

**National Youth Ballet  
Admissions Policy**

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## Admissions Policy

### 1. Introduction and purpose of the policy

National Youth Ballet admits students on the basis of talent, or potential talent, in classical ballet. We are committed to ensuring programmes are as inclusive as possible. This policy outlines our approach to admissions and casting for online and in person activity.

### 2. Admissions Standards and Casting - In Person Activity

Students from across the United Kingdom and abroad are invited to audition for our in person content. 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 Creative Director may take into account a student's performance and behaviour at any previous National Youth Ballet activity attended by the student.

#### 2.1. Remote Audition Process

Students may be permitted to audition for certain activities remotely. Specific instructions will be issued for individual activities. In general students will be asked to submit a short video application as an unlisted video on YouTube. Application is via Eventbrite for which there is a non-refundable fee. Each application is assessed by a panel. Full details of the application requirements can be found on the website.

2.2. **Residential Performance Company (RPC)** 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. Details of the admissions process with application forms and relevant dates are published on our website at the appropriate time of year. Two Performance Companies will be chosen (Junior and Main, with a total of up to 105 dancers), and students must commit to the full 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 Creative Director's casting decision is final.

### 3. Admissions Standards and Casting - Online activity

Online activity has previously included Moving Minds, Easter Masterclasses, Bouncing Back. These projects may be repeated and / or other online activity may be created. All online activity is available for enrollment via Eventbrite. No audition is required for participation. Instead, each event will be tailored to specific age and ability ranges. This will be clearly indicated on Eventbrite and on our website. As part of our commitment to safeguarding the welfare of our community, any person found to be under the advised age for participation or anyone who has not reached the appropriate grade for the activity may be asked to leave the online class and no refund will be given.

### 4. General Admissions Conditions

- 4.1. The Junior Company is open to students in Years 4-6. Students must have achieved RAD grade 2, or equivalent. The Senior Company is open to students in Years 7-13 who have achieved RAD grade 5 or equivalent.
- 4.2. 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 any activity.
- 4.3. In the case of auditions, owing to the very large number of applicants unfortunately it is not possible to provide individual feedback.

- 4.4. The decision of the audition panel is final and there is no opportunity for an appeal to be made. Panel members and NYB staff will not enter into conversation concerning the decision of the admissions / auditions panel.

**5. Equality**

National Youth Ballet is committed to a fair, transparent and inclusive admissions process. We will not discriminate against members or their families, or prevent participation in any activities, on the basis of age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion or belief. Every reasonable adjustment will be made to accommodate specific dietary, religious or cultural needs.

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.*

**6. Bursaries**

National Youth Ballet is delighted to be able to offer a number of bursaries to ensure that students who are offered a place with National Youth Ballet are not denied the opportunity to participate due to lack of financial means. Details of bursary applications can be found on our website.

A panel of National Youth Ballet staff will assess any application for a bursary against the stipulated criteria for eligibility. This may include understanding if 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 basis upon which the application is being made. 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 they believe that it may be necessary to request submission of tax returns and a statement of means. The CEO's decision is final.

**7. Responsibility and Review**

The CEO 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 Board of Trustees and the information will also be incorporated into National Youth Ballet's annual report.

<b>NYB Values</b>	
Safe	We champion healthy and sustainable practice.
Nurturing	We contribute to a mutually positive and nurturing experience.
Respectful	We are respectful of each other, and show this in our interactions with everyone; both online and in person.
Inclusive	We value diversity and proactively seek to create an inclusive environment for all stakeholders.
Communal	We are a community and we grow from our shared experience.
Creative	At our core we are creative and collaborate in our creative process.
Challenging	We challenge perceptions about what ballet is and conventions about who ballet is for.
Sustainable	We acknowledge that there is a climate emergency. We are action-oriented and committed to using our influence, resources, and skills to be a positive force for change.
Exceptional	We work hard to create high quality educational and dance experiences.