

PLAYING UP COMPANY COURSE GUIDE

What is the National Youth Theatre's Playing Up Company Course & How do I apply?

Playing Up is an OCN Level 3 accredited nine month drama training programme, offering young people aged 19 - 24 who are not in Education Employment or Training the opportunity to gain an Access to Higher Education Diploma in Theatre Arts, which is equivalent to 2 'A' Levels.

Find out when and how to apply [here](#).

Please see [here](#) for more details on the Access to HE Diploma in Theatre Arts.

Am I eligible?

- For 19–24 year olds
- Not in full-time education, employment or training
- Open to both NYT members and non-members

Am I eligible for a free place?

Places are available to NYT members and non- members. You are eligible for a FREE place if you are:

- 19 – 23 year olds (you must be 19 or over on 31st August 2021) **AND** you do not yet hold a full level 3 qualification.

Priority is given to those who fulfil the criteria above. Enrolment for those that are 24 years old on 31st August 2021 or who already hold a full level 3 qualification is still possible. However students in this position would need to obtain a Student Finance Advance Learner Loan to undertake the course. This loan may be written off if the person completes a HE qualification that is eligible for student finance. For more information on whether this applies to you please contact simone.waller@nyt.org.uk or emily.doherty@nyt.org.uk. Throughout the course participants receive a travel bursary of up to £5 per day, free theatre tickets, pastoral and academic support and help applying for higher education.

When and where is the course?

This course runs part time over 450 contact hours for 9 months October 2021 – July 2022. The course builds in intensity starting with 2 days a week from October – April and then moving to 3 days a week until July when the course runs full time for 5 weeks.

How many people take part?

The Playing Up Company is made up of 26 members

What should I expect during the Playing Up Company Course?

The course is highly practical and is taught vocationally by industry professionals. It focuses on performance skills such as movement, voice, naturalism, improvisation, audition technique, scene study and acting for screen. At the end of the course there is a graduation performance which has a four-day run at a professional London venue.

There is also an academic element to the course which is embedded within the practical delivery; this allows students to explore their own learning preferences. There are units in

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reading and understanding of texts, speaking and listening skills, notetaking and note making, the history of theatre, diversity and performance and each student undertakes an extended research project in an area they are interested in.

Pastoral and academic support is available both through the Playing Up course assistant and through our FE Provider, study groups are also offered in the evenings once a week.

What happens after the course?

During the course we support applications to UCAS for University and Drama school and many of our past students have gone onto great places, including LAMDA, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, RADA, Arts Educational School, Drama Centre, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Rose Bruford Drama School, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and London Metropolitan University.

Following this unique 9-month programme Playing Up students that are not already NYT members, receive a bursary place on one of the NYT summer Schools, this results in NYT membership.

Many graduates go on to pursue a career in theatre, and continue their training either within the industry, drama schools, Universities or with the NYT REP Company.

Can I apply for a bursary?

Throughout the course all participants that require travel support will receive a travel bursary designed to support their travel to classes. We are able to offer support of up to £5 per day per student for each day attended – this is usually provided on a designated Oyster Card which is allocated to each student and is topped up at the start of each week.

In addition, we provide free theatre tickets, free workshops with drama schools, free drama school auditions to certain schools and we cover the costs of applying for higher education through UCAS.

There are no further NYT bursaries to assist with living or accommodation costs at this time. However, as a student in Further Education participants are able to apply for 'hardship', 'travel' and 'childcare' grants / support through our FE provider once enrolled if they fulfil certain criteria.

Can I claim Universal Credit whilst taking part in Playing Up?

You cannot claim Universal Credit unless you are in one of the groups below.

Similarly, if you are already claiming Universal Credit and you become a student, you will not be able to continue to get Universal Credit unless you:

- are responsible for a child
- are ill/disabled. You must have limited capability for work (assessed by the DWP) and also get disability living allowance (DLA) or personal independence payment (PIP)
- are a single foster parent (this includes some single kinship carers)

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- are under 21 (or are 21 but were under that age when you started your course) on a full-time non-advanced course and are estranged from your parents or living away from them in other specified circumstances
- have taken time out because of illness/disability or caring responsibilities and have now recovered or your caring responsibilities have ended, and you are not eligible for a grant or loan; or
- have a partner who is not a student, or who is a student and one or both of you fit into one of the groups above.

For more information about Playing Up please get in touch with Simone Waller, or Emily Doherty, Playing Up Managers on simone.waller@nyt.org.uk or emily.doherty@nyt.org.uk.