



Conservatoire for Dance and Drama

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# Information for Care Leavers and Estranged Students

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Bristol Old Vic  
Theatre School



**LAMDA**



London Contemporary  
Dance School

**national centre  
for circus arts**



Northern School of  
Contemporary Dance

**RAMBERT  
SCHOOL**

**RADA**

# Support for care leavers and estranged students

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The Conservatoire for Dance and Drama is committed to helping all students fulfil their full potential while studying with us, regardless of background. Starting Higher Education can be an exciting time in your life, but even the most confident students can also feel daunted when they first start. We understand that for young people who are leaving care or who aren't in contact with their parents, there will be many extra practical considerations to think about when making the transition to Higher Education. For this reason, we have put in place services to make this transition easier, and to support you throughout your studies.

The Conservatoire for Dance and Drama is a group of small, specialist performing arts schools. Studying at a Conservatoire school differs from studying at a typical university; student numbers are much smaller and contact hours far greater, meaning you will interact with staff and your fellow students constantly throughout the day. In addition to a more personal learning experience, all of our schools offer extra support such as counselling, medical support, dyslexia support, and financial planning support to help you make the most of your time with us.

## Accommodation

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While the Conservatoire does not offer halls of residence accommodation, each school is able to offer assistance to students in seeking out and obtaining suitable year-round accommodation.

## What financial help do we offer?\*

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When coming to train at a Conservatoire school, there is a tick-box on the enrolment form asking if you have spent any time in care or are estranged from your parents. Ticking this box just lets us know that you may be in need of some extra support. Not all students will want or need extra support, but it can be reassuring to know it is there if you wish to access it. Ticking this box also enables us to identify students who are eligible for a non-repayable Conservatoire Bursary of £1,000 per year of study, in addition to any other financial assistance.

This bursary is available to eligible UK/EU students on undergraduate higher education courses (these are Foundation Degree or BA (Hons) courses).

You can also apply for this bursary at any point during the academic year. Simply get in touch with Gloria Price, Student Finance Coordinator, at the Conservatoire office by emailing [gloria.price@cdd.ac.uk](mailto:gloria.price@cdd.ac.uk) or calling **020 8150 5508**. Normally you will be asked to evidence your eligibility for the bursary by supplying a letter from a responsible adult who can verify your situation, for example a teacher, counsellor or support worker.

## What other financial help is available?

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### **LEA Support**

If you are a care leaver under 25 and entering a HE course of two years or more, you may be entitled to a one-off grant of £2000 from the local authority that looked after you. This should happen automatically, but if it doesn't you can ask us for help in sorting it out.

### **The Frank Buttle Grant Scheme for Students and Trainees**

For eligible young people aged 16-20, this scheme can provide money to help with living costs such as rent, food, clothing, transport, books and materials needed for your course, which you will not have to pay back. More information about the scheme can be found here:

[www.buttleuk.org](http://www.buttleuk.org)

### **The Care Leavers' Foundation Trust Fund**

For small grants to help with personal development needs, crisis payments, education, training or employment needs, you may make an application to this fund. More information can be found here:

[www.thecareleaversfoundation.org](http://www.thecareleaversfoundation.org)

*\*This information was accurate at the time of publication (November 2018). Please check directly with the organisations for updated information or visit:*

[www.cdd.ac.uk/students/](http://www.cdd.ac.uk/students/)

## Useful websites

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| Care Leavers Association:                  | <a href="http://www.careleavers.com">www.careleavers.com</a>               |
| A National Voice:                          | <a href="http://www.anationalvoice.org">www.anationalvoice.org</a>         |
| National Youth Advocacy Unit:              | <a href="http://www.nyas.net">www.nyas.net</a>                             |
| Student Finance:                           | <a href="http://www.gov.uk/student-finance">www.gov.uk/student-finance</a> |
| Frank Buttle Trust:                        | <a href="http://www.buttleuk.org">www.buttleuk.org</a>                     |
| The National Care Advisory Service (NCAS): | <a href="http://www.leavingcare.org">www.leavingcare.org</a>               |

## Contact us

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For general enquires you may wish to contact the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama office on 020 7387 5101, email us at: [gloria.price@cdd.ac.uk](mailto:gloria.price@cdd.ac.uk), or write to us at: Conservatoire for Dance and Drama, Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JJ.

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 [theconservatoire](#) [www.cdd.ac.uk](http://www.cdd.ac.uk)