



Bachelor (Hons) in Acting and Foundation Diploma in Acting & Theatre Admissions Procedures and Policies

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Application Requirements, Assessment and Process

Please ensure you have familiarised yourself with our admissions procedure before submitting your application. All questions can be directed to admissions@thelir.ie

A candidate must be 17 or over **by September 2027** to be eligible to apply.

All eligible candidates who apply before the closing date for applications (1st February) will be invited for the first stage of the auditions process.

To apply for to The Lir, National Academy of Dramatic Art at Trinity College Dublin, you must fill out and submit the online application form available on the course webpage. Please bear in mind that we use the same application form for both the **Bachelor (Hons) Acting** and **Foundation Diploma in Acting & Theatre**. You may choose to apply for one or both courses at that stage.

There are three pathways for applicants applying to our Acting courses: applying for both courses or applying exclusively to one or the other.

At the point of application, we do not require the submission of any physical or digital copies of applicants' school results, certificates or other related documentation. These will only be requested at the point of an offer to the course, in late April.

At the end of this document applicants can see a step-by-step decision tree to see the different paths applicants will follow from the first audition when applying to both programmes.

Bachelor (Hons) in Acting

- Applicant attends 1st Round Audition (November – February)
- If successful, applicant is invited to the 2nd Round Audition – Half-Day, Group Workshop (March)
- If passing the 2nd Round Audition, applicant is invited to attend the 3rd and Final Round Audition – Full-Day Workshop (end of April)

Foundation Diploma in Acting and Theatre

- Applicant attends 1st Round Audition (November – February)
- If successful, applicant is invited to attend the Final Round Audition – Half-Day, Group Workshop (April)

Please note that, due to the high number of applicants we audition, we cannot provide feedback on any auditions.

The auditions panel will be informed of any disability outlined on a candidate's application form, unless the candidate has asked for this to be kept confidential.

A candidate can disclose any impairment or disability at any time during the audition process if they have not done so on their application form. Please note that applicants with a disability who demonstrate talent and potential through the audition process will be put forward to the next stage by the panel members who will not concern themselves with the implications the disability may have on subsequent training.

Workshops through this process replicate the daily working environment of conservatory training, which can involve instances of sight-reading, exercises that lead to physical exertion and experiences that may involve physical contact or close eye contact with other participants. If any of the above causes concern, please notify the Admissions team.

At the end of this document there is further practical advice that will allow for full participation in the live on-line audition.

Audition Process

1st Round Audition

The first round of auditions will be held from November to February. Applicants will have the option of doing their first-round audition in person at The Lir Academy, Dublin or online over Zoom.

Through the applicant's delivery of the audition pieces and interaction with direction or questions received, the panel will be looking for:

- an understanding of the character they are performing, the context within which that character is speaking and the world the writer has created.
- the ability to communicate the intentions and emotions of the character vocally and physically, and to make a connection either with the audience or the character to whom they are speaking
- an understanding of and commitment to the power of language and story.
- a serious commitment to train as a professional actor.
- evidence of ability and readiness to train vocally, physically and emotionally
- give evidence of a capacity or experience of reading plays, watching live theatre or a critical understanding of acting, films or television drama.

If the panel feels the two pieces performed by the applicant do not fully satisfy the above to make an informed decision, or one of the pieces is not within the guidelines posted on our website, the panel will ask to see the candidate's reserve piece.

2nd Round Audition - Half-Day Workshop

Depending on the date at which candidates completed their first-round audition, they will be assigned a date to attend the second-round audition. These will run at the end of March.

Over a three-hour workshop, each candidate will work on and present the same speeches performed at the first stage audition (unless they have been recommended to prepare a new audition piece), with the direction of The Lir Academy tutors.

Candidates at the stage of this workshop process will be assessed on:

- working easily and fluently with other actors, and within a group
- engaging appropriately and imaginatively with character and text
- listening and responding within character
- rising to the challenge of difficult or demanding tasks

Applicants based on the island of Ireland must attend in person, international applicants will be given options to attend online.

3rd Round – Full-Day Workshop

This is the final stage and the students for the next academic year are chosen from these groups. Candidates will undertake a day of classes, which mirrors a day on the timetable of first-year students.

The final round auditions will happen over a weekend at the end of April. Applicants only attend a single day, Saturday, or Sunday.

All the sessions will be observed by members of the audition panel. **All candidates must prepare a new speech** (Classical or Contemporary).

Movement: An introductory session of games and exercises. The teacher will be noting the students' use of body and spatial awareness. Students who have disclosed a physical or sensory impairment will be accommodated, and all students are invited to disclose temporary injuries.

Voice: Students will take part in groups in voice exercises, ear tests and individual pieces of sight reading. Disclosed sensory impairment and dyslexic students will be given shorter readings and adapted support. The teacher will note vocal flexibility, fluency of reading and vocal pathology.

An applicant will not be rejected specifically because of their performance in any of these classes but if the tutors have indication that the voice or movement are

affected and in chronically poor condition, where medical intervention before training can be safe and beneficial, the tutors may ask for a specialist report before offering a place. This could result in a place being offered on the condition that the candidate takes up the recommended treatment prior to the beginning of the course.

Scene Study: Students work with a director in small groups on a scene from a play. The director will be looking for the ability to understand character and situation, to respond to direction and the capacity to work with other actors.

Improvisation: A group session in which the teacher will be looking for the ability to respond 'in the moment' without commenting, flexibility of mind and body, group awareness and the ability to respond genuinely to unknown challenges.

Speeches: Each candidate will work with a director on their new speeches, to realise fully the material and opportunities within it. The director will be looking for an imaginative response to the text and character, physical and vocal adaptability and the ability to take direction.

The whole group then performs these speeches in front of each other and members of the panel.

As well as the above the panel will be looking for candidates' ability to:

- Commit to a group's working life for the workshop's duration.
- Respond to professional teaching and develop physical, vocal, imaginative, and interactive skills to support other group members.
- Choose and work on appropriate audition speeches, responding to and building on professional direction.

It is the intention of the Director of The Lir Academy and the panel to conduct the day in a relaxed manner so that, whatever the outcome, the students will have an enriching experience.

Preparing for a Live Online Audition

Applicants will receive a link to the Zoom meeting five business days before their audition (a week before).

Applicants will need to have the Zoom app installed on their chosen device to open the link – this can be a computer, tablet, or telephone.

Applicants should dial in **at least 20 minutes ahead of time**, to troubleshoot the sign-in process, connection and go over any questions.

Ahead of the audition, the Admissions Manager will share the contact details of how to reach us so if at any point the connection breaks or there are any other concerns, applicants can call for assistance.

1st Round Audition

Upon sign-in, applicants will be directed into a "Waiting Room". From there, they will be admitted into the audition room where they will be met by two panellists. The audition process is the exact same as it would be in person.

2nd Round Audition

Upon sign-in, applicants will be directed from the "Waiting Room" to the "Main Session room" until all participants in the Group Workshop have signed in. After a quick introduction, participants will be split into two groups. Both groups will then be sent into separate "Breakout Rooms" - at this stage, the directors leading the Contemporary and Classical workshops will be welcoming each group into their room.

The Admissions Manager will stay in the main room until the end of the workshop, should there be any connection issues or if any participant exits their "Breakout Room" by accident.

Practical Tips and Instructions

For applicants using their mobile phones, please be mindful that the app will drain the battery quickly, so have chargers and extension cords ready to go.

Applicants should familiarise themselves with the following functions on the Zoom app for their auditions:

- Switching from Speaker View to Gallery View and back
- Muting the mic and stopping their video
- **Specifically for the second-round audition:**
 - Hiding self-view
 - Hiding non-video participants
 - Pinning their own video and other participant's video

Applicants will receive a brief tutorial at the beginning of the audition, but the more familiar applicants are with these functions, the less stressed they will be about technicalities on the day.

To set-up the room where the audition will take place, applicants should:

- Make sure that their device can be propped up and stable, and where possible, allow at least two meters away from the camera.
- Clear the space around them on all sides, to be able to comfortably stretch their arms in all directions. We appreciate that it might not be achievable for everyone.
- Choose a neutral background and ensure the silhouette of the body is visible. A white sheet, or a blank wall are helpful solutions to achieve this.
- Look at the best angles to make use of the space and test their frame of view ahead of time. Corners work well as they create more depth in a smaller room. We can accommodate changes of position of the camera during the audition, but it saves time to know ahead of time what the best position is. Applicants will be instructed at the beginning of the session where to look (into the camera or any other point in your space).

Audition Results

After applicants complete their first-round audition, they will be contacted by email with their results.

Applicants auditioning before the end of 2026 will receive their audition result before the 20th of December.

Applicants auditioning in January and February will receive their audition result at latest in the first week of March.

An applicant for the Bachelor (Hons) Acting **ONLY** will receive **one** of the letters below.

- a) Informing them they have **not been successful** on their application **or**
- b) Inviting them to the 2nd round audition for the BA (Hons) **or**
- c) Offering them a place on a **waiting list** for the 2nd round audition should a space become available.

If the candidate has also applied for the Foundation Diploma, they may receive **one or more** of the letters below (see points c. through e.)

- a) Informing them they have not been successful on **either** application (1 letter) **or**
- b) Informing them they have been **successful on their application for the BA (Hons)** and inviting them to 2nd round audition (1 letter) **or**
- c) Offering them a place on a waiting list for the 2nd round audition should a space become available (1 of 2 letters) **or**
- d) Informing them they have been unsuccessful on their application for the BA (Hons) (1 of 2 letters)
- e) Informing them they have been successful on their Foundation Diploma application and will be invited to the final round of auditions for that course (2 of 2 letters).

After second round auditions are completed in early April, candidates will be contacted via email once again with their results.

An applicant will receive **one** of the letters below.

- a) Informing them they have not been successful in their second round **or**
- b) Inviting them to the final round audition **or**
- c) Offering them a place on a waiting list for the final round audition should a space become available.

Note: Candidates who have also applied to the Foundation Diploma in Acting and Theatre and have received a rejection letter at this stage for the Bachelor (Hons) in Acting **are still in consideration for the Foundation Diploma.** At this stage, candidates who had not previously selected to apply to the Foundation Diploma can request to opt-in for consideration for this course.

After the final round audition, candidates will be contacted on the first business day following the Audition Weekend with their results. Applicants will receive **one** of the letters below.

- a) Informing them they have not been successful **or**
- b) Offering them a place on a waiting list for any places which may become available
- c) Candidates who have also applied to the Foundation Diploma in Acting and Theatre and receive a rejection letter at this final stage, **will receive a second letter to inform them of the result of their application for the Foundation Diploma.** At this stage, candidates who had not previously selected to apply to the Foundation Diploma can request to opt-in for consideration for this course.

Successful candidates will be telephoned with the offer of a place; this will be followed by a letter, which will include the obligations placed on the student on acceptance of a place. The Lir Academy will require a letter of acceptance.

As indicated in the timeline above, this is a lengthy process and at some stages, results cannot be released before the stage is finalised. As such, please bear in mind there may be considerable waiting time during this process, but we will always do our best to communicate results within the projected timeline.

A candidate who is on the waiting list may accept a place at another drama school and hand that place back at any time, up to July 1st. A candidate may not hold more than one place at any

one time.