

Audition Guidelines: 2026 Entry Self-Tape/Online Interview MA Acting

Thank you for your interest in training with us. These guidelines are for applicants who do not normally live in the UK, or for those who are unable to travel to an in-person audition event.

We understand how nerve-wracking the prospect of auditioning can be, so please read these guidelines carefully. Being able to follow instructions is an important part of being an actor.

Remember we're interested in finding out about you as an individual, so please try to relax, be yourself and enjoy the day.

Self-tape Audition

Please record the pieces outlined below for your self-tape and combine all items on to one self-tape. Please submit this within ten working days from the date you receive your invitation.

You should complete the submission form at the end of this document, save it following the naming guidelines, and upload it to our applicant portal.

1. Identifier

Please state your name directly to camera.

Tell us which course you are most interested in studying at LIPA, and why.

Tell us the titles of the pieces you are performing for us.

2. Contemporary speech (no longer than 2 minutes)

Please choose a speech from a play written after 2000. This play should reflect your own age and life experiences. We recommended that you use a monologue in which your character is talking to another character in the play for two minutes, without them exchanging dialogue with you in that time, rather than a character that is talking to the "audience" for two minutes.

3. Verse speech (no longer than 2 minutes)

Please choose a two-minute verse speech, which demonstrates your ability to interpret heightened forms of speech and to communicate images and stories. Your

selection is not restricted to conventional verse (i.e. Shakespeare), but can include contemporary verse, such as works by Inua Ellams and Kae Tempest. The verse speech may be, but is not limited to:

- Spoken word
- Modern, classical and performance poetry
- Song lyrics
- Shakespeare

Most importantly, ensure there is a narrative journey and that you tell a story.

Submitting your Stage One: Self-tape

Your identifier and three pieces should be edited together into one single video file. Please upload your self-tape to a video hosting platform (e.g. YouTube or Vimeo). If using YouTube, please upload your clips as 'unlisted' and ensure that this is viewable until 31 August 2026. Please do not send us links to WeTransfer or email attachments.

Complete the submission form (at the end of this document), including the link to the recording. Please save and name the submission form in capital letters with your SURNAME-FORENAME, followed by the word 'SELFTAPE' e.g. SMITH-JANE.SELFTAPE and upload this to our applicant portal. Details about the applicant portal have been emailed to you.

Interview

Our programme team will contact you for an informal interview. We want to better understand who you are, your aspirations and suitability for our training programmes. Please prepare for this by familiarising yourself in depth with the course content on our website. We want to get to know you better and understand more about what you expect to gain from training with us. We may ask you some of the following questions and give you the opportunity to ask us questions too:

- What makes you an ideal LIPA student?
- What additional skills and qualities would you bring to the programme?
- When embarking on a rigorous practical training averaging 30+ hours per week, what are your personal mechanisms for maintaining physical and mental stamina and resilience?
- What artistic experience has had the biggest impact on you, and why?
- What would be your dream project to be involved in, and why?
- Do you have any questions for us?

Furthermore, we may ask you to present your two-minute contemporary or verse speech again. After you have performed the speech, we may give you direction, advice and instruction on how you might approach the speech from a different angle, helping you to understand other aspects of the character through the language the playwright has provided. You are expected to incorporate this advice.

After the interview

We aim to communicate our decision to you within ten working days of your interview. Unfortunately, it can take longer than this sometimes. Please do not assume that you have been unsuccessful if you have not heard from us – it may be that we are still making decisions. If you have any concerns about the status of your application, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Feedback

Unfortunately, due to the high volume of applications we receive, we are unable to offer feedback if your application is unsuccessful this year.

Any questions?

For applicants from within the UK please email our Admissions Team:

admissions@lipa.ac.uk

For applicants from outside of the UK, please email our International Team:

international@lipa.ac.uk

You can also reach us by phone by calling +44 (0)151 330 3000 and asking for either the Admissions or International Teams as appropriate.

There is **no audition fee** for any stage of our audition process.

Good luck and we look forward to seeing you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will Hammond". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Will Hammond

Director of the School of Performance

How to record your self-tape

We want to be able to see and hear you as if you were in front of us at an audition, but you don't need expensive equipment to do this. You can shoot this on a smartphone but please use the back camera, which is usually of higher quality than the front facing one. If you have access to a DSLR or a good quality camera that's great, but please do not use a laptop or webcam. Please follow these tips:

- Hair: Make sure it doesn't cover your face.
- Lighting: Shoot with a light source in front of you, not behind (you'll be in silhouette) or off to one side. Avoid harsh shadows and/or fluorescent lights directly overhead. Natural light is best.
- Sound: Good sound is vital so find somewhere quiet with no background noise. If you use an external microphone it needs to be as close as possible (1-2m).
- Background: Use a plain, clear and uncluttered background. Make sure that your top contrasts with the background (if it's a white background wear a colourful top, if it's a black background don't wear black or a very dark colour).
- Landscape: Always shoot your tape landscape, not portrait (horizontal, not vertical).
- Eyeline: Your lines should be fed slightly to the left or right of the camera. This is to open your face up to the camera without looking down the lens.
- Props: Don't allow any props to distract from the action.
- Keep it steady: Ideally use a tripod or aim to keep the camera level and steady.
- Medium – close-up: Don't use the digital zoom - if you need to get closer then move the camera closer. It is important your framing is correct, as shown below.





Self-tape Audition Guidelines: 2026 Entry

MA Acting

Please enter the information below carefully.

When you save this document, please rename it using capital letters with your SURNAME-FORENAME, followed by the word 'SELFTAPE' e.g. SMITH-JOHN.SELFTAPE.

Please submit this within **ten working days** of receiving your invitation to submit a self-tape. Please submit your completed form to our applicant portal using your personal log in details provided to you previously. Please enter the information below carefully.

Your Details

Full Name

Date of birth

LIPA ID Number

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Self-tape link

The link should be provided via a hosting service such as YouTube, and not a service where the link will expire as we may need to access your link more than once. Please ensure that this is viewable until 31 August 2026.

Link to self-tape