

Disability Statement 2020-21

If you have a disability which makes reading this document or navigating information on our website difficult and you would like to receive information in an alternative format, please contact a member of The Student Journey Team

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1. Statement of Policy

LAMDA welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

This information is for any student whose personal or academic life may be affected in some way by a medical condition, disability, impairment, or specific learning difficulty.

It is our policy to recognise that everyone is an individual, and we will work with you to identify potential barriers to your studying and will do what we can to remove them. We will make any reasonable adjustment to ensure that disabled students can train at LAMDA.

2. Admissions

The LAMDA Admissions process is committed to supporting students with disabilities.

Applicants are encouraged to notify LAMDA on their application if they have a disability, prior to audition/interview. This will allow the Admissions officers to provide suitable facilities and/or reasonable adjustments for audition/interview. If applicants decide not to disclose a disability, this will limit LAMDA's ability to meet their needs throughout the admissions process. However, applicants should be reassured that any information disclosed is irrelevant to the decision of the audition/interview panel.

Having received an offer of an audition/interview, applicants are encouraged to contact the Admissions Manager to provide more details on their disability. Applicants may be invited to visit LAMDA to discuss support arrangements and requirements with the regard to the nature of the disability and availability of support. This information will remain confidential and only released to other staff members with the applicant's permission.

For applicants from non-EU countries or from countries without reciprocal health arrangements with the UK, it is vitally important, if there are medical care needs, to establish prior to arrival, what might be available on the National Health Service (NHS). Such students are encouraged to organise private personal health care plans or insurance policies, to ensure they are able to cover any eventuality.

3. Student Support

The Admissions Manager is available to discuss any issues related to disability. Queries can often be resolved via a telephone call or email. It is strongly advised that a visit to the Academy is the best way to assess the facilities available. Once enrolled on a course, students who disclose a disability will be encouraged to complete a Learning Agreement to ensure they are fully supported in the training.

Financial Assistance

Students in receipt of a funded place under HE can use also use their assessment to apply for the Disabled Students Allowance. This Fund can provide equipment and additional teaching. For full information, please contact the Admissions Manager.

Students not in receipt of funded places can request an assessment from LAMDA to assist during the training but cannot apply for extra help from the Disabled Students Allowance Fund.

This is reviewed on an individual basis and students should discuss their situation with the Admissions Manager.

Medical Support

Students should register with a GP surgery ahead of their training at LAMDA. Students can do this by visiting www.nhs.uk. In addition, LAMDA students are able to access a counselling service and a Physiotherapist. Details for this can be provided by the Admissions Manager.

Dyslexia/Dyspraxia

LAMDA can organise an initial assessment for any student who believes they may be dyslexic/dyspraxic or possess a learning difficulty or has not been assessed since the age of 16. The assessment will determine the level of student support required.

Deaf and Visually Impaired students

Deaf or visually impaired students will be supported on an individual basis, however LAMDA does not employ any full-time specialist support staff. Rather, students are encouraged to make applications through the Disabled Students Allowance and LAMDA will work closely with the student to support the application and employment of support staff.

Health and Safety

Everyone with an identified impairment who would have difficulty evacuating the teaching spaces unaided should ensure that they have a personal safety plan for each of the teaching spaces expected to be used. Please ensure that a personal safety plan is shared with the Facilities Manager who is responsible for fire evacuations.

Everyone attending LAMDA has a responsibility for health and safety and should be aware of the procedures to be followed when the fire alarm sounds. Details of the evacuation procedures for teaching and performance times are available in the student handbook. Contact the Facilities Manager on 020-8834-0508.

Assessments

The nature of the training at LAMDA ensures that the majority of assessment is undertaken through practice. When assessment is required, special arrangements can be made. Arrangements for assessment may be included in the Learning Agreement, all adjustments (if permitted) should be arranged with the Admissions Manager and the assessor.

Personal Student Support and Learning Agreements

LAMDA is committed to supporting the needs of all its students and this includes one to one assistance and guidance. Students who disclose an existing disability or identify learning needs during the course of the training will be offered a learning agreement. The learning agreement is just that, an agreement on the reasonable adjustments that will be made to ensure the student is able to complete the course. Learning agreements are also offered to students who incur an injury which is likely to impede their long-term progress on the course.

Building and Facilities

LAMDA uses several sites in London. 155 Talgarth Road is the base for the Academy, in addition, students on the stage management and technical theatre programme will also be based at the scenic workshop in Bermondsey for some elements of the training. LAMDA would encourage any student with a disability to visit the school prior to entry, to view the premise and discuss any access or other issues before starting the training.

External teaching spaces

Colet House

Colet House is a rented facility next door to the Talgarth Road Site. LAMDA uses three spaces. Currently this facility has limited access to wheelchair users.

4. Monitoring of provision and future development

The make-up of the student cohort is monitored each year and LAMDA continues to welcome applications for all students in line with its Equal Opportunities policy.

With each new cohort of students, a review of the facilities is undertaken to ensure that all students are given the same high standard of training in order to fulfil their potential. Each new disabled student is enabled on an individual level, with the training and facilities arranged to meet their needs. Every effort will be made to arrange the timetable to make full use of accessible facilities to support the training of any disabled students.

Approved By: Academic Board (2019)

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