

ROYAL
ACADEMY
OF
DANCE

Focus on
Exams

Issue 3 2022

Syllabus adaptations and updates

Filmed exams

Exam hairstyles








Welcome

Focus on Exams Issue 3 2022

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students from The Sydney Ballet
Conservatory

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Welcome to a bumper edition of *Focus on Exams*

Exam organisers, teachers, candidates, and examiners around the world have been very busy. Our 2021-22 exam figures are starting to show signs of recovery post-pandemic, with around 197,000 exams worldwide. Bearing in mind our largest-ever exam year (2018-19) the number was 254,661, this shows that candidates and teachers are still working hard to prepare and take exams, and that staff are still working hard to facilitate the hybrid model set-up in 2020.

Of course, the picture is not all positive – global changes and the growing financial crisis are real problems faced by all, and we continue to monitor these problems, particularly with a focus on what we can do to assist.

We hope that the many advantages of an exam for students – the excitement, the enjoyment, the challenge, the experience - will still engage candidates, but we need to be realistic about the difficulties that teachers face – especially in the aftermath of the pandemic, where student numbers may be affected in some areas. Please visit our website for more information on our **Teachers' hardship fund**, designed to support members facing financial difficulties (for Members resident in New Zealand, visit [here](#)).

In this edition of *Focus on Exams* we include detail about changes,

adjustments, and adaptations for 2023. These are related to the work done during the pandemic to support teachers and candidates in their exam preparation, reducing paperwork for filmed exams, and a response to the syllabus questionnaire and feedback from teachers, examiners and candidates worldwide. The emphasis was placed on making exams more **inclusive**, increasing **accessibility** through managing additional costs where possible and providing greater **flexibility** around exam content, format and music choices.

In this edition:

- **Adaptations, adjustments and updates** – from our pandemic response, and in response to teachers' input to our syllabus questionnaire – this includes detail about demi-pointe shoes, pianists, adaptations to formats, and the introduction of Solo Performance Awards for grades 6 and 7.
- **Filmed exams – changes and updates to the processes for 2023**
- **Filmed exam data collection** – changes to the way we collect data, as well as the basis for this collection... (spoiler - it means less paperwork from 2023!)

- Music downloads – in response to popular demand, RAD Enterprises has been working on providing syllabus music in a downloadable format, which will be available for teachers soon – visit [**RAD Enterprises**](#) for more detail.
- We talk a little about **Class Awards, and Solo Performance Awards and Discovering Repertoire Exams and Class Awards**, and potential advantages for candidates and teachers.

Lastly, we also include some of the wonderful exam hairstyles that teachers and students have shared with us!

Stay safe and best wishes

James Stockdale
Director of Examinations



Syllabus adaptations and updates

The syllabus adaptations and updates took into consideration feedback from teachers, examiners, and candidates worldwide. The emphasis was placed on making exams more **inclusive**, increasing **accessibility** through managing additional costs where possible, and greater **flexibility** around content, format, and music choices.

Covid syllabus adaptations – All syllabus adaptations put into place under COVID measures now remain **permanent options**. Some additional format options have been introduced to allow more flexibility when preparing candidates for exams and class awards and are listed in the grade-specific area below.

Online meetings for teachers will be available in late 2022 or early 2023 to answer questions relating to syllabus adaptations and updates. Please contact your local office for further information.

Gender

We want our syllabus to be as inclusive as possible. Historically, classical ballet has customary gender roles and labelling. We realise that the labelling of the syllabus in particular may not reflect all of our participants and are therefore exploring how we identify our syllabi to support inclusivity.

We want to get this right, so while we take the time to review this and consult with people across our community, we have not adjusted the syllabus names in our resources. We have, however, endeavoured to allow candidates greater flexibility when choosing the settings they wish to present in exams:

- For the performance of **Graded** exams, Class Awards and Solo performance awards, teachers/ students may select any exercise or dance from the traditionally labelled classical male or female settings. Therefore, removing the requirement to show either the full traditionally 'male' or 'female' settings in an exam.
- For **Vocational Graded** and **Discovering Repertoire** exams and Class awards, the content specifications remain the same and should be presented as either the traditionally classical male or female syllabus. However as already noted in the specifications, **candidates may choose which syllabus they perform, which may be different from the sex assigned at birth, or the gender with which the candidate identifies**. It should be made clear in the exam entry which syllabus is being presented.

Teacher's arrangement settings - Grades 1 – 5

Feedback relating to the 'Teacher Arrangement' exercises indicated that the choreography presented was often over complicated and appeared prioritised over the execution of the steps. Therefore, will be providing additional video resources in early 2023 featuring examples of settings which could be used in exams and Class awards. However, teachers who wish to continue to follow the original guidelines and create their own choreography may do so.

Solo Performance Awards

We are introducing Solo Performance awards at Grades 6 and 7 from January 2023.

Class Awards

The required content presented for Class awards at Grade 6 and 7 has been reduced.

Floor work

With the submission of a **reasonable adjustment form**, adaptations can be made to floor work in relevant exercises and dances to accommodate injury or disability.

Music

Recorded piano tracks - Pre-Primary in Dance – Grade 5 may be used in exams, class awards and solo performance awards.

Reasonable Adjustment to Music Speed - is permitted for recorded music. The speed should be appropriate for the dynamics of the settings. Adjustment to the speed should not affect the pitch of the music and no more or less than 5% slower or faster is recommended.

Recorded music remains permitted for Vocational exams. To facilitate the Free Enchaînement at Intermediate Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced Foundation levels, music choices will be available for purchase in early 2023 and must be available for the examiner to use in live and filmed exams where teachers choose not to use a pianist.

Pianists will continue to be provided, when possible, at RAV exam centres for Vocational exams.

Syllabus adaptations and updates

Uniform

Demi-pointe shoes remain optional for candidates presenting the traditionally classical female syllabus from Intermediate – Advanced 2 levels. **Pointe shoes must be worn for pointe work sections otherwise a mark of ‘0’ will be awarded for the relevant section.**

A short skirt may be worn for vocational level exams. This should be without pattern and should tone or match the leotard. (As a guide for the length of the skirt: when kneeling the hem should be about 30cm from the floor.)

A reminder that there is flexibility in the recommended uniform to accommodate modifications for religious, cultural, and gender reasons.

Uniform should flatter and enhance the dancer’s line, be clean, appropriately supportive and comfortable to the individual. The silhouette of the dancer must be clearly visible. Candidates may wear underwear as required to feel comfortable and supported - ideally this should not be visible under the uniform. The RAD places the safeguarding of children and young people at the heart of its policy making. It is important that candidates (and their parents/guardians) feel comfortable and should not be made uneasy with any of the uniform requests made by teachers.

It is not acceptable for teachers to prohibit candidates from wearing underwear.

Teachers are also reminded that it is not necessary for candidates to have newly purchased uniform for exams.

Syllabus

Listed below are the syllabus adaptations originally instigated under COVID measures which now remain **permanent** options. However, a reminder that effective teaching works beyond the exam content and there is great value in teaching work on both sides in relevant settings in the learning stages.

Teachers/candidates may continue to present the original content and format of the syllabus **apart from Grade 5 where teachers/ candidates will choose between either the Centre practice exercise or Pirouette exercise in exams and Class awards.**

Graded level exams, Class awards and Solo performance awards

Level	Setting	Adaptation
Pre-Primary in Dance Class award	The following exercise choices are permitted at the teacher's discretion	Candidates may present any 7 of the 9 set exercises. The warm-up, cool-down and imaginative movement sequence must be presented.
Primary in Dance Exam	Run & Leap	One diagonal only – Teacher/candidate's choice
Primary in Dance Class award ONLY	The following exercise choices are permitted at the teacher's discretion	Technique 2 Bend and run OR Bend and point Technique 4 TWO of the following exercises: Jumps Spring Hops, jumps and springs Technique 5 Galops and skips OR run and leap* *if presenting run and leap only one diagonal is required.
Grade 1 Exam and Class award	Galops	A video example of alternative settings will be provided in early 2023 for teachers use in exams and Class awards.
	Step hop and parallel assemblé	One diagonal only – Teacher/candidate's choice
	Dance (A, B, C, D)	May be performed 2 x 2 or 1 x 1
Grade 2 Exam and Class award	Transfer of weight	A video example of alternative settings will be provided in early 2023 for teachers use in exams and Class awards.
	Galops	A video example of alternative settings will be provided in early 2023 for teachers use in exams and Class awards.
	Turns and parallel assemblé	One side only – Teacher/candidate's choice
	Dance (A, B, C, D)	May be performed 2 x 2 or 1 x 1

Syllabus adaptations and updates

Level	Setting	Adaptation
Grade 3 Exam and Class award	Grands battements A – devant OR Grands battements B – second and derrière	Teacher/candidate's choice of exercise. *Recommended that all candidates choose the same settings within the same exam/class award
	Ronds de jambe à terre	Teacher/candidate's choice of en dehors OR en dedans OR *can be shown 2 x en dehors and 2 x en dedans in the same setting. Either direction can be taken first.
	Transfer of weight	A video example of alternative settings will be provided in early 2023 for teachers use in exams and Class awards.
	Glissades, sissonnes and assemblés	Teacher/candidate's choice of starting right OR left leg devant
	Posés and temp levés	A video example of alternative settings will be provided in early 2023 for teachers use in exams and Class awards.
	Turns	One diagonal only – Teacher/candidate's choice
	Dance (A, B, C, D, E)	May be performed 2 x 2 or 1 x 1
	Grade 4 Exam and Class award	Transfer of weight
Assemblés and temps levés		Teacher/candidate's choice of starting right OR left leg devant
Grade 5 Exam and Class award	Centre practice OR Pirouettes	Teacher/candidate's choice of exercise. *Candidates may present different exercises in an exam or class award setting.
	Transfer of weight	A video example of alternative settings will be provided in early 2023 for teachers use in exams and Class awards.
	Turns	One diagonal only – Teacher/candidate's choice

Level	Setting	Adaptation
Grade 6 Exam	Battements frappés OR Demi-pointe enchaînement	Teacher/candidate's choice of exercise. *Recommended that all candidates choose the same settings within the same exam
	Demi-pointe enchaînement	Additional alternative setting introduced: Where the step petit pas de bourrée piqué dessous is performed, this can be taken as a pas de bourrée dessous .
	Pirouettes en dehors OR Pirouettes en dedans	Teacher/candidate's choice of exercise. Candidates may present different exercises in an exam setting
	Pas de bourrées	All candidates should prepare this exercise. Additional alternative setting: Where the step petit pas de bourrée piqué dessous is performed, this can be taken as a pas de bourrée dessous .
	Free movement exercises	May be performed with scarf OR cloak
Grade 6 Solo performance award	3 solo dances	Two of these must be taken from the syllabus for the relevant grade. The third dance may be either: (a) also taken from the syllabus for the relevant grade; or (b) free choice, in any dance genre or style.
Grade 6 Class award ONLY	Required content	Technique 1 - minimum 5 exercises Technique 2 - minimum 2 exercises Technique 3 - minimum 2 exercises Technique 4 - Waltz Enchaînement Free movement - minimum 1 exercise Character (Polish court) - minimum 2 exercises Dance – present <u>one</u> of the following: Classical OR Free movement OR Polish Character dance

Syllabus adaptations and updates

Level	Setting	Adaptation
Grade 7 Exam	Coupé fouetté raccourçis	<p>All candidates should prepare this exercise.</p> <p>Additional alternative setting:</p> <p>Where the step petit pas de bourrée piqué dessous is performed, this can be taken as a pas de bourrée dessous.</p> <p>Counts:</p> <p>5-7 Courus travelling towards front foot 8 Coupé dessus</p> <p>Alternative:</p> <p>5 Coupé dessous to retiré devant 6-7 Hold 8 Coupé dessus</p> <p>Counts:</p> <p>13-14 Courus travelling towards front foot 15 Continue turning away from barre 16 Step forward to dégagé derrière en fondu en ouvert / Arms 4th downstage arm raised</p> <p>Alternative:</p> <p>13 Join to 5th en demi-pointe with $\frac{1}{4}$ turn away from barre / Outside arm 1st 14 Hold 15 barre arm to 1st 16 Step forward to dégagé derrière en fondu en ouvert / Arms 4th downstage arm raised</p>
	<p>Exercise for upper back (performed with scarf)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Study with use of cloak (performed with cloak)</p>	Teacher/candidate's choice of exercise

Level	Setting	Adaptation
Grade 7 Solo performance award	3 solo dances	Two of these must be taken from the syllabus for the relevant grade. The third dance may be either: (a) also taken from the syllabus for the relevant grade; or (b) free choice, in any dance genre or style.
Grade 7 Class award ONLY	Required content	<p>Technique 1 barre - minimum 5 exercises</p> <p>Technique 2 - minimum 2 exercises</p> <p>Technique 3 - minimum 1 exercises</p> <p>Technique 4 – Grand allegro</p> <p>Free movement – minimum 1 exercise</p> <p>Character – (Hungarian court) minimum 2 exercises</p> <p>Dance – present ONE of the following: Classical OR Free movement OR Hungarian Character dance</p>
Grade 8 Exam and Class award	No changes to content and format as presented in Specifications aside from candidates may perform which ever version (traditionally classical male or female) of the dances they choose.	

Syllabus adaptations and updates

Vocational graded exams

Where teacher/candidate's choice of starting position is specified only **one** setting of the exercise should be presented.

Level	Setting	Adaptation
Intermediate Foundation (male/female syllabi)	Port de bras	Teacher/candidate's choice of starting right OR left leg devant
Intermediate (male/female syllabi)	Pirouettes en dedans and posé pirouettes (female)	Teacher/candidate's choice of starting in either corner 7 OR 8.
	Relevés passés derrière OR Relevés passés devant (female)	Teacher/candidate's choice of exercise *If presenting in an RAV centre candidates may present either setting however only the music for Relevés passés derrière will be utilised and all candidates will perform at the same time.
	Allegro 5 (male)	Performed once only – Teacher/candidate's choice of starting side
Advanced Foundation (female syllabus)	Pirouettes (pointe work)	Teacher/candidate's choice of starting in corner 7 OR 8
Advanced 1 (male/female syllabi)	Port de bras	Teacher/candidate's choice of starting right OR left leg devant.
	Pirouette enchaînement	Teacher/candidate's choice of starting right OR left leg devant; Double pirouette en dehors finishing in <i>attitude derrière en croisé</i> OR <i>2nd arabesque</i>
	Adage (female)	Teacher/candidate's choice of pivot en dehors in <i>arabesque</i> OR <i>attitude derrière</i>
Advanced 2 (female syllabus)	Port de bras	Teacher/candidate's choice of starting right or left leg devant.
	Pirouette enchaînement	Teacher/candidate's choice of starting right or left leg devant
	Allegro 3	Teacher/candidate's choice of starting right or left leg devant

Level	Setting	Adaptation
Advanced 2 (male syllabus)	Port de bras	Teacher/candidate's choice of starting right OR left leg devant; Double pirouette en dedans in <i>attitude derrière</i> OR 1 st <i>arabesque</i>
	Battement fondus and ronds de jambe en l'air	Teacher/candidate's choice of starting right OR left leg devant; Double pirouette en dedans in <i>attitude derrière</i> OR 1 st <i>arabesque</i>
	Pirouette en dehors in attitude or arabesque	Teacher/candidate's choice of double pirouette en dehors in 2 nd arabesque OR attitude derrière
	Pirouette enchaînement	Teacher/candidate's choice of starting right OR left leg devant
	Allegro 4	Teacher/candidate's choice of starting right OR left leg devant

Discovering Repertoire Exams and Class awards

Where teacher/candidate's choice of starting position is specified only one setting of the exercise should be presented.

Level	Setting	Adaptation
Level 2 - unit: Variation 2 (male syllabus)	Development exercise C Grand jeté en avant	Teacher/candidate's choice of side
Level 3 - unit: Class (male/female syllabi)	Allegro 3	Teacher/candidate's choice of side
Level 4 - unit: Variation 2 (male syllabus)	Development exercise H Assemblés en tournant	Teacher/candidate's choice of starting right OR left leg devant

Filmed exams update

Having confirmed that we will be including filmed exams permanently as part of our services, we now have revised filmed guidance - if you intend to enter filmed exams from 2023, please do read this [document](#).

Key points include:

- Teachers will collect consent as previously, but we will not be checking this form with the entry – instead this detail will be captured through a checkbox in RAD Online Exam Entry (for more detail see below).
- There will be no minimum hours for filmed exam entries – however, if your entry is less than 4 hours, the entry will be held until there is enough exam footage to submit to an examiner (at least 4 hours of footage). This will likely mean a longer wait for results and certificates.
- The cost of filmed is the same as the cost of live exams.
- If you wish to make an application for a **Reasonable Adjustment** which requires any **Adjustment** to the exam format for filmed exams - please notify us by email to customer services at London headquarters (examscustomerservices@rad.org.uk) or your regional office no later than **5 working days** before the date of the filmed exam taking place. Adjustments to the exam must be approved in advance and we reserve the right to refuse any footage with adjustments which have not been approved prior.
- If you wish to submit an application for a reasonable adjustment for **Examiner Awareness** only (i.e. no adjustments being needed to the exam format) you may submit this up until the point of submission in the RAD Online Examination Entry. Please ensure the check box next to the relevant candidate is ticked so that we can process the entry against the correct candidate.
- Please note that you may submit an application for **Special Consideration** for filmed exams within **5 working days** of the date of your submission of the online examination entry. Please note office staff do not receive notification of documents attached to your online entry. Please follow the same process as for live exams and submit your application via email to examscustomerservices@rad.org.uk
- **Filmed exam footage must meet the requirements listed in the [guidelines document](#) – where footage is of poor audio or visual quality entries will not be accepted.**
- Where exercises or dances are missing, these will be given a mark of 0. Please ensure all work is shown, as per the specifications.

Data collection

- We highly recommend applicants test equipment, lighting, sound and studio provision to ensure that the quality is sufficient and candidates are clearly visible when performing the required content.
- There is a **separate document** with guidance regarding the structure and delivery of the free enchaînement at Intermediate Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced Foundation levels. Example settings are provided at each level. If the correct guidelines have not been followed, then full marks may not be awarded.
- For the full free enchaînement document, please visit the **members' area**.

As part of our streamlining process, we have reviewed the way that we collect and retain information for our filmed exams. This is to help make the process more straightforward for both teachers and RAD staff, and to try and keep paperwork to a minimum.

- We are in the process of developing the RAD Online Exam Entry database to capture the required permissions for collection of consent and data sharing agreements between data controllers – From January 2023 this information will be collected via checkboxes in RAD Online Exam Entry, instead of via additional forms.
- Teachers tick the first box to confirm that they have consent from relevant parties (the candidate or their parent/guardian), and to confirm that they understand that the footage may be used for internal standardisation and training where relevant.
- Teachers tick the second box to confirm that they, as a data controller, agree to collect and share candidate data with the RAD (another data controller) in a way that complies with best practice (this is the old C to C form).

Data collection and retention

- The consent form will also be automatically pre-populated with relevant candidate details, so teachers will not have to fill these fields in on the form. Teachers should maintain this form during the exams process, but once the final results and certificates are received, this form should be deleted. The form does not have to be included with the entry as the check box in the entry confirms the RAD teacher has the relevant permissions from candidates and parents/guardians for them to take their exam.
- We have adjusted our rationale round the lawful basis for collection of the filmed exam footage – from 2023 this will now be collected and retained under the basis of legitimate interest, rather than consent. During the pandemic when filming was first put into place, we were advised that consent was the most appropriate basis for collection. But after review of this, taking into account the amount of footage being submitted, and our service provision for customers, from 2023 we will be collecting this data using the basis of Legitimate Interest. This allows us to ensure our quality assurance, standardisation and training processes are robust and accurate, enhancing the accuracy of our marking and the continued provision of a high-quality exams service. Filmed exams footage will be used for internal standardisation, quality assurance and examiner training. This footage will be anonymised, securely held and deleted at the point at which it is no longer relevant to the RAD syllabus quality assurance and standardising procedures, after which it will be deleted. Any filmed footage collected using consent will be managed on this basis. Only footage taken from 2023 will be collected and stored on the revised basis.
- Data subjects (candidates) have the right to withdraw consent at any time, and the right to object to the collection of data via Legitimate Interest. For more information please see our [privacy policy](#) or email exams@rad.org.uk
- We hope that the development work means entering for filmed exams is easier and more streamlined for teachers in the future.

Attainment band descriptors

Please see the attainment descriptors for our revised attainment bands:

Result classification	Total marks	Medal classification (graded exams only)
Standard not attained	0 - 39	n/a
Pass	40 – 54	Bronze
Merit	55 – 64	Silver
High Merit	65 – 74	
Distinction	75 – 84	Gold
High Distinction	85 - 100	

Attainment band descriptors

The descriptors below give a general indication of expected overall outcome for each attainment band. Because of the compensatory nature of the mark scheme in most cases, some aspects may be stronger and others weaker for some candidates.

High Distinction	An accomplished standard of technique overall, demonstrating a consistent and contrasting quality of movement as required by the content. Musicality is highly developed throughout, with an assured and engaging sense of performance.
Distinction	Secure and precise technique overall, with an ability to demonstrate contrast in style as required by the content. Musicality is highly developed most of the time and performance shows appropriate expression and communication.
High Merit	Proficient delivery of technique evident in most areas, with the ability at times to demonstrate contrast in quality of movement as required by the content. Musicality and performance are generally well sustained throughout although some aspects could be more varied.
Merit	Proficient technique overall, although probably stronger in some areas than in others. Musical qualities are evident, although they could sometimes be more consistent. Performance shows expression and communication, although these aspects could be more sustained.
Pass	A basic competence in the technical aspects of the work, although some areas are stronger than others. Some musicality is evident although there are limitations in certain areas. A basic ability to show some expression and communication in performance is evident.
Standard not attained	Little awareness of technique is shown overall. Musical and performance qualities are rarely evident.

Exam alternatives

We have had feedback from teachers that in a few cases their students are suffering from stress and a general lack of wellbeing, partly brought on by the ongoing effects of the pandemic. This in turn has meant teachers have had concerns, particularly if some of their students have raised anxieties about their feelings of stress, or pressure when preparing for an exam.

Of course, all students are different – for some, a challenge can be met and overcome, but if students find the idea of an exam overwhelming, teachers might consider a Class Award or Solo Performance Award for these students – although these are assessed, their format is not the same as an exam, the criteria are less prescriptive, and the assessment syllabus has less content.

For Pre-Primary in Dance to Grade 7 Class Awards, more students take part (up to eight candidates), and the teacher accompanies the class during the award. For these levels, teachers have more flexibility regarding which work is presented. For some students, this may provide the ideal steppingstone back to performing an exam.

Solo Performance Awards are an opportunity for students to enjoy performing their dances and experience the sense of excitement and achievement of an exam day. Three dances are performed – one of which can be in any dance genre

- and simple costuming is permitted to add a sense of theatricality. The weighting of the marks is less focused on technique than traditional exams with 30 marks awarded overall for technique, 60 marks for musicality and performance and 10 marks for recall. Solo Performance Awards can help build confidence and skill, but with less material to learn.

Successful candidates receive, for Class Awards, a certificate and medal, and for Solo Performance Awards a certificate and bar.

Another option for candidates and teachers are the Discovering Repertoire units. Presented as either exams or class awards, these can also represent an accessible goal for students aged 12 and above. The individual units have less content than a traditional exam and can therefore require less preparation time. The focus on learning renowned classical repertoire can also be very appealing to students.

Class awards, Solo performance awards and Discovering repertoire exams and class awards are all lower-cost options compared to traditional exams.

Let us know if you have found Class Awards, Solo Performance Awards or Discovering Repertoire units useful or popular with your candidates! – exams@rad.org.uk

General reminders

During an exam, if candidates are not dancing, or are waiting at the side of the studio for others to perform, they do not need to stand in a classical position, they are, in effect 'in the wings' and can therefore stand naturally for these parts of the exam, before returning to the centre to continue performing. Candidates are not required to face the wall when waiting at the side. An assured and purposeful entrance and exit when performing an exercise or dance/variation can also help contribute to a professional exam atmosphere and sense of performance.

Reasonable Adjustments should be completed before the exam and sent to the organiser. Please do note in RAD Online Exam Entry where candidates have a Reasonable Adjustment, it should not be handed to an examiner on the day of the exam. Please see more information [here](#).

We suggest that music operators practise with the sound equipment before the exam and ensure that they have the relevant music choice information to hand. This ensures that the volume is appropriate, candidates are not confused if the wrong music is played and the exam runs smoothly. For additional guidance, please refer to the article on music in exams in the [June 2019 Focus on Exams](#).

Exam fees for 2023 will soon be listed on the [website](#) – we have not increased exam fees in the last three years and we recognise the significant impact the pandemic and the unfolding cost of living crisis has had on our members. Therefore we have worked to ensure that the increase to the 2023 exam fees has remained as low as possible. Exam fees in the UK have risen by 4% and this has parity with the increase in other countries worldwide.

Exam hairstyles

Following our call out to see examples of your exam hairstyles, check out the gorgeous examples below. We can't help thinking that these candidates must have been feeling a million dollars when they entered the exam studio!

The Sydney Ballet Conservatory
Photo: Felicity Knight



Horniman Dance School
Photo: Horniman Dance School



The Sydney Ballet Conservatory
Photo: Felicity Knight



BDK performers
Photo: Catherine Francis



Spinn Dansestudio
Photo: Marthe Westgaarde



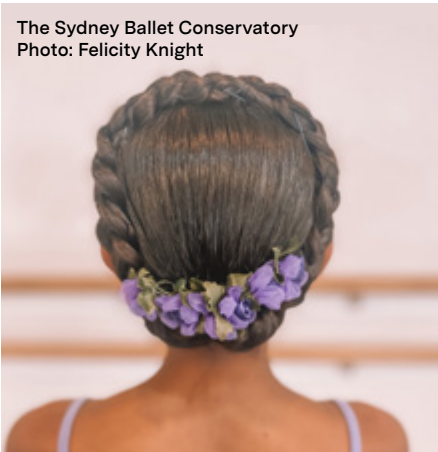
BDK performers
Photo: Catherine Francis



Kim Bardsley School of Dance
Photo: Kelly Wright



The Sydney Ballet Conservatory
Photo: Felicity Knight



Australian Advanced 1 Bursary winner

Australian Advanced 1 Bursary winner receives boost to training

Congratulations to LilySophia Dashwood, who has been announced as the Australian Advanced 1 bursary winner for 2022. The prize contributes up to \$5,000 to LilySophia for her ongoing training in dance.

LilySophia was chosen from six finalists from across Australia who competed in the online competition. Trained by Jane Moore and Andie Dashwood, LilySophia entered the competition having completed her Advanced 1 exam in the RAD syllabus. Students from almost every state and territory took part in the competition, submitting a film of themselves taking the bursary class led by guest faculty Nicky Gattorna (former Soloist, The Royal Ballet). Students also submitted a film of themselves performing a well-known classical variation from the selection provided. RAD Artistic Director, Gerard Charles, and former Principal Artist with The Australian Ballet, Kirsty Martin, assessed the entries and selected LilySophia Dashwood as the winner from the six finalists.



RAD bursaries, scholarships and competitions provide opportunities for young people training in dance to gain performance experience and to further their study and training. In winning the bursary LilySophia follows in big sister Isobelle's footsteps. Isobelle, now a Soloist with The Australian Ballet, also won the RAD Australian Advanced 1 Bursary in 2011.

Find out more [here](#).

Panel of Examiners

Fond farewell

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the best to retiring UK examiner Helen Hillard, who has been on the examining panel for nine years. We thank her for her dedicated service.

In celebration

Former examiners Barbara Peters (UK) and Annette Dirickx (AUS) have been awarded the Fellowship of the RAD, FRAD.

Recruitment and training

The next examiner training programme will be held in London in October and November 2022, with ten trainees confirmed to attend from seven different countries. They will train for four weeks at London headquarters, before going on shadowing tours with existing examiners.

We are currently not accepting any new examiner applications and do not anticipate further recruitment until 2024. For further information on application guidelines and the training process email examinerrecruitment@rad.org.uk

iPad Marking app

The full global panel of examiners have now received their RAD iPads and comprehensive training to use the marking app. This has been an ongoing project for many years and the team is delighted that this important stage has finally been reached. Examiners will now be exclusively using the marking app in exams worldwide.

Congratulations to the many colleagues involved in this project including IT, operational teams, regional teams, and the panel of examiners. A special thank you to the Canadian office, who first developed the marking app and provided significant and invaluable input and support in the initial pilot stages and beyond. Finally, a particular mention to the following contributors who worked tirelessly in the development stages of this project: National Director of Canada, Clarke McIntosh; Examinations Manager, Carolyn Jones; App developer, Matt Johnson; RAD Examiner, Wendy Holt and the entire Canadian panel of examiners who participated in the first marking app pilot.

Solo Seal

The Solo Seal is the highest level of exam offered by the RAD.

Candidates perform three solo variations and a virtuoso finale (choreographed by the candidate or their teacher), requiring a high degree of technical and expressive artistry, in front of an audience.

They must achieve a minimum of 8 marks (out of 10) in every component to pass. In a typical year, no more than 20-30 candidates around the world achieve this prestigious award.

Congratulations to the following:

Canada

Valerie (Wing-Yin) Lau (May 2022)

Angela Lee (May 2022)

Italy

Filippo Ferdinando Pagani (July 2022)

New Zealand

Charlotte Willis (September 2022)

Ema Takahashi (September 2022)

Miguel Herrera (September 2022)

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