

**Office for
Students**



Initiative funding for specialist performing arts providers

Funding allocations

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Enquiries to specialists@officeforstudents.org.uk

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Summary

1. The Office for Students (OfS) is announcing allocations of a new funding initiative to support specialist performing arts providers that have not met the criteria for being world-leading (whether because they did not make a submission to the panel, or because their submission was not successful). The purpose of this funding is to enhance the provision of, and access to, performing arts education and training at specialist providers not in receipt of recurrent specialist provider funding, with a particular focus on contemporary music, drama and dance.
2. This publication sets out the details of this additional funding, including eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and monitoring arrangements. Annex A lists the annual allocations for providers that are in receipt of the funding, which is for the period covering academic years 2022-23 to 2026-27.

Initiative funding for specialist performing arts providers

3. During 2022, we invited providers meeting criteria for being specialist to make submissions to an OfS panel setting out their case for being considered world-leading.¹ ‘World-leading specialist provider funding: Outcome’ announced the funding allocations for those providers that the panel identified as meeting the criteria for being world-leading.²
4. In addition to those allocations, we are now announcing funding for other providers that specialise in performing arts disciplines. The purpose of this new funding is to enhance the provision of, and access to, performing arts education and training at specialist providers not in receipt of recurrent specialist provider funding, with a particular focus on contemporary music, drama and dance. The funding is available for a five-year period covering academic years 2022-23 to 2026-27 and is separate to the recurrent teaching funding for providers.
5. This initiative seeks to support areas of arts provision at specialist providers that have not been assessed as world-leading by the specialist provider panel (whether or not they made a submission to the panel). The focus on performing arts recognises that:
 - a. The total resource and the total OfS-fundable full-time equivalent student numbers (FTEs) of specialist performing arts providers are less than that of creative arts providers, both in aggregate and on average.³ This means that they have less scope to achieve economies of scale and to cross subsidise from other income sources.
 - b. Performing arts makes a significant contribution to the UK economy.⁴ In particular:
 - i. Performing arts was the largest contributor to employment in the arts and culture industry, responsible for 48,472 jobs in the UK in 2016, or 35 per cent; artistic creation was responsible for approximately 18 per cent of employment in the UK arts and culture industry in 2016 at 25,284 jobs.
 - ii. In 2016, arts and culture businesses contributed approximately £17 billion in turnover to the UK economy: book publishing, performing arts and artistic creation are the three largest categories of activity, accounting for 32, 25 and 17 per cent of turnover respectively in 2016.
 - c. There is evidence from Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) data that the full economic costs for both performing and creative arts provisions are less than the income received, with performing arts having the larger gap.

¹ See: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/world-leading-specialist-provider-funding-outcomes-of-consultation-and-invitation-to-submit/.

² See: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/world-leading-specialist-provider-funding-outcome/.

³ Of providers registered with the OfS in the Approved (fee cap) category, on average specialist performing arts providers have around a quarter of the income and full-time equivalent student numbers of creative arts providers.

⁴ See: <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/research-and-data/contribution-arts-and-culture-industry-uk-economy>.

6. In developing this funding initiative we have had regard to our duties, and in particular to:
 - a. The need to promote quality, and greater choice and opportunities for students, in the provision of higher education by English higher education providers.⁵
 - b. The need to promote equality of opportunity in connection with access to and participation in higher education provided by English higher education providers.
 - c. The need to use the OfS's resources in an efficient, effective and economic way.

Provider eligibility and allocations

7. The eligibility criteria for this funding require that a provider:
 - a. Was registered with the OfS in the Approved (fee cap) category on 1 August 2022, and continues to be so registered since then.
 - b. Meets the criteria for being specialist as set out in 'World-leading specialist provider funding: Outcomes of consultation and invitation to submit' (OfS 2022.11).⁶
 - c. Has a subject specialism that is primarily in the performing arts. Specifically, this requires that more than 50 per cent of its total FTE is covered by CAH25.02 of the Common Aggregation Hierarchy (CAH).⁷
 - d. Does not meet the criteria for being world-leading according to the process set out by OfS 2022.11.⁸
8. Allocations of this initiative funding for eligible providers have been calculated by formula for 2022-23 and those allocations will be provided for a period of five years from the 2022-23 to 2026-27 academic years. The funding formula uses OfS-fundable FTEs averaged for the three years 2019-20 to 2021-22 reported in the Higher Education Students Early Statistics (HESES) survey, but subject to a cap of 500 FTEs. Funding is provided at a uniform rate of grant of £2,000 per FTE (thus capping allocations for any individual provider at £1 million per annum), but subject to a minimum allocation of £300,000.
9. Funding allocations will be paid each year using the same payment profile as applies to recurrent grant. Annual allocations are subject to monitoring of both a provider's continued eligibility for funding and its compliance with the terms and conditions that apply. They will also be subject (as with all OfS grants) to annual confirmation in the light of the OfS's funding settlements and guidance from government.

⁵ Including choice amongst a diverse range of types of provider, higher education courses, and means by which they are provided (for example, full-time or part-time study, distance learning or accelerated courses).

⁶ See: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/world-leading-specialist-provider-funding-outcomes-of-consultation-and-invitation-to-submit/.

⁷ See: www.hesa.ac.uk/support/documentation/hecos/cah.

⁸ This criterion is met by providers that chose not to make submissions to the Specialist Provider Panel, although they were eligible to do so at the time submissions were invited.

Terms and conditions of funding

10. Funding must be used in accordance with the same terms and conditions that apply to recurrent grant for the years in question⁹ and for the following specific purposes:
 - a. To enhance the delivery of teaching and learning to students.
 - b. To develop or enhance partnerships with other higher education providers (nationally or internationally), or with relevant industries that will enhance the experience and opportunities for students in their chosen performing arts subjects, both as they study and to support their careers as graduates.
 - c. To support access to specialist performing arts education from underrepresented groups and students whose participation in higher education might not be possible without additional support. It must not be used to substitute for student finance available through other routes, such as Student Loan Company loans or disabled students' allowances.
 - d. To provide small items of specialist equipment for use by students as part of their course (such as musical instruments, costumes or computing equipment). It must not be used for capital expenditure relating to buildings.
 - e. For such other items of expenditure that will enhance the provision of, and access to, specialist performing arts education and training, subject to the explicit agreement in writing of the OfS.
11. We will undertake annual monitoring of the funding, which we intend to keep light-touch. This monitoring will ask for a narrative about how the funding has been spent in the academic year and the benefits that the funding has brought to the provider's teaching activities and its students. The OfS may also seek further information from a provider in light of any monitoring report it provides. We will write separately to the providers concerned about monitoring requirements, and expect returns for each academic year to be required in the September following the end of each academic year.
12. We will recover funding that is not used within the academic year for the purposes intended. We will also recover funding if the provider fails to respond, to our satisfaction, to requests for information about the provider's use of the funds.

⁹ For 2022-23, set out in www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/terms-and-conditions-of-funding-for-2022-23/.

Annex A: Eligible providers and funding allocations for the 2022-23 academic year

Provider	UKPRN	Initiative funding for specialist performing arts providers for 2022-23
ACM Guildford Limited	10067853	£1,000,000
Backstage Academy (training) Ltd	10036456	£354,000
BIMM Limited	10037544	£1,000,000
Central School of Ballet Charitable Trust Limited (the)	10001264	£300,000
The Chicken Shed Theatre Trust	10001386	£300,000
Court Theatre Training Company Ltd	10034324	£300,000
ICMP Management Limited	10035638	£1,000,000
Lamda Limited	10003758	£359,920
Leeds Conservatoire	10034449	£1,000,000
The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	10003945	£1,000,000
National Centre for Circus Arts	10001444	£300,000
Northern School of Contemporary Dance	10008816	£431,000
Point Blank Limited	10019178	£987,333
Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance	10005378	£300,000
Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance	10005523	£1,000,000
Total		£9,632,253



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