Bird College
Conservatoire for dance and musical theatre

where performance counts

Entry 2025

This booklet is intended to provide an indication of the opportunities available at Bird College.

Updates to course fees and funding information will be made throughout the year – these will be announced on the College website.

Rated 'Outstanding' in all areas

Ofsted Report February 2024

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE FOR OVER 75 YEARS

birdcollege.co.uk

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Dear Applicant

This leaflet contains details on all the courses available but should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact the Registry Office.

For a large print version of this document call:

020 8300 6004

In partnership with

UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH
London | Kent

TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON
Validated Course Provider 5371

Bird College is an accredited provider of the **Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre**

Founder
Doreen Bird
MA, FISTD, ARAD

Principal and CEO
Christopher Costigan
LLB (Hons), LLM, Barrister, FHEA, FCG

Deputy Principal
Jamieson Dryburgh
PhD, BA (Hons), PGCHE, PFHEA

Bird
Our approach

This college is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. To request a copy of our policy please email: kerensa.gardner@birdcollege.co.uk

The mission of Bird College is to preserve and build upon its reputation for excellence as a leading and unique provider of vocational education and training in dance, music and theatre performance.

Where Performance Counts

Our Vision
The number one destination for all aspiring professional dance and musical theatre artists.

Our Mission
Deliver outstanding and innovative education and training, an evolving and progressive environment, to equip the next generation of global performers and creative artists.

Our Values (Guiding Principles)
Educate – train, motivate and innovate.

Nurture – sustain an environment that is supportive, equitable, diverse, and inclusive.

Create – develop technical excellence, respect for the craft and each other.

Inspire – foster artistic talent, resilience, and employability.

The College's premises are accessible to all users, and the College works hard to continue to improve its facilities. The College will adjust the timetable to ensure that all candidates successful at audition can benefit from the training in premises that meet their needs.

The College's Access and Inclusion Committee monitors accessibility in all its forms. An independent organisation undertakes an annual Health and Safety check, and the College's Health and Safety Committee monitors premises regularly.

Where performance counts

Bird College is an outstanding Dance and Musical Theatre Conservatoire, offering multidisciplinary courses to a diverse international student body. Our emphasis is on student centred learning with bespoke programmes to enable young performers to identify and develop their individual set of specialised skills.

Our facilities allow students to train in a well equipped environment. The College's location, on the south-east edge of London, is within easy reach of the city centre, providing a wealth of opportunities for research, cultural activities and performance experience.

The quality of training that we offer is demonstrated by the exciting achievements of our graduates, who build successful careers in a wide range of dance and theatre disciplines.

We offer all applicants an audition, where you can begin to understand more fully the unique Bird College experience.

Guiding your development

Bird College has an exceptional faculty of staff with a unique breadth of experience in the theatre industry. Importantly, that experience is combined with excellent professional qualifications; our students regularly achieve a 100% pass rate. Students are also taught by a team of visiting lecturers and guest choreographers, many of whom are ex-students of Bird College, who have gained international reputations in their specialist field.

Performance opportunities in theatre, television and cabaret are managed through the Bird Agency. This professional theatre agency is registered with the Department of Employment and guides graduate students in their careers after leaving the College. Bird College has an outstanding national and international reputation with graduates having leading roles on stage and screen as well as the West End, Broadway and beyond.

About admission

Applicants for the BA (Hons) Professional Dance and Musical Theatre should normally be eighteen years of age before September 1st of the enrolment year and have achieved the academic qualifications, or the equivalent, required for entry to university. Applicants for the Pre-Professional Foundation Year should normally be eighteen before September 1st of the enrolment year.
Candidates for all courses are normally expected to have received some prior dance training, ideally to Intermediate 1 standard, and must be successful in the College audition which assesses potential skills in dance, singing and drama, as well as suitability for a career in the theatre profession.

Bird College aims to recruit the best possible students, assessed at audition solely on the basis of talent and aptitude. The College does not discriminate against applicants on the grounds of sex, disability, ethnicity, religion or sexuality. We welcome applications from disabled people and offer places on the basis of potential and suitability to enter the profession. For those with a special need, we strongly advise that you alert our Registrar to this at the point of application. This will allow us to arrange to meet this need at audition and adapt our programmes accordingly should you be successful in gaining a place.

Accommodation for students

Aged 18+
Students are able to reside at University of Greenwich Halls of Residence at the Avery Hill Campus. This is approximately two miles from the college. Details of types of accommodation available can be found at: *gre.ac.uk/accommodation/accommodation-at-avery-hill*

The College works in close affiliation with local landlords and have acquired 5 blocks of apartments specifically for Bird students. Students also have the option to rent a room in a house/flat with other students via local estate agents, of which there are plenty in the local area.

Extra curriculum

Diploma in Dance Education (DDE)
Students have the opportunity to take the Level 4 ISTD teaching qualification in Tap, Ballet and Modern. These are available during college holidays for an additional cost.

Website
Please visit the website for information on performances, short courses, audition dates and open days.

birdcollege.co.uk

BA (Hons) in Professional Dance and Musical Theatre

This course is validated by the University of Greenwich and is designed to offer students the chance to develop high levels of performance skills. Students engage with a range of dance disciplines, as well as the closely related genres of musical theatre and acting. This is set within the context of a demanding programme of academic study. This approach aims to relate theory to practice, informing the development of the artist's personal vision, and enhancing lifelong skills and employment opportunities within the professional world.

Throughout the three years, students are encouraged to be versatile and to critically appraise their own performance as they grow in confidence and maturity. During the final year, students engage in a variety of performance work and in a research project, culminating in a dissertation which can combine practical and written work.

The College is justifiably proud of the success of past students, tracking and recording their career development and celebrating their success.

Validated by the University of Greenwich.

Accredited by Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT).

Length of course 3 years full time

Entry age 18+

Entry requirements Entry is by audition and interview with a minimum 64 UCAS points at A level; with a minimum of 2 x Grade 'C's at A2 level or equivalent for other qualifications.

Current fees £9,535 per year. UK students are eligible to apply for a student loan.

EU, EEA, Swiss and International Students
The College offers sponsorships of Student Visas. Auditions can be submitted via video or face-to-face. Please contact the registry office for further information and refer to the following links for details on fees, studying in the UK and Student Visas.

gov.uk/student-visa

gov.uk/student-visa/knowledge-of-english

gre.ac.uk/finance/fees

gre.ac.uk/finance/funding-your-studies/scholarships-and-bursaries

Overseas applicants for whom English is not a first language will need to have achieved a minimum score of 6.5 in an Academic IELTS exam for UKVI or equivalent, this is required to generate a CAS number. Whilst the most common test route to take is the Academic IELTS exam for UKVI, there are other Secure English Language Tests (SELT) that applicants can take, this link should provide all the necessary information for the English Language Requirements:

gov.uk/student-visa/knowledge-of-english

Applicants should contact their local British Council office for further details.

Audition fee £45

Closing date for applications
31 January 2025
(for September 2025 entry).

Pre-Professional Foundation Year in Dance and Theatre Performance

A practical, performance-based programme that helps students who have the potential for full time vocational training but not yet the necessary technical standard required for entry. Students participate in daily classes for ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, singing, acting and musical theatre, in order to equip the individual with the wide range of skills they will need.

Students will also be coached for their vocational auditions, covering topics such as suitability of song, dance and monologue, interview techniques, photographs and application forms. A lecture programme will address issues concerning the healthy dancer/performer.

On successful completion of the course, graduates will automatically be given a free audition for Bird College's BA (Hons) in Professional Dance and Musical Theatre. Developmental advice is provided throughout the course, together with guidance on suitability of other vocational colleges.

Length of course 1 year full time

Entry age 18+

Entry requirements Entry is by audition and interview

Current fees £9,535 per year

Purpose of the course For talented students who have potential for full time vocational training but who have not yet achieved the necessary technical standard for entry onto a 3 year programme. This course offers students the opportunity to study and improve their technique through participation in Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Contemporary, Singing and Acting classes, along with Musical Theatre workshops.

Audition fee £45

Closing date for applications
31 January 2025
(for September 2025 entry).

Please note that under the UKVI regulations we are not able to accept onto this course any International/EU/EEA/Swiss students that require a Student Visa to study in the UK.

Contact

For help, advice or further information, please email by choosing one of these contacts:

Registry, Auditions and Admissions
Tanya Lorenzotti
tanya.lorenzotti@birdcollege.co.uk

Open Days
Kathryn Ledger
kathryn.ledger@birdcollege.co.uk

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