

If a candidate is selected to join a live preliminary audition and/or the final audition, they will receive clear information stating the date, location and what to expect in the audition process, via email. The audition panel's decision is final and the only opportunity for appeals is if the candidate claims that there were irregularities in the audition or interview procedure. Due to the volume of candidates, individual feedback is not available for any part of the application and audition process.

The paperwork completed and communicated between the School and the candidate throughout the application process is outlined below:

- Online application form, signed by parent, candidate, and candidate's teacher.
- Letter of invitation to live preliminary audition, including Audition Day Guide, or rejection letter (Route 1 only).
- Letter of invitation to final audition and open yag, including Final Audition Day Guide, or rejection letter.
- Final offer letter, waiting list or rejection letter.

For individual candidates selected for the final audition, the Artistic Director may personally pass on a letter of invitation which must be responded to within one calendar month. On receiving the acceptance to attend, the Student Support and Enrolment Coordinator will send the candidate an application form to complete.

In the case of applications from candidates under 18 years on 1st September of the year of entry, information about the audition will also be sent to the parent / guardian. All other forms of communication are via email with the Student Support and Enrolment Coordinator.

Sources of Funding

Financial Assistance Bursaries

Wherever possible, English National Ballet School works with individuals and grant-making trusts to provide bursaries to students in financial need. The level of support offered in bursaries may vary from year to year and they are limited in number. If you require financial assistance to attend the School, please let us know in confidence when you apply or before you accept an offer of a place from the School. For more information, please email enrolment@enbschool.org.uk

Talent Scholarships

English National Ballet School has a limited number of scholarships available to the most talented students. These scholarship awards are to help cover the cost of tuition fees. Scholarships are awarded at the Artistic Director's discretion and are based solely on talent.

Both financial assistance bursaries and talent scholarships are awarded for one year and may not subsequently be awarded for additional years of training and or the amount offered may vary from one year to the next.

Dance and Drama Awards (DaDA)

The Education and Skills Funding Agency offers a number of awards for students undertaking Further Education dance and drama courses. These are known as Dance and Drama Awards (DaDA). Students who are UK nationals, and who have lived in the UK for the past three years, are aged 16, 17 or 18 at the start of the course and whose household income was less than £90,001 for the year April 2023 to March 2024, can apply for a Dance and Drama Award (DaDA). Applications for tuition fees will be assessed against students' household income for this period. The 2022-2023 contribution towards fees for a DaDA student currently ranges from £0 to £7,175 depending on household income.

DaDA funding is means tested on an annual basis and may vary in amount from year to year.