

Access Agreement

Updated for 2011/12



Context

The Guildhall School of Music & Drama is a major international conservatoire that provides training and education for young performing artists to the highest professional standards and in near-industry conditions. Admission is strictly on ability, following a rigorous audition and/or interview process designed to assess both attainment and potential. The School offers an audition and/or interview to every applicant who is able to meet the minimum entry standards.

In the 2009/10 session there were 756 fte students enrolled at the School, of which 153.5 were in the Drama Department, and the remainder in the Music Department:

Programme	UK/EU	OS
BA Acting (3 years)	67	6
BMus (4 years)	347	17
BA Stage Management and Technical Theatre (3 years)	76	2
Other undergraduate	2	2
Postgraduate Music	180.5	54
Postgraduate Drama	2.5	0
Totals	675	81

Some 72% of UK undergraduate admissions were from state schools (63% in 2007/08). UK admissions represented 76% of the total student population. For the 2009/10 entry, the School considered 3,838 applications for 351 places; an application: enrolment ratio of approximately 11:1.

The Guildhall School is owned, funded and managed by the City of London Corporation but has been designated as a directly-funded HE Institution since 1 August 2006. Therefore, it has received public funding via HEFCE from that date, phased in over four years. As a new entrant to the public sector, 2009/10 was the first year the School had a complete undergraduate cohort funded by HEFCE and is not yet in position to look at HEFCE performance benchmark trends. However, it has good reason to believe that its recruitment and selection procedures make it one of the most inclusive institutions in the conservatoire sector.

Fee policy

Performing arts training is resource intensive and, inevitably, generates some of the highest unit costs in the HE sector. In order to maintain and develop the quality of our provision, and to improve the learning experience for students, the School set its tuition fee for UK and EU undergraduate students entering in and after 2006 at £3,000 per annum (adjusted each year for inflation). The resulting additional fee income is as follows:¹

Year	fte	Additional fee per fte (£)	Total additional fee income (£)	
2006-07	116	1,800	208,800	<i>Actual</i>
2007-08	268	1,845	495,597	<i>Actual</i>
2008-09	337	1,890	636,930	<i>Actual</i>
2009-10	438	1,940	849,700	<i>Forecast</i>
2010-11	438	1,990	871,600	<i>Forecast</i>

Bursary proposals

The School has a long and distinguished record of supporting students throughout their studies through scholarships and bursaries. In 2007-08, about 260 students received support to a total value of £1.067m from the School's own fundraising (rising to £1.088m in 2009/10). The majority of this support is restricted by the terms of the donation, and is awarded on merit in the form of scholarships. In line with sector averages, it is reasonable to expect that some 30% of the scholarships awarded to UK students will be to students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

In order further to strengthen our commitment to supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds throughout their studies, and thereby maximising their chances of success, the School introduced a new bursary scheme for UK undergraduates commencing their studies in and after 2006-07, called the Guildhall Bursary Scheme. **The value of the bursaries is equivalent to 50% of the value of the English maintenance grant.** However, in order to ensure that all UK undergraduate students are treated equally, the method of calculation is based on the household income thresholds and criteria of the English maintenance grant in each year and the value of the bursary is 50% of the amount that this calculation produces.

¹ The fee of £3,000 pa for 2006-07 was in fact a reduction on the School's 2005-06 fee of £4,250 which was met by the DfES. This form of fee support is being phased out from 2006-07. Since the resulting funding shortfall is largely covered by the HEFCE teaching grant, we have calculated the notional additional fee income on the same basis as for the rest of the sector, i.e. our proposed fee minus the standard fee (in 2006-07, £3,000-£1,200=£1,800) per head for all contracted undergraduate ftes. Confirmed fee levels have been used for 2006-07 to 2008-09, and inflation has been assumed at 2.5% for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

By way of examples:

(1) A UK undergraduate student who commenced his/her studies in 2008/09 and whose household income was up to £25,000 received a bursary of £1,417.50 (this being 50% of the maximum English maintenance grant of £2,835).

(2) A continuing student in 2008-09 received a bursary of £1,417.50 if his/her household income is up to £18,360.

(3) A continuing student in 2008-09 with household income of £25,000 was eligible for a partial maintenance grant, and received 50% of the value of that grant from the Guildhall Bursary Scheme.

In all cases, the grant from the Guildhall Bursary Scheme includes the School's statutory minimum contribution.

The School administers the bursary through the Higher Education Bursary and Scholarship scheme. The estimated cost of the bursary scheme, and the proportion of additional fee income committed, is set out below:²

Year	Additional income (£)	Estimated cost of bursary scheme (£)	Bursary cost as proportion of additional fee income (%)	
2006-07	208,800	25,100	12.0	<i>Actual</i>
2007-08	495,597	65,117	13.1	<i>Actual</i>
2008-09	636,930	93,612	14.7	<i>Actual</i>
2009-10	849,700	119,800	14.1	<i>Forecast</i>
2010-11	871,600	132,700	15.2	<i>Forecast</i>

Outreach

The Guildhall School has an excellent record on outreach stretching back over several decades. Junior Guildhall provides high-quality instrumental and drama teaching to some 400 young people of school age, many of whom go on to study at a conservatoire and to enter the profession. The School also has a well-established music leadership programme which is a compulsory part of the undergraduate music curriculum and which delivers instrumental workshops in schools and communities across the UK and internationally. This work is now managed and delivered under the umbrella title 'Guildhall Connect' and was awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2005. A summary of recent projects (2008-09) is given in Appendix A.

As part of our commitment to embedding this work into the mainstream activities of the School, we are investing a proportion of the additional fee income from

² For the purposes of estimating the cost, we have used the actual figures for the first two years of the scheme and assumed the same eligibility ratios in years three, four and five. The additional costs resulting from the threshold increases is phased in from 2008-09 onwards, with inflation assumed at 2.5%.

2006 onwards in two new established posts in the relevant department - a Deputy Head of Professional Development (60%) and a fulltime Connect Project Manager. These posts enable Guildhall Connect to extend its work to other parts of the UK, including Teesside, the east of England (in partnership with Arts Council England), the south west, and overseas (in partnership with the British Council), and to introduce monthly sessions of one-to-one tuition and small group workshops in the School. We also plan to commit some £15,000 pa from 2008/09 to developing a young professional apprenticeship scheme. The combined cost of these initiatives is estimated at £103,000 in 2008-09 and rises with inflation. This increases the proportion of our additional income committed as follows:

Year	Additional income (£)	Estimated cost of bursary scheme (£)	Estimated cost of additional outreach support (£)	Total additional commitment (£)	Proportion (%)
2006-07	208,800	25,100	83,800	108,900	52.2
2007-08	495,597	65,117	88,243	153,360	30.9
2008-09	636,930	93,612	100,006	193,618	30.4
2009-10	849,700	119,800	105,200	225,000	26.5
2010-11	871,600	132,700	107,500	240,200	27.6

In addition, the School has broadened its portfolio of summer schools, starting in 2006. The School has hosted a jazz summer school for many years, and, following a review of its management and ownership, we have raised its profile and embedded it more centrally into the work of the Guildhall School. From the summer of 2006, we have run two new drama summer schools, one in Shakespeare and Contemporary Theatre, and one in Musical Theatre.

Milestones

The position in music and drama is not symmetrical, and different considerations apply to each discipline. In the case of music, successive governments have severely reduced the amount of instrumental tuition available to young people at state schools, and it would be foolish to suppose that the measures outlined in this access agreement will produce a rapid increase in admissions to music from under-represented groups: exceptional talent is by definition a rare commodity, and to attain the level of proficiency required to enter a conservatoire requires many years of intensive training from a very young age. Although government announcements in 2007 on instrumental tuition in state schools were encouraging, we still clearly face a long haul. The position in drama, particularly in acting, where previous training is not a major factor in the success of an application, gives much less cause for concern.

Given that admission to the School is determined strictly by ability, we believe that it is more rational to set milestones in terms of activity than to predict outcomes: it would be wrong to imply that the socio-economic profile of students could in any way constitute an input to the admissions process. Our milestones are therefore aimed at a) raising aspiration and removing obstacles to application from under-represented groups and b) ensuring that, as far as possible, no student who has

received an offer of a place is prevented from taking up that place for financial reasons. We therefore see three broad phases of development which we are undertaking from 2006- 2011.

- a) we are embedding the musical outreach programmes outlined above into the mainstream activities of the School by shifting the balance of funding away from short-term 'soft' money into longer-term recurrent funding, an example of which are the two additional posts and the apprenticeship scheme mentioned above. While we would expect this to produce some increase in the underlying baseline of our activities, the principal benefit is to provide greater continuity and progression for young people on *Guildhall Connect* programmes;
- b) we have embedded the jazz summer school into the mainstream activities of the School and introduced two new drama summer schools in 2006. Once the School becomes eligible to join an Aimhigher partnership and to receive funding via this route, we will seek additional ways of extending outreach work in the field of drama and technical theatre;
- c) since 2009/10 was the first year the School had a complete undergraduate cohort funded by HEFCE and has not been in position to look at HEFCE performance benchmark trends, we will, in the interim, generate our own participation measures using, as far as possible, comparative data available from the public domain. We will study the implications of our performance against them and review what areas, if any, require improvement. We will then devise a strategy for delivering any necessary improvements.

Communication

We keep our means of communication with prospective students under constant review and overhauled our website in 2005 to improve the quality of information available to prospective students. The website has since been reviewed and updated and is due to be re-launched at the end of 2010. We use all forms of printed and electronic media – prospectus, web and information sheets for those coming for audition and open days – to advise prospective students of the full cost of their programme, the full range of financial and other support available to them from the School and elsewhere, and indicative costs of living and studying in Central London. This range of information is also made available to participants on outreach programmes and summer schools.

Monitoring

The School's Executive Directorate team will continue to receive regular reports on a range of performance indicators, and an annual report on the implementation of the agreement is made to the Board of Governors for onward transmission to the Office of Fair Access.

Revised December 2007

Factual amendments November 2010

Appendix A – Guildhall Connect Projects 2008-09

Autumn Term 2008/09

Date	Detail	Venue	Numbers involved
Sept – Dec 08	THAMES - a series of creative music projects in Tower Hamlets primary Schools, 8-10 yr olds – ranging from day long workshops to 5 week projects.	Tower Hamlets Schools	900
Sept 08 – Mar 09	ARC – weekly music classes to all year 7 students	Brixton	200
Sept 08- Mar 09	Operahouse – Earthworks 2 Guildhall students assisted on a Schools project bringing together 3 Redbridge primary schools on a composition project	Redbridge	150
Sept 08- Mar 09	Barking and Dagenham project Weekly after school creative music sessions for age 12-16	B&D music service	20
Sept 08 – Jul 09	Morpeth School Band project Weekly after school creative music sessions for age 9-14	Morpeth School	20
Sept 08 – Jul 09	Hospital Workshops (8 sessions each term) Guildhall students visit the children’s ward and geriatrics ward with one of our tutors to play to patients	Whipps Cross Hospital, Walthamstow	200
Sept 08 – Jul 09	Hospital Workshops (8 sessions each term) Guildhall students visit the children’s ward with one of our tutors	University College Hospital, Euston Rd	200
Sept 08-Jul 09	Connect ‘Urban Sounds’ apprenticeship 3 young people who have been involved in Connect in recent years were put on an apprenticeship to assist on the World in Motion and Future Band projects in 2008-2009	Guildhall/Morpeth School	3
Oct/Nov	World in Motion recruitment sessions 15 school workshops in primary & secondary in East London to recruit for the World in Motion ensemble projects held by the Guildhall School	Various schools	450
Nov/Dev	India Project – British Council Guildhall graduates went to work with organisations in schools in Calcutta and Mumbai leading creative music projects for children and adults	Calcutta/Mumbai	200
Thurs 16 Oct	Chamber Tots Guildhall chamber groups perform to parents and toddlers (age 2-5) in the Wigmore Hall followed by a workshop	Wigmore Hall	1500

Date	Detail	Venue	Numbers involved
29-31 Oct	World in Motion & Danillo Perez A project set up with Serious for the World in Motion ensemble (age 8-14) to work with Panamanian jazz pianist, Danilo Perez. Performance on Barbican freestage before Danilo Perez's performance.	Guildhall School	35
Nov 29/30	Creative weekend World in Motion – taster workshops for children who took part in the World in Motion school recruitment sessions	Guildhall School	25

Spring term 2008/09

Date	Detail	Venue	Numbers involved
Jan – Apr	Creative Partnerships – Marner Primary School – Extended projects with 3 year groups (4-9 years) over one term	Marner School	180
Tues 13 Jan – 12 Feb	Globetown – a 5 week project involving 5 schools from Tower Hamlets – Morpeth secondary school and its 4 primary feeder schools (9-16yr olds). Guildhall postgraduate students visit schools lead by two tutors. Final performance in the Guildhall School.	Globe, Bonner, Bangabandu, John Scurr & Morpeth School	300
Sundays 24/1, 1/3 8/3, 22/3	Connect Clinics. We had four pilot clinics which gave participants age 8-16 on our Connect projects the opportunity to have lessons with some Guildhall students focussing on technique. Young apprentice supported Guildhall students	Guildhall School	80
Feb – Apr	Soundtracks – film and music project in association with the Barbican. School workshops (11-16yr olds) followed by a 4 day project. Funded by the CoL LAA.	Various	100 per year for 3 years
21/22 Feb	Urban Sounds Project – Creative music ensemble made up of 10-16 yr olds from East London which meets during school holidays involving Guildhall students.	Guildhall School	35
16-20 Feb	World in motion project– South America – Creative music ensemble made up of 8-14yr olds from East London which meets during school holidays involving Guildhall students.	Guildhall School	35

Date	Detail	Venue	Numbers involved
28 Feb – 3 March	Reflective Conservatoire Connect performance made up of Barking & Dagenham, THAMES, Hertfordshire + Junior GSMD age 8-18yrs	Guildhall School	10
March 09	Performance Matters placements – All year 1 students did half day visits to primary schools		300
19 Mar – 19 Apr	Brazil Research trip – delivered workshops to Undergraduate students in Minas Gerais, Maringa and Brazilia, and work with young people on social – ages of participants 7-24	Brazil	300
9 Apr – 1 May	South America – Barbican Collaboration – World in Motion Drumming	South America	200
6-9 April	World in motion project – UK sounds Creative music ensemble made up of 8-14yr olds from East London which meets during school holidays involving Guildhall students.	Guildhall School	35
14-16 April	Urban Sounds Project – Creative music ensemble made up of 10-16 yr olds from East London which meets during school holidays involving Guildhall students.	Guildhall School	35

Summer 2008/09

Date	Detail	Venue	Numbers involved
26-29 May	World in motion project – Wolof/the Gambia Creative music ensemble made up of 8-14yr olds from East London which meets during school holidays involving Guildhall students.	Morpeth School	35
26 – 28 May	Urban Sounds project – Creative music ensemble made up of 10-16 yr olds from East London which meets during school holidays involving Guildhall students.	Morpeth School	35
27/28 June	Urban Sounds project – Creative music ensemble made up of 10-16 yr olds from East London which meets during school holidays involving Guildhall students.	Guildhall School	35
27/28 June TBC	World in motion project Creative music ensemble made up of 8-14yr olds from East London which meets during school holidays involving Guildhall students.	Guildhall School	35

Date	Detail	Venue	Numbers involved
24 Jun – 3 Jul	Internship – work experience (young apprentice)	Guildhall School	1
July 1	Connect LSO showcase A performance featuring Connect creative music ensembles involving Guildhall tutors and students – the concert is aimed at young people from London Schools.	Barbican Concert Hall	200
4-6 Aug	Whipps Cross summer project Guildhall students visit the children’s (mixed age groups) ward with one of our tutors	Whipps Cross	20
3 – 7 August	Connect Project – Creative music ensemble made up of 10-16 yr olds from East London which meets during school holidays involving Guildhall students.	Sundial	40