

Musical Theatre studies

Funding advice



Introduction

We understand that training for a career in Musical Theatre can be very expensive. The Musicians Benevolent Fund supports musical theatre students through the Ian Fleming Musical Theatre Awards. These awards provide financial support for postgraduate and final year undergraduate students on musical theatre courses.

Candidates are selected on a nominations only basis as recommended by their college. Relevant colleges are fully informed of the nomination process and invited to nominate in the spring. Further details can be found on our website helpmusicians.org.uk

We also have a funding wizard on our website with alternative sources of funding (helpmusicians.org.uk/fundingwizard) and it may also be useful to look at our advice sheets on undergraduate and postgraduate funding.

Other Musical Theatre course funding

In the first instance we would advise you to contact your chosen place of study about the funding that they can offer to students. Many colleges have a variety of bursaries and scholarships on offer and they may also be able to advise you how to access external funding.

For those wishing to become dancers, actors or stage managers then the Government's [Dance and Drama Awards](#) (DaDA) are an option. They offer greatly reduced tuition fees and can help with living and study costs at some of the leading private dance and drama training providers. You must be aged over 16 for dance courses and over 18 for acting and stage management courses.

Also offering funding for musical theatre training is the [BBC Performing Arts Fund](#) which supports talented and motivated musical theatre students who are in financial need. Money is awarded directly to colleges and distributed to the most deserving candidates

Other funders of musical theatre training include the [Mackintosh Foundation](#), the [South Square Trust](#) and the [Leverhulme Trust](#). You might be able to find charities operating at a local level who can support you – look for information in your library or use one of the funding directories listed below.

Career Development Loans are commercial bank loans that can be used to help pay for work related learning. The Government will pay the interest on the loan while you are studying. Further information is available on the [DirectGov](#) website.

The Stage website offers advice relating to funding for theatre-related courses: thestage.co.uk/connect/howto/funding.php and thestage.co.uk/connect/faq/faq018.php

The [Creative Choices website](#) offers advice and guidance on careers in performing arts.

Funding tools and other useful links

Performing arts funding advice

UK Performing Arts ukperformingarts.co.uk/musicaltheatre

National Council for Drama Training ncdt.co.uk/guidetotraining/funding

Association of Charitable Foundations – advice on applying to a charitable trust acf.org.uk

Funding directories

Turn2Us turn2us.org.uk

Funding Central fundingcentral.org.uk

Musicians Benevolent Fund funding wizard helpmusicians.org.uk/fundingwizard

Advice for creative careers

Creative Choices – advice on creative careers creative-choices.co.uk

Music Education UK – music education magazine musiceducationuk.com

The **British Music Education Yearbook** (published annually) is a useful source of information, including listings of funding bodies, and can be found in libraries or purchased from the Rhinegold website

The **Directory of Grant Making Trusts** is published annually by the Directory of Social Change and should be available in your local library.

Muso Magazine – bi-monthly magazine for music students and young professionals musolife.com

General Higher Education funding advice

The Times Higher Education timeshighereducation.co.uk

The Guardian advice for students guardian.co.uk/education/advice-for-students

Student Cash Point studentcashpoint.co.uk

Hotcourses scholarship course scholarship-search.org.uk

UK Council for international students ukcisa.org.uk/student/source_funding.php

British Council scholarships britishcouncil.org/learning-funding-your-studies.htm