

Dance Audition and Interview Guidelines

UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts September 2026 entry

Thank you for applying to join our **Dance** course for September 2026. We understand that you may be as nervous as you are excited and want to make sure that you feel that you are able to present yourself and your work to the best of your ability. These guidelines are intended to help you prepare effectively, give you some information about what to expect on the day, and explain what happens next in the application process. Please read through them carefully, and do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions that aren't answered here.

We want to make sure that our applications process is accessible to everyone and will make reasonable adjustments if you have a disability or requirement. If you have any questions about this, please contact Julie at admissions@lipasixthformcollege.org or call us on 0151 330 3232. This information can be made available in other formats – please let us know about any specific needs you have.

Any questions?

We wish you the best of luck and hope you enjoy your day with us. In the meantime, if you need any further information about any aspect of the audition and interview process, please contact Julie at admissions@lipasixthformcollege.org or call us on 0151 330 3232.

Overview

Your audition and interview are intended to enable you to present yourself and your work in the best possible way. We understand how much you care about your work and how nerves inevitably play a part on such occasions, so we encourage you to view the day as a learning opportunity, both with the panel and with fellow candidates. Regardless of the outcome, there is much you can learn about yourself and your work from a day like this. The audition and interview schedule for Dance is as follows:

Arrival and registration

Session A

Dance Techniques

This session will give you an idea of how it would feel to be in class as part of LIPA Sixth Form College should you be offered a place with us and allows us to assess how you engage with the dance techniques learning process. This class will cover two styles of dance - Contemporary Dance plus either Jazz or Street/Commercial dance styles. There is no need to prepare for this, but please make sure you engage with the activities fully.

Session B

Audition and interview

During this time, you will be allocated a slot to present your prepared audition piece and to have a short interview. You will present your audition piece individually before a small panel, followed by an individual interview to allow for the panel to ask further questions. Each candidate will have 10-

15 minutes in total. You can use the rest of the time productively in meeting other candidates and sharing experiences of performing arts and performances.

Please note: We will confirm audition and interview timings when you arrive to register for your audition and interview.

Your audition

You are asked to either:

- a) Perform a dance piece of your own creation, prepared in advance - two minutes is the target and no more than three minutes maximum OR
- b) Perform a dance piece you have performed before - again, two minutes is the target and no more than three minutes maximum. This can be in any style and should be one that is most comfortable to you.

You may select an appropriate piece of music to dance to OR you may, if preferred, perform without accompaniment. (We will have a playback system but cannot guarantee that appropriate connections can be made to all devices, so as a precaution, you may wish to bring your own playback device plus a connector to link to our amp system). Remember preparation is everything for auditions and is the best help against inevitable nervousness. Also remember that we are not looking for excellence of choreography or finished performing skill, but your ability to express yourself in your work.

Tips to help you prepare for your audition

If you are creating your own piece:

- Consider the style of dance that will allow you to demonstrate both your existing skill and your potential – a style that you feel comfortable with, yet which excites you and which you feel enables you to speak to your audience will help you perform to the best of your ability.
- Consider the importance of a beginning, a middle and an end to your piece, and how your performance flows.

If you are choosing a piece you have performed before:

- Choose a piece that you find exciting, challenging and engaging, and – most importantly – that is informed by your own experience. This will help you to make an emotional and creative connection with the audience.

Whichever piece you decide to perform:

- If you can practice performing to a friend or teacher, it will help your imagination to develop your approach to the piece.
- Practise your piece in a dance studio if possible, as you will be performing on a sprung floor in your audition.
- Think about your use of space.
- Choose movements and techniques that highlight your strengths.

- Don't try and copy a particular dancer or their style – use your own movements, your own imagination and your own emotions to find your own, unique way of delivering the piece. A friend or teacher can let you know if you are conveying what you want to in a way that is true to yourself.

Your interview

Your interview will have three questions as follows:

Question 1 refers to your audition piece:

- Why did you choose this work to present?
- How did you go about working on it?
- How do you think it went today and what can you learn from it?

Question 2 - What's your ambition?

Question 3 - How will coming to LIPA Sixth Form College help you to achieve this?

We have provided these questions so that you have time to think about what you want to say in advance. We want you to have the opportunity to speak honestly about yourself and your work.

Tips to help you prepare for your interview

Make some notes about each of the questions to help you shape your thoughts and responses – by doing this over a period of time, you may find that new ideas occur to you and that you can add to your possible answers the more you think about them.

- As with your application form, think about what makes you different – you may have wanted to be a dancer since you were a small child, but what makes you stand out from everyone else? Why would studying at LIPA Sixth Form College - rather than elsewhere - set you on the path to achieving your dream? What are you looking for by applying to us, and how do you think we can help you?
- What can you bring to your studies, and to us as a college, if you were offered a place? Think about all the different ways in which you could make the most of the opportunity – not just in the dance studio, but outside.
- Practice answering the questions in front of a mirror, or with a friend or teacher who you can trust to give you honest, useful feedback. The more you practice what you want to say, the easier it will be to speak naturally and with confidence on the day itself.
- Look again at the information you put on your application form, and make sure you can talk about it if asked to - being able to talk confidently about things you've done or seen will help you to be more natural and 'yourself' in an interview.
- Above all, relax and enjoy the experience – we want to know about you, and only you can tell us that.

What to wear

Please ensure you are dressed in appropriate dancewear which allows you to move freely and which will enable the panel to see your movements clearly - e.g., leggings and a leotard or T-Shirt. Long

hair will need to be tied back. Please remove all jewellery and also bring appropriate dance footwear, including trainers for commercial elements of the group workshop.

What happens next?

The panel will consider all four elements of your application together - your audition, your interview, your contribution within the group workshop, and the information on your application form (including your predicted GCSE grades). They will reach a decision regarding your application collectively.

You will receive a decision email from us in March 2026 which will state the outcome of your audition and interview.