

Admissions Policy **March 2019**

Admissions Policy

Patrons: Carlos Acosta CBE, David Bintley CBE, Sir Matthew Bourne OBE, Dame Deborah Bull CBE,
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Admissions Standards and Casting

National Youth Ballet admits students on the basis of talent, or potential talent, in classical ballet. Students must have passed their ninth birthday and *not be more than 18 years of age* as of 1 August of the year of audition. Students are admitted to the annual Residential Performance Company following a two-part audition process. First round audition classes are arranged according to age. A non-refundable fee is charged for the preliminary audition. Second round auditions are arranged according to whether students have applied for entry to the Junior Company or Main Company, and to the choreographic casting requirements of each new ballet. Due to the very large number of applicants it is not possible to provide individual feedback to applicants. The decision of the audition panel is final and there is no opportunity for an appeal to be made. Details of the admissions process with application forms and relevant dates are published on our website nationalyouthballet.org.uk at the appropriate time of year.

It is not possible to give preference to siblings, or the children of former students or members of staff or Trustees, in admitting students to the Residential Performance Company.

Performance Criteria

Students from across the United Kingdom and abroad are invited to audition. National Youth Ballet is looking for dancers with good classical ballet technique, who can learn new steps and sequences, are creative, express the joy of dance and have a passion for performing. The Artistic Director may take into account a student's performance and behaviour at any previous National Youth Ballet activity attended by the student. Two Performance Companies will be chosen (Junior and Main, with a total of up to 105 dancers), and students must commit to the full National Youth Ballet Season, attending all rehearsal and performance dates once they accept the offer of a place. Students and their parents/guardians should be aware that National Youth Ballet reserves the right to alter casting at any point if necessary. The Artistic Director's casting decision is final.

Equality

National Youth Ballet is allowed lawfully to operate a "permitted form of selection". This exception to the usual anti-discrimination rules is found in Schedule 11, Part 3, Paragraph 8 of the Equality Act 2010:

Part 3: Disability discrimination: Permitted form of selection:

8 (1) A person does not contravene section 85(1), so far as relating to disability, only by applying a permitted form of selection.

(2) In relation to England and Wales, a permitted form of selection is:

(c) in the case of an independent educational institution, arrangements which provide for some or all of its pupils to be selected by reference to general or special ability or aptitude, with a view to admitting only pupils of high ability or aptitude.

National Youth Ballet operates an equal opportunities policy. National Youth Ballet aims to promote diversity, tolerance and respect for individual students irrespective of their social, racial or cultural background. Every reasonable adjustment will be made to accommodate specific dietary, religious or cultural needs within the residential programme and workshops.

A bursary fund was established by the Trustees and Patrons of National Youth Ballet to ensure that students who are offered a place with National Youth Ballet's annual Residential Performance Companies are not denied the opportunity to participate due to lack of financial means. Details of bursary applications are included within all National Youth Ballet audition application forms.

Bursaries

A panel of National Youth Ballet staff will assess any application for a bursary, taking into account whether a family is in receipt of benefits or income support or is receiving a bursary for dance study from any ballet school. Applicants may be asked to provide written proof of the grounds relied on. National Youth Ballet may require provision of tax returns submitted by the family which supports the student, supplemented by a statement of means, before deciding on any application. The panel will refer to the Trustees in any case of doubt before awarding a bursary, and in all cases where s/he believes that it may be necessary to request submission of tax returns and a statement of means. The *Artistic Director's* or a nominated deputy's decision is final.

Responsibility and Review

The Artistic Director will ensure that students are admitted only in accordance with this policy, and that all statutory requirements are met. All members of staff are expected to follow this policy. The number of students and the results of the auditions processes will be reported to the governing body and the information will also be incorporated into National Youth Ballet's annual report.

This policy was written in March 2019.

Adopted by and behalf of National Youth Ballet.

Review date March 2020.