

# Frequently Asked Questions

## LSDA GENERAL

### Where is LSDA?

Our address is:  
London School of Dramatic Art  
4 Bute Street, London,  
SW7 3EX, UK

### What are the nearby transport links?

We are very close to South Kensington tube station on the Circle, District and Piccadilly lines.

### Are you wheelchair accessible?

No. At this time we are not able to provide wheelchair access to our main building and training rooms. If this affects you and you would like to know when we become accessible, please let us know and we will keep you up to date with our plans and progress.

## PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

#### What qualifications do I need to obtain to study at LSDA?

No formal qualifications are required as the training is vocational, but students must be at least 18 when the course starts.

#### What experience do I need?

Although some experience is preferred it is not essential. We look more at potential and levels of creativity.

#### When is the deadline for applications?

There are no set deadlines for our courses but applicants are advised to apply as early as possible as places are strictly limited.

#### What is the age limit?

We only accept students who are at least 18 years of age. We have no upper age limit but applicants should be capable of the high physical and emotional demands involved in actor's training.

#### Do you have open days?

No, but your audition will be held in our regular training premises and current students are present to act as ushers and answer any questions you have about the LSDA experience. If you have more questions about our curriculum and facilities after you've auditioned, you can make an appointment with our principal to discuss these further. We also run a variety of short courses which some students use as sample courses before joining us full-time. You can have a read about Summer Courses or Access to Acting from the Courses section for more details.

#### Is it possible to watch classes?

No. LSDA classes are closed to the public.

A great way of finding out more about our training is by coming along to one of our public productions.

#### I'm interested in applying, but don't know which course to go for. What should I do?

We keep a very open mind towards all our applicants and are happy to advise on which course might be most suitable.

#### Can I apply / audition for more than one course?

You can apply for as many courses as you wish. If you attend an audition, you will be considered for all of our acting courses. Our audition panel will determine which course is most suitable for the applicant to achieve the greatest growth. On occasion a student might be offered a place on a different course to the one they applied for.

#### Is there a January intake?

No. All of our full-time training courses begin in October, with Short Courses running during the summer holidays and Sunday classes starting quarterly

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Does LSDA offer musical theatre courses?**

LSDA does not offer any Musical Theatre courses. We believe that musicality is an important element of acting training and singing is part of all of our full-time acting courses.

## **AUDITION QUESTIONS**

### **When do audition/interviews take place?**

Traditionally auditions take place in person in South Kensington once a month. Due to the Covid pandemic, auditions are held online until further notice.

### **What are the audition requirements?**

You will need to prepare two contrasting monologues (one modern and one classical) for the full time Advanced and Foundation Diplomas as well as our two year part-time course. Both should be from published plays, they should be learnt by heart and each piece should last around two minutes. When auditioning in person an informal interview with the Principal will follow the performance of your monologues. When sending in a recorded audition you will be send a list of questions that you should answer about yourself and your acting experiences.

### **After my audition, how long will it take to find out whether I've got in?**

We do our best to get back to you with a result within one week of your audition. However, during certain periods this may take slightly longer. Results could include: acceptance, conditional acceptance, recall, or rejection. We are unable to provide individual feedback from your audition.

### **How do I find a monologue to audition with?**

It would be unfair for us to offer personal advice, but the best way to learn about monologues is to visit the theatre and read play scripts as much as possible. Larger libraries and bookstores might have a script section, but there are also specialist bookstores at the Royal Court Theatre and the National Theatre. You will be given particular guidelines about what to prepare after you submit your application form.

## **STUDYING AT LSDA**

### **Is there any accommodation provided?**

No. LSDA will help all prospective students with advice on how to find accommodation.

### **I am an older student, will there be others my age?**

Our students range from 18 years and up. While there are more students in the 21-30 age bracket we do have some in the 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s.

### **What are the class sizes?**

Class sizes vary from 8-12 students depending on the academic year.

### **How many students are in each year?**

This varies year on year. In the Advanced Diploma 1 Year Course we have approximately 16-24 students which are separated into two working groups. On the Foundation Diploma 1 Year Course we have approximately 8-12 students. The 2 Year Course part time course has around 8-12 students in each of the 2 years. On the Summer School we have approximately 8-12 students in each group.

### **Will it be possible to have a part time job?**

This is possible, however students on the 1 Year Course Advanced Diploma Courses should be aware that they may be required to rehearse outside of school hours towards the end of the course.

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

### **What level of English do I need?**

We welcome students from all backgrounds and levels, but do require a good understanding of spoken English to ensure everyone can keep up with the trainers. A certificate or qualification is not necessary.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Do you charge overseas student fees?**

No. We never charge overseas student costs or audition fees. The fees listed on our website apply to every applicant, regardless of their nationality. We believe education should be available to everyone and try to be as flexible as we can to accommodate students from all backgrounds and situations.

## **Can I get a student visa if I study with you?**

No. We are currently unable to assist students applying for visas, so you should ensure you're able to stay in the country during your course. We're not licensed to issue student visas, so I'm afraid we won't be able to help you apply for yours. We would be able to write a letter confirming your student status and enrolment if you were accepted on a course, but this may not be acceptable for visa purposes.

Students from EU/EEA countries now require either a visa or to have previously being granted a pre-settled or settled status to study here. There are two term option on our full-time courses that can be attended without the need for a visa. You should enquire with us directly if you are interested in knowing more about this.

## **FINANCE AND FUNDING**

### **How do I fund my training?**

Because LSDA is a private college, you will not be able to get financial support through the Student Loan Company. Local authority grants are very rare. More common are contributions from charitable trusts. It is necessary to do your own research, since your eligibility for a particular charity may depend on your region, your background and your ethnic origin. In addition, there is a publication: The Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need, available at most Citizens' Advice Bureaux. For more information, follow this link: [www.governmentfunding.org.uk](http://www.governmentfunding.org.uk)

You might find the following publications helpful:

- Educational Grants Directory (Directory of Social Change)
- Grants Register (Macmillan Press)
- Directory of Grant Making Trusts (Charities Aid Foundation)
- Charities Digest (Waterlow Information Services)

Useful websites:

- [www.scholarship-search.org.uk](http://www.scholarship-search.org.uk)
- British Council – Funding Your Studies - [www.britishcouncil.org/learning-funding-your-studies.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-funding-your-studies.htm)
- The National Union of Students – Alternative Sources of Funding

[www.nus.org.uk/en/advice/money-and-funding/other-sources-of-funding/alternative-sources-of-funding/](http://www.nus.org.uk/en/advice/money-and-funding/other-sources-of-funding/alternative-sources-of-funding/)

- UK Council For International Student Affairs – Fees, Funding and Student Support

[www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/source\\_funding.php](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/source_funding.php)

## **Do you offer scholarships?**

Because we keep our fees so low, we don't accumulate a pool of money to provide scholarships from. We are happy to consider flexible payment schemes or instalments that might make it easier on you after you've been offered a place.

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND ACADEMIC**

### **What kind of degree do graduates receive, is it like a B.A.? Do I get an academic qualification?**

We are a vocational acting school, we are not affiliated to a University and so do not offer academic qualifications. Our graduate students are issued a Diploma, which is not the same as a degree. The content and quality of our Advanced Diploma course is equal to a BA but condensed into a one-year course. The content and quality of our Foundation Diploma is the equivalent of a BTEC or NVQ at approximately level 2/3.

### **Is there much written or academic work?**

No. We don't assign written work in the academic sense. Because our courses are comparatively short, we keep them intense and focused and written work would take too much time away from the practical work which is so important. Some trainers may occasionally assign written work for particular exercises, but this is minimal and used as an acting exercise.

## GRADUATION AND GRADUATED STUDENTS

### **Is there an agency in your school?**

No. We feel having a casting or other agency adjoined to the school would be a conflict of interest and distract our students from their purpose here: to learn. Many of our trainers and guest directors are esteemed professionals and a member of our board of directors is a successful casting director, so we are able to pass exclusive opportunities on to our graduates. Part of your training covers the 'dos and don'ts' of seeking representation and we are always available to provide advice and guidance to our graduates.

### **What have your graduates done since leaving, are any successful?**

Most of our students have felt equipped with the confidence and skills to carve out a career for themselves since graduating. Some have set up their own theatre and film companies, some have explored other areas of their creativity, such as writing and directing, some have relocated to Hollywood to focus on film and TV acting, appearing in feature productions such as Dark Shadows, Judge Dredd, The Borgias, Guardians of the Galaxy, Tyrant. We believe that, ultimately, success is gained by the individual, not their CV, so we teach our students how to maintain absolute professionalism as well as the tools to perform well. You can review our graduates' professional work by looking at our Graduates section.