

Royal Academy of Dance Faculty of Education

Contextualised Admissions

Guidance for Applicants

When the Faculty of Education reviews your application to one of our university-validated programmes, we implement the principles of contextualised admissions.

What are contextualised admissions?

Contextualised admissions is the process through which the Faculty of Education assesses your prior attainment and potential to succeed in higher education in the context of the circumstances in which your attainment has been obtained. **Contextual data** includes educational, geo-demographic and socio-economic background data. **Contextual information** includes self-declared information which you provide, such as current or previous caring responsibilities, or family/lifestyle circumstances.

What information does the Faculty of Education look at when assessing my application?

Below is some of the information that we may take into consideration when looking at your application. This is not an exhaustive list, so if there is information you think we should be aware of please contact faculty@rad.org.uk

- Evidence that you have been in care during the period of your secondary education;
- Information about the proportion of young people from your neighbourhood who normally progress to higher education. This information is collected from the Participation of Local Areas (POLAR) score made available by the Office for Students. The score ranges 1 (low participation) to 5 (high participation). The Faculty of Education will give consideration to those applicants from POLAR areas 1 and 2;
- Evidence that you are from an area of deprivation as classified by the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015. The IMD ranks areas in England from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area). We will give consideration to applicants from lowest 20%;
- Substantial vocational dance training which is an integrated part of your secondary education i.e. schools which offer vocational dance training for a professional dance career instead of or alongside under three A-Levels.

What happens once the Faculty of Education has received this information?

Your application will be considered on its individual merits. In taking contextual information into account, the Registrar and relevant Programme Manager will meet to discuss your application, and may make one of the following decisions (this list is not exclusive):

- make a lower academic offer, which would typically be no more than one grade lower than the standard offer;
- take any contextual information into account if your academic achievement has fallen marginally short of the conditions of the original offer.

Case Study 1

A student from an area of low Higher Education participation i.e. POLAR score 1, applies for the BA (Hons) Ballet Education programme. After a successful audition, the Programme Manager wishes to offer the applicant a place on the programme. The academic entry requirements for this programme is 3 A-Levels at grades B, B and C. Due to limited educational opportunities within the area where the applicant lived, the Registrar and Programme Manager decide that an offer of 3 A-Levels at grades B, C and C will be acceptable.

Case Study 2

A student from a travelling community has applied to the BA (Hons) Dance Education programme. The student was predicted A, B, C at A-Level by her school academic reference but on results day only achieve B, C, C. The student gave evidence that she was impacted by her travelling as part of her community arrangements during her assessments. The Registrar and Programme Manager reviewed her application and agreed to accept the candidate of her application as a whole.

Case Study 3

A student applying for the Masters programme evidences that they were (and continue to be) a sole carer for a relative during their undergraduate degree. They achieved 2:2 for their undergraduate. The RAD normally only accepts applications who achieve a 2:1 or above for their undergraduate degree. The Programme Manager on review of the application noted significant dance teaching experience alongside the contextual information and allowed the application to progress to interview. At interview the candidate scored highly and therefore was offered a place.

If you wish to discuss your application with us further, or have any contextual information that you wish us to review, please email at faculty@rad.org.uk.