



MASTER OF FINE ARTS ACTING GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

Auditioning in person in the USA

The majority of applicants for this course audition in the USA concurrent with the University/Resident Theatre Association (U/RTA) auditions. If you are auditioning only for us, please follow the guidelines below for selecting repertoire. If you are auditioning for a number of U/RTA institutions, you may use the two audition pieces you have already prepared.

The locations, dates and preparation information for the U/RTA auditions can be found on their website [here](#). You should read all of the relevant information relating to the auditions both on the U/RTA website/handbook and this audition guidance specifically for the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Acting.

You can audition as a 'walk-in' candidate free of charge if you wish to audition solely for the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Acting. If you wish to audition for other U/RTA hosts then you will need to register with U/RTA on their website as well which will incur a fee.

Auditioning in person at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Acting in the UK

Applicants from the EU are also welcome to apply, as auditioning in the UK is also a possibility, for which you should submit an online application form. Upon review of your application by the Course Director we may invite you to an audition, for which you should prepare the below criteria. We recognise that you will inevitably be nervous about your audition; much rides upon the outcome. We work hard to ensure that your audition is a positive experience. Members of both academic and admissions staff will be available to answer questions at all stages of auditioning.

Completing our online application form

You should complete your application online, which you can access from our website under the section for your chosen course. You can work through the form at your own pace, saving as you go along. You will need to provide information on your previous and current education, employment and English language ability, as well as a personal statement and a referee. We recommend you write your personal statement offline and paste it into the application form.

What should I include in my personal statement?

Your personal statement should cover your interests, accomplishments, personal ambitions, and your reasons for wishing to study on the Master of Fine Arts Acting course. You should outline your previous acting experience (training and any professional experience), identify the main reasons why you are interested in further study, and outline what your research interests may be. You should also indicate how you intend to fund the course. You should also tell us whether you have applied to any other Drama UK schools and/or Universities (and if so, which ones) and whether you have applied to Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Acting previously.

How long should my personal statement be?

Your personal statement should be about 500 words in length and written in essay style. You should give your personal statement the same amount of care and attention as your audition: be sure to cover all the elements requested above, proof-read it carefully and check your spelling before submitting it with your application.

What does my reference need to include?

Your referee should be someone who is not a family member. Your referee should focus on commenting on your stamina and character – in particular, your ability to sustain rigorous training. He or she should also comment on your suitability for study at postgraduate level and your suitability to pursue a specialised course in acting.

Will I be auditioned?

Admission to the Master of Fine Arts Acting course is via a single audition. If you are applying from the UK, you should attend an audition in person at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Acting. We will contact you to discuss the process and to arrange an audition after we have received and read your application.

Before completing your application you should ensure that you have read all of the guidance below and on our website regarding the audition process. In addition to the guidance below, you may wish to read [Auditions: Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Auditioning via video link

If you live outside the UK/EU and cannot attend an audition in the UK, you can undertake an audition via video link (e.g. YouTube channel). You should present your speeches in English to camera and perform them as you would in a live audition, using the guidelines above.

Please ensure that we can see the whole of your body – it is not necessary to provide close-ups or produce an edited piece of television, but you should ensure that the sound quality is sufficient for us to make an accurate assessment of your voice. You should supply the title, author and, if relevant, translator details with your speeches.

You may also make a short statement of no more than three minutes about the pieces – a brief résumé of the plays and characters, and what happens immediately before and after the scenes presented.

You may also include a brief statement in support of your application. We may interview you by phone after watching your video link.

Each audition speech should be video-recorded in a single shot and there should be no camera edits in any single monologue.

Video link auditions should be sent to conservatoire.international@bcu.ac.uk (Overseas) or acting.admissions@bcu.ac.uk (Home/EU)

AUDITION GUIDANCE

PUNCTUALITY

You should make sure you arrive in plenty of time for your audition; if for any reason you will be late please let us know. Punctuality is essential during the course, as it is when working in the profession. We are aware that sometimes transport is delayed – however, we will expect you to have arranged your travel to arrive on time even if there is a reasonable delay.

Please note: Street shoes and stilettos are not allowed in any of our studios, but jazz and character shoes are.

SPEECHES AND FEEDBACK

You will be asked to present two speeches to a panel of staff and/or professional actors – normally two people, but on occasion more. You will have up to ten minutes with the panel who will provide verbal feedback on what you present, discuss your choice of speeches and possibly your motives for attending drama school.

You must prepare and memorise two contrasting speeches from different plays, one of which must be a British play written between 1740 and 1950 and one of which must be from an Elizabethan / Jacobean play.

Each selection should be no more than two minutes in length and suitable for your gender, age and experience (you may be stopped if a speech exceeds two minutes in length).

All speeches should be from published plays. Excerpts from film script, television dramas and unpublished plays are not acceptable unless you can provide at audition, and leave with us, a copy of the actual and complete script with the speech used clearly marked.

You should have read the whole of the play from which a speech is taken and be able to provide the correct title, name of the author if relevant and translator. You may be asked questions about the play and your character's journey within it (i.e. their motives etc.).

It is preferred that the content of the speeches should be something to which you can relate and understand. It is not advised that you attempt an accent unless you are entirely confident of its accuracy and only if it is appropriate to the speech.

Any performance choices you make should be justifiable within the text. The performance should reveal an understanding of the scene and character and an ability to create and share appropriate emotions and atmosphere. Try to make sure that any vocal and physical interpretation you do is strictly relevant.

Criteria for Speeches

- Energy
- Choice of speeches
- Spatial awareness Creation of environment
- Suitability of physicalisation Use / handling of language
- Identification with character Power to hold an audience
- Achievement of contrast
- Potential for development through training

The assessment of each candidate is based upon a set of criteria used consistently by staff, who comment on and mark the work shown.

INTERVIEW / MEETING

The audition may be followed by an interview with the Course Director where you will be invited to discuss:

- The way you have approached your prepared speeches
- Why you are interested in the course
- Your research interests

A voice tutor may wish to see you individually to assess more fully your vocal potential.

What happens next?

Decisions on Auditions in the USA

The university will contact you directly via email regarding the outcome of your audition after the date that the U/RTA association agrees we may contact you, which is usually mid-February and is when U/RTA permit decisions to be made. You will receive a decision within 10 working days from this date.

As you will not have submitted a formal application for this course at your audition, the university will use the information on your resume/headshot and send you the link to make a formal application. Once submitted, this will generate an application form for you and you will receive an email thanking you for your recent application.

Following the above, you will be notified of the outcome of your audition on your applicant portal.

If you have been made an offer, you will be able to see any conditions of your offer on your applicant portal. You will also receive an official offer email from the university.

Decisions on Auditions in the UK/online auditions

The assessment of each candidate is based upon a set of criteria used consistently by staff, who mark the work shown. The staff on the panel – guided by the Course Director – make the decision whether to offer a place. Within 10 working days of your audition you should receive confirmation by email of the result. If you have not heard within 21 days please contact the admissions department on conservatoire.international@bcu.ac.uk (Overseas) or acting.admissions@bcu.ac.uk (Home/EU)

Decisions for international students applying via video link may take longer, but you should hear within 30 days of our receipt of your application.

OFFER OF A PLACE

Following an audition and/or interview, one of the following outcomes is possible:

- **You are offered a conditional place**
This means that you will have a place on the course for which you applied if you attain the required academic qualifications. This offer is only for the year in which you apply.
- **You are offered a reserve place on the course**
This indicates that you have reached an acceptable standard, but because applications and auditions/interviews happen throughout the year we cannot allocate all places on a course until the auditions/interviews have been completed.
- **You are not offered a place on the course**
You cannot re-apply for a place on the same course in the same academic year.

APPEALING AGAINST AN UNSUCCESSFUL AUDITION

If you wish to appeal against a decision you should contact conservatoire.international@bcu.ac.uk (Overseas) or acting.admissions@bcu.ac.uk (Home/EU) within 14 days of notification. An appeals panel, led by a senior member of staff who was not involved in your audition, will investigate thoroughly any grounds for appeal and will notify you of the outcome.

Directions to Millennium Point

Please click the following link for directions to Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Acting School
<https://www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/about-us/parking-and-directions/acting-directions>

Car Parking at Millennium Point

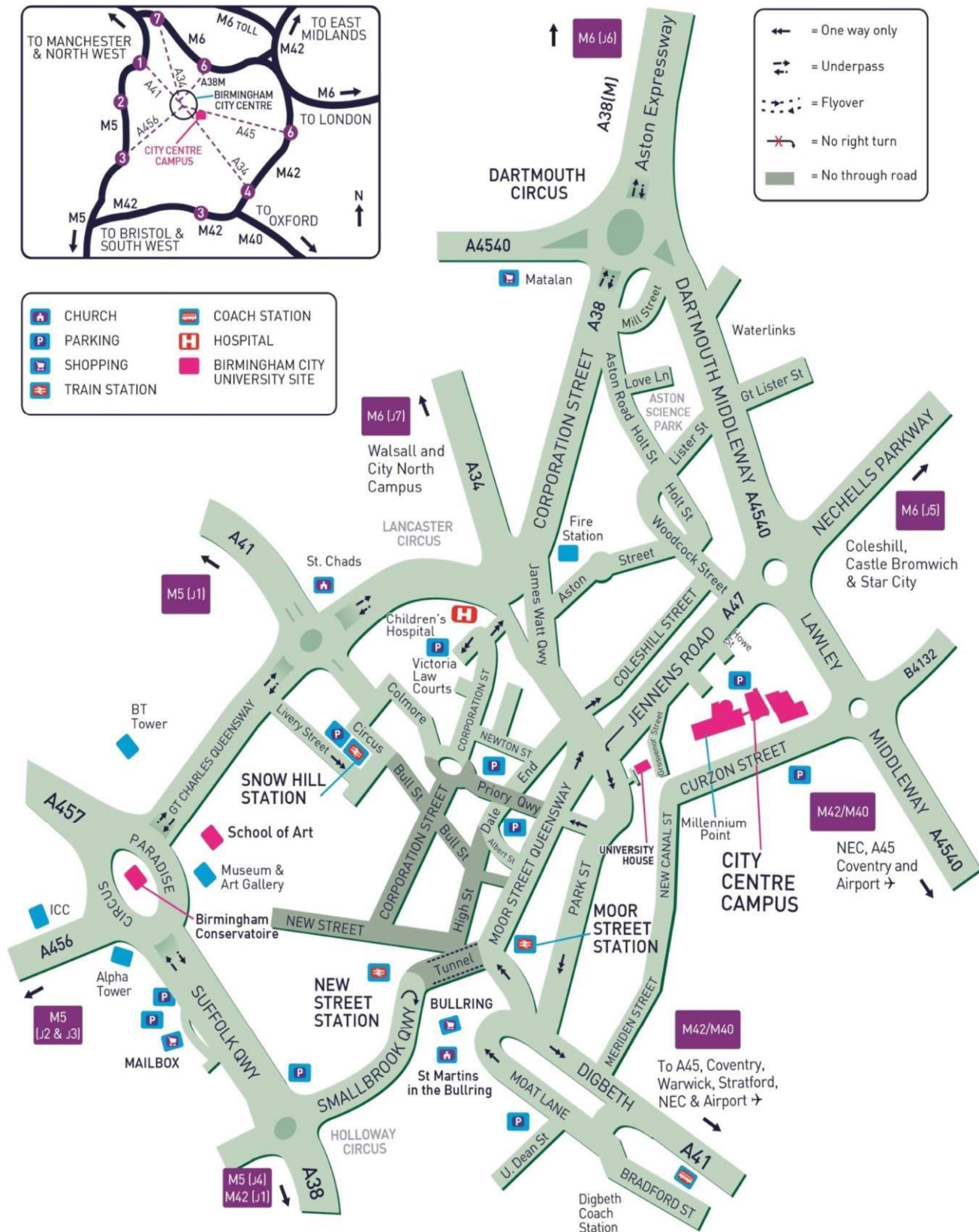
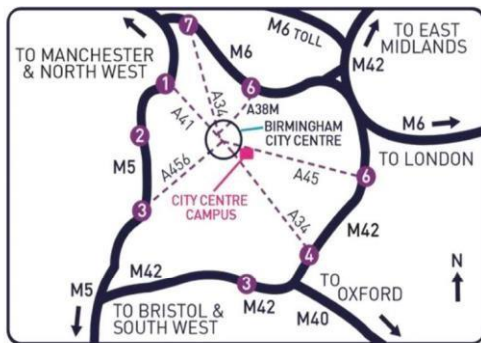
There is a multi-storey car park owned and managed by Birmingham City Council situated adjacent to Millennium Point. The car park can be accessed via Jennens Road and Millennium Point is clearly signposted from all main routes into the city – simply follow the brown tourist signs. If you are using a sat nav please use the postcode **B4 7AP**.

Please see the link below for the car park charges:-

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/directory_record/6674/millennium_point_multi-storey_car_park

[Please note the main new Royal Birmingham Conservatoire building houses the music elements only. If you arrive at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire main building, you will find the Millennium Point building opposite the back entrance of the Conservatoire and this is where MFA Acting is based.]

Other directions, including directions from buses etc, are available on the [Millennium Point Website](#)



City Centre Campus

