

# Bristol Old Vic Theatre School ('the School') Fees Policy 2020-21

## Fees Policy

Key parts of this fees policy are reproduced in the School's Terms and Conditions document.

### 1. Introduction

It is important that you read this Fees Policy carefully as this sets out Bristol Old Vic Theatre School ("the School") and your respective rights and obligations including but not limited to circumstances in which sums paid to the School will be refunded. It also sets out the potential consequences if you fail to make payment, which includes the School's ability to terminate your registration and this contract and/or to withhold awards. It should be noted that non-payment of fees and/or charges could result in the School taking legal action against you to recover outstanding amounts.

### 2. Course fees

Course fees include: tuition, course materials, learning resources and assessment costs. Course fees do not include personal materials, such as practice clothes and books and the cost of producing headshots. These are detailed in individual equipment lists for each course on the School's website: [www.oldvic.ac.uk](http://www.oldvic.ac.uk)

### 3. Fee levels and increases

3.1 The annual levels of course fees for new students and any associated additional costs shall be set annually by the School and published for each Course on the School's website: <http://www.oldvic.ac.uk>

3.2 For students paying undergraduate fees, the fee you paid in your first year shall not be subject to increase during any subsequent years of study on that course.

3.3 For postgraduate students the course fee paid in your first year of study may be increased in subsequent years and will be detailed in your offer letter.

### 4. Deposits

4.1 The School may require you to pay a deposit to confirm the offer of a place on a course. Course fee deposits are not normally refundable unless you exercise your right to cancel your contract under the Consumer Contract (Information, Cancellation and Additional Payments) Regulations 2013 within 14 days of the conclusion of your contract with the School.

4.2 It is your responsibility to ensure that any deposit is paid when due.

### 5. Payment of fees

5.1 The full course fee for each year becomes payable on enrolment and at re-enrolment each year.

5.2 If you are intending to pay your course fee through a student loan, at or before enrolment (or re-enrolment for continuing students) you must provide written confirmation that you have been

approved for a fee loan for the next year of study. If you fail to do this, you may be liable personally to pay the first instalment of your fees. The School reserves the right to prevent students from registering on courses until this first instalment is paid in full.

- 5.3 It is your responsibility to ensure that course and other fees and charges payable to the School are paid in accordance with the agreed instalment plan. If someone other than you makes any payment, or agrees to make any payment, on your behalf, you personally remain liable for full payment of the sums due until the School has received cleared funds.
- 5.4 For all students on undergraduate courses, course fees are due for payment in three instalments over the year - 25% to be paid two weeks prior to the start of the year, 25% at the start of the second term and 50% at the start of the third term. Unless you have the prior written agreement of the School to a different schedule of instalments, course fees must be paid in accordance with this schedule of instalments.
- 5.5 For all students on one-year postgraduate courses, course fees are due in equal instalments over the academic year – 1st payment to be paid two weeks prior to the start of the year, 2nd payment at the start of the second term and 3rd payment at the start of the third term. Unless you have the prior written agreement of the School to a different schedule of instalments, course fees must be paid in accordance with this schedule of instalments.
- 5.6 Late or non-payment may result in the replacement of any payment by instalment agreement and make all outstanding fees immediately due for payment.
- 5.7 You are advised, at the earliest opportunity, to inform the School of any variation to your situation which may affect the payment of course fees.

## **6. Other fees and expenses**

- 6.1 Specialist equipment used in some industry specialisms can be expensive, but it is normally possible for the School to supply you with access to the equipment you will need for your course. Course fees exclude personal materials as outlined in the Equipment Lists for individual courses, on the School's website [www.oldvic.ac.uk](http://www.oldvic.ac.uk). When students are required to attend venues outside the School within Bristol this will be at their own cost. The cost of travel to venues outside Bristol will normally be reimbursed to you or transport will be provided by the School.

## **7. Course fees and withdrawal or intermission from the course**

- 7.1 If you are thinking of withdrawing from your course, please ensure that you have spoken to your Head of Course, the Student Support Manager and/or the Admissions Office so that you are aware of any fee, student finance or visa issues before you leave. You will need to complete the Interruption of Studies Request form – see <http://www.cdd.ac.uk/policies/student-resources/>
- 7.2 If you cease to be a student of the School, because for example you withdraw or the School terminates your registration or if you intermit from your course, you will still be liable for any course fees and/or other charges which are outstanding.
- 7.3 Fees charged will be calculated based upon the date the School is formally advised of the change in registration. You should therefore follow the formal procedures for withdrawal or intermission outlined below:
  - Fully complete the Interruption of Studies Request Form at <http://www.cdd.ac.uk/policies/student-resources/> and contact your Head of Course or Course Tutor for academic advice.
  - Contact the Admissions Office.
  - Return any library materials, otherwise you will be charged for their cost.

- Notify your funding body (e.g. SFE) of your withdrawal from studies.
- **International students in the UK on Tier 4 student visas: please** note that we will notify the Home Office UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) of your discontinuation of your studies – please see further information below.
- Provide feedback on your experience at the School.

7.4 For students who withdraw or intermit, an adjustment to the annual course tuition fee will be calculated in accordance with the table at *Appendix A*.

7.5 Students who are in receipt of course fee loan funding from the relevant funding body (\*Student Finance England, Student Finance Wales, Student Finance Northern Ireland or the Student Awards Agency for Scotland) should be aware that any reduction in tuition fees charged is notified directly to the relevant funding body.

7.6 Where you choose to leave or intermit from your course during the academic session, your account with The School will be re-calculated accordingly and you will be refunded any sums due to you. You will have no claim to a refund for fees charged for any period for which you are registered during that session.

## 8. Debts and re-enrolment

8.1 If you do not pay course fees in accordance with these terms, the School reserves the right to cancel your place on the course, and/or suspend or withdraw you from the course and/or to withhold awards until any fee debt is paid or cancelled.

8.2 Any student who has not paid their fees in full for one academic year cannot progress onto the next year of the course.

8.3 Final year students will not be able to graduate if they owe any outstanding tuition or other fees to the School.

## 9. Variations to terms for individual students

9.1 Variations to these terms, including variations to instalment plans and arrangements or decisions in relation to student debts and student hardship must be formally agreed in writing by the Finance Director or her/his nominated officer.

## 10. Further information

10.1 If you have any questions regarding funding or fee payment, please contact Marchia Abokie at [marchia.abokie@oldvic.ac.uk](mailto:marchia.abokie@oldvic.ac.uk)

10.2 If you withdraw and later wish to return, you will have to re-apply for admission.

## Appendix A

### Fee payment schedule

Students on undergraduate courses		
Withdrawal date	You are liable to pay the School *	Refund available
Within first 14 calendar days after enrolment in person or the end of the first week of teaching, whichever is the later date	Nil	All fees paid, less any deposit (if applicable)**
15 calendar days after the start of the new academic year	25% of year's fee	Balance of fees paid over 25%
15 days after the start of the second term	50% of year's fee	Balance of fees paid over 50%
15 days after the start of the third term	100% of year's fee	Nil

\* If you are paying through Student Finance, they will pay the School the percentage of the fee indicated and you will later be liable to repay Student Finance this money.

\*\*Even though the School will not charge you fees for this period, if you are paying through Student Finance England, they will count your short enrolment on the course as a year's previous study. Your future funding will be affected. Contact Student Advice for further information.

Students on postgraduate courses		
Withdrawal date	You are liable to pay the School	Refund available
Within first 14 calendar days after enrolment in person or the end of the first week of teaching, whichever is the later date	Nil	All fees paid, less any deposit (if applicable)***
15 calendar days after the start of the new academic year	33% of year's fee	Balance of fees paid over 33%
15 days after the start of the second term	66% of year's fee	Balance of fees paid over 66%
15 days after the start of the third term	100% of year's fee	Nil

\*\*\* If you are an International student and are withdrawing because you are unable to get a visa at the start of your course, you will be entitled to a full refund of your deposit, if applicable. You will need to provide written evidence of your visa problems. See also Refund Policy for International Deposits [see **Appendix B**].

Note: Refunds of fees for 2020-21 are subject to completion of the Interruption To Studies Request Form – see <http://www.cdd.ac.uk/policies/student-resources/> . The cost of any items of School property (EG equipment or library books) that you have not returned will be deducted from any refund due.

#### International students on Tier 4 Visas

If you withdraw from your course, the School will notify the Home Office UKVI of your withdrawal. This will result in your visa being curtailed (cut short). You are strongly advised to consult the School Admissions Office about the consequences of your withdrawal before you submit your Interruption of Studies Request Form.

#### Undergraduate students receiving funding from Student Finance

When you withdraw from your course, the Admissions Office will notify Student Finance of your change in circumstances. Your student finance will be reassessed from the date of your withdrawal. You are not eligible for any student finance once you have withdrawn. If you are withdrawing part way through a term, this will normally result in an overpayment of maintenance grant and/or loan which Student Finance England will seek to recover

from you. The date you withdraw can therefore have significant impact on your funding entitlement and may leave you owing money to Student Finance. For more information about how your current and future funding eligibility will be affected by your withdrawal, please contact the Admission Office.

**Student Advice**

Please make sure that you consult the School's Admissions Office or Finance Director about the fees, student finance or visa consequences of your decision to withdraw.

**Contact the Admissions Office at:** Downside Road, Clifton Bristol BS8 2XF [admissions@oldvic.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@oldvic.ac.uk) 0117 980 9252

## **Appendix B**

### **Refund Policy for International Deposits**

All new students who are classed as overseas for fees purposes are required to pay a non-refundable deposit of one term's fees in order to be able to register on their course at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School (the School).

A refund can only be issued in a small number of circumstances. The criteria listed below are only applicable to students who have not yet fully registered with the School.

#### **Refund criteria**

A full deposit refund will be considered in the following circumstances:

- An applicant requests the return of their deposit within 14 days of receipt of payment at the School under the Consumer Protection Regulations 2014.
- The School is unable to provide the academic course originally applied for, offered and accepted and the applicant does not want to take up a place on any alternative offered.
- Extenuating circumstances:
  - Serious personal accident or injury of self or close family member
  - Death of close family member (e.g. partner, parent, primary carer, child)
  - Medical emergency or requirement of long term medical care for the applicant or close family member (e.g. partner, parent, primary carer, child)
  - Impact of natural disaster or civil disruption
  - Significant change in financial circumstances
- If the applicant cannot take up his/her place due to failure to obtain a student visa (see visa refusal section below for full criteria).

#### **Documentary evidence required**

Please note that documentary evidence from an official source will be required before a refund can be approved and processed.

If the applicant is applying for a refund based on a visa refusal, irrevocable evidence must be provided to confirm that they are no longer in the UK (see visa refusal section below for full details).

#### **How to apply for a refund**

If an applicant meets the criteria outlined above and is eligible for a refund, they should request this in writing to [simon.payne@oldvic.ac.uk](mailto:simon.payne@oldvic.ac.uk). All refunds will be approved by the Finance Director as per the criteria outlined above.

#### **Visa refusals**

A refund can also be applied for if an applicant cannot take up his/her place due to failure to obtain a student visa, providing that their visa application:

- is valid - they have provided proof that they have the finance and qualifications required and documents provided are genuine as per Tier 4 requirements
- is timely - they have applied for their visa at least six to eight weeks before the start date of the course
- provides proof of the visa refusal from a visa office

An administrative fee of £500 will be retained for a refund made as a result of a visa refusal.

#### **No refund will be given for students whose visa is refused for the following reasons:**

- Fraudulent application – if any part of the application is deemed to be fraudulent
- Insufficient funds – incorrect account type is used/not enough money is showing in the account/the money has not been in the account for the required period
- Incorrect documentation – documents have not been submitted as stipulated in the Home Office UKVI guidance.

Please refer to current Home Office UKVI guidance to ensure that your visa application is valid.

**If applicants do not fit into the refund criteria detailed above then NO refund will be given and the full deposit paid will be retained by the School.**

**Please note:** The School reserves the right to change its refund policy for international deposits at any time.

Name of Policy Writer/Amendment s	Date Written & agreed / Amended	Approved by	Review Date
Marchia Abokie/Julia Heeley/Simon Payne	27/08/19	Paul Rummer / Adam Biscoe	27/08/20
A Biscoe, S Payne, M Abokie, M Carmichael	25/09/2020	S Payne / A Biscoe	27 AUGUST 2021