



Audition Guidelines: 2024 Entry Stage One: Self-tape Submission

BA (Hons) Acting BA (Hons) Acting (Screen & Digital) CertHe Foundation Acting (Stage & Screen)

Thank you for your interest in training with us – we're delighted to let you know that you are through to the first stage of our two-part audition process. If you normally live outside of the UK, you have been invited to submit self-tapes for your audition.

At all stages of the audition process we may consider you for any of the following undergraduate Acting courses:

- BA (Hons) Acting
- BA (Hons) Acting (Screen & Digital)
- CertHE Foundation Acting (Stage & Screen)

After we have assessed your self-tape there are three possible outcomes:

- Some candidates will be invited to take part in a live virtual recall. Alternatively you may attend an in-person recall, either at LIPA, or at one of our overseas audition events planned in the USA, Norway and Hong Kong.
- Some candidates will receive an offer of a place on our CertHE Foundation Acting course.
- Some candidates will be informed that they have been unsuccessful.

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

Guidelines for your Stage One self-tape submission

Please record four elements for your self-tape, which are outlined below and combine all four 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 here and why.

Tell us the titles of the three speeches 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. Dramatic 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:

- Shakespeare
- Elizabethan
- Jacobean
- Modern

4. Self-created piece (no longer than 2 minutes)

Please create and perform an original piece in response to a newspaper article.

Here are a few hints and tips to help you create this piece:

- Ensure your piece expresses an essential quality of who you are, and where you believe your place is in the world you inhabit.
- Avoid a ‘talking head’ performance piece. In other words, don’t just perform the piece as merely a spoken monologue, try to turn your ideas into performed images.
- Movement, sound, spoken word, song, music and gesture can all be part of your self-created piece.

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.

- Lines learned: You should be off script and well-rehearsed so you can do each speech in one take.
- Long hair: Should always be tied up or put behind shoulders and not cover your face.
- Hats and make-up: Don’t wear a hat or heavy make-up.
- Props: If you would like to use small props this isn’t a problem. The most important thing is that it is not distracting from the action.

- **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. The microphone on a smartphone is good but if your camera can accept an external microphone even better. The microphone needs to be as close as possible (1-2m).
- **Background:** Go for a plain, clear and uncluttered background. Make sure that your top contrasts with the background (so 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).
- **Keep it steady:** Ideally use a tripod to keep the camera level and steady.
- However, if this is not possible, ensure whoever is filming has a steady hand.
- **Eye line:** 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.
- **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.



- Please do not read out the stage directions.
- Please don't mime action. Find a different way to make sense of the moment - e.g. if the stage directions say the character pours out two glasses of wine, offers one to and then toasts the other character, just making eye contact and playing a beat of connection with the other character will be enough.
- If filming more than one take, choose the take that suits the character best, as opposed to the take most flattering of your general appearance.
- Check the footage once you're happy with it to make sure it fits the technical notes above. But don't agonise over the decision and don't be too hard on yourself. It's difficult to watch yourself and you are your own worst critic.

Submitting your stage one self-tape

- Your identifier and three speeches 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'.

- Ensure that this is viewable until 31 August 2022.
- Please complete the attached submission form and include 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.
- Please do not send us links to WeTransfer or email attachments.

Useful information

Do you have any access needs related to a disability that may require specialist arrangements?

If you think you will require any type of support for either stage of the audition process, please contact our Student Disability Officer, at wellbeing.disability@lipa.ac.uk

Feedback

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

Recall auditions

A selection of candidates will be asked to come back at a later date for a recall audition. This can either be a live, virtual recall (on Microsoft Teams) or you may attend an in-person recall, either at LIPA, or at one of our overseas audition events planned in the USA, Norway and Hong Kong. Please contact the International Team for further information on these events.

Any questions?

For applicants from outside of the UK, please email our International Team, international@lipa.ac.uk

For applicants from within the UK please email our Admissions Team: admissions@lipa.ac.uk

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

Good luck and we look forward to seeing you.

David Salter
Head of Acting