

## 2025 ENTRY

# SUPPORTED APPLICATION SCHEME

### INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS & ADVISORS

Guildhall School of Music & Drama encourages applications from individuals whose backgrounds are currently underrepresented in higher education. We are offering 350 places on the Supported Application Scheme, available for all undergraduate programmes for 2025 entry. Applications for September 2025 entry will open in July 2024. The Supported Application Scheme offers a free application, workshops, advice and guidance, invitations to performances and travel bursaries for auditions to eligible applicants.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for the 2025 Supported Application Scheme, applicants **must**:

- Have **no** previous experience of university.
- Be applying for an eligible undergraduate programme.
- Be UK-Domiciled.
- Be living in a household with a gross annual income of below £35,000 **OR** in a household that receives means tested state benefits **OR** in receipt of Free School Meals or a 16-19 bursary **OR** in receipt of a means tested bursary in a Guildhall Young Artists' Centre.

They must also meet **at least one** of the below criteria:

- Have a home postcode which is classified as Quintile 1 or Quintile 2 in the POLAR4 dataset.
  - ***POLAR4** is a dataset which groups areas of the UK based on the proportion of young people progressing to higher education ([Visit the Office for Students' website](#) to use the postcode checker. Alternatively email [access@gsmd.ac.uk](mailto:access@gsmd.ac.uk) with their home postcode to check).*
- Have a home postcode which is classified as Decile 1-4 in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Government dataset.
  - *IMD is the official measure of relative deprivation areas of England ([visit the IMD website to check](#), the result is in a downloadable spreadsheet, found in column F. Alternatively email [access@gsmd.ac.uk](mailto:access@gsmd.ac.uk) with their home postcode to check).*
- Be Black, Asian or ethnically diverse.

- Be in care, a recent care leaver, or estranged from your family.
  - **Recent Care Leaver** is defined as someone who has been in local authority care for at least 13 weeks in the last 5 years.
  - **Estrangement** is defined as having no contact with parents in the last 12 months, and being unlikely to have a relationship with them again
- Have a declared disability.
- Have attended a state school or college for the entirety of their education.
  - *This means that they attended a school or college that did not charge any fees to any pupils, and was instead funded by the local authority.*
- Have a **full bursary** to attend a fee-paying school or are home schooled.

## Applications and Referrals

Applicants are able to apply directly to the Scheme. However, schools, colleges, theatres and youth organisations can submit a referral on their behalf, which some applicants may find easier. If you know of a student who is interested in applying to Guildhall School, who would benefit from the Scheme, or if a student has contacted you and asked for your referral, please follow the steps below:

- Speak with the student about their circumstances and plans or hopes for further study. This scheme is for candidates who are seriously pursuing an undergraduate programme at the Guildhall School, who are not in a position to afford the application fee and who would benefit from additional support during the process. You may need to ask about their financial and home circumstances to determine their eligibility for the scheme, although some of this information may be available on your school/organisation database. *We will rely on your referral when assessing eligibility and suitability for the scheme, and so it is essential that you can vouch for the criteria they meet.*

**Applications and referrals should be submitted via the application form found on our webpages.**

- You will need some information from the applicant to fully complete this form, and so we recommend completing it with them.
  - You must refer the student using their full given name and not a nickname or preferred name. There is an option to provide a preferred name on the form.
  - Please check with the student that their email address, date of birth and home address are correct at the time of submission. This will prevent delays further in the process.
  - If the student has applied to Guildhall School before, please ask them to provide the applicant number they were sent upon their previous

application.

- You will be asked to provide a contact email address – please use your establishment email address for ease of verification.
- Referrals must be received in good time so that we can process the request and give the applicant time to submit their course application - see table below for last date for referrals.
- An applicant can only have one free application in an academic year. If they are interested in more than one programme at the School, they need to choose their primary interest for the Scheme.
- As the School auditions and/or interviews all undergraduate applicants, and as the processing of each free application requires time and resource, schools and organisations are asked to exercise discernment, and only refer applicants who:
  - a) have a specified interest in the school and will make use of the free application and additional support.
  - b) are at a point in their artistic development where they have the potential to benefit from a conservatoire education
- If you work for a school or organisation which intends to refer more than 10 young people to the scheme, please contact the Access and Participation team to discuss the best way to do so.

<b>Programme/pathway</b>	<b>Deadline for receipt of referrals for application fee waivers (midday)</b>	<b>Undergraduate application deadlines are as follows (4.30pm)</b>
BMus Classical and Jazz programmes	Monday 30 September 2024	Wednesday 2 October 2024
BMus Electronic & Produced Music	Friday 3 January 2025	Monday 6 January 2025
BA Acting	Friday 10 January 2025	Wednesday 15 January 2025
BA Digital Design and Production	Friday 24 January 2025	Wednesday 29 January 2025
BA Performance Design	Friday 24 January 2025	Wednesday 29 January 2025
BA Production Arts - Costume	Friday 24 January 2025	Wednesday 29 January 2025
BA Production Arts – Design Realisation	Friday 24 January 2025	Wednesday 29 January 2025
BA Production Arts – Stage Management	Friday 24 January 2025	Wednesday 29 January 2025
BA Production Arts – Theatre Technology	Friday 24 January 2025	Wednesday 29 January 2025

## What next?

Your student(s) will be notified by email if their application for the Scheme has been successful. They will be sent a unique link and instructions to complete their online undergraduate application. Please ensure that they know that they must:

- **Only use their unique log-in link** when making their online application.
- **Not share** this application link with anybody else.
- **Apply by advertised** application deadlines. Only completed applications submitted by the deadline will be considered – *acceptance onto the Supported Application Scheme is not an application to an undergraduate programme.*
- Refer to the guidance available on our website and in the email they are sent when making their online application.

Please note, applications and referrals will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis, so early applications are advised.

If you have any questions, please contact:

### **Access and Participation team**

Email: [access@gsmd.ac.uk](mailto:access@gsmd.ac.uk)

Telephone: 020 3375 1914 **OR** 020 3834 1732

We can also be contacted on the School's [Chat to Guildhall](#) page.

*Updated: July 2024*