

Rom Theatre Arts Dyslexia Policy

What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a learning difficulty that primarily affects the skills involved in accurate and fluent word reading and spelling. Characteristic features of dyslexia are difficulties in phonological awareness, verbal memory and verbal processing speed. Dyslexia occurs across the range of intellectual abilities. It is best thought of as a continuum, not a distinct category, and there are no clear cut-off points. Co-occurring difficulties may be seen in aspects of language, motor co-ordination, mental calculation, concentration and personal organisation, but these are not, by themselves, markers of dyslexia. A good indication of the severity and persistence of dyslexic difficulties can be gained by examining how the individual responds or has responded to well-founded intervention.

In addition to these characteristics:

The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) acknowledges the visual and auditory processing difficulties that some individuals with dyslexia can experience, and points out that dyslexic readers can show a combination of abilities and difficulties that affect the learning process. Some also have strengths in other areas, such as design, problem solving, creative skills, interactive skills and oral skills.

Rom Theatre Arts will do its best to support any student who has the reason to think he or she is suffering from a dyslexic condition.

RTA provides confidential advice and support to both prospective and enrolled students with disabilities – including physical disabilities, sensory impairments, specific learning disabilities, long-term medical conditions and mental health requirements. If we are aware of your disability, there are many things we can do to assist you.

To ensure that your needs are catered for we can offer:

- a programme of specialist study skills tuition within the College,
- assessments, recommendations and adjustments for your learning environments,
- liaison with academic departments to make special arrangements for auditions, interviews, examinations and to ensure students' needs are being met in learning and performance contexts.

Evidence of Disability or Health Condition

If you have a Specific Learning Difficulty (Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADHD/ADD etc.) and had a diagnostic assessment after your 16th birthday, please contact us so that we can advise you on applying for funding (Disabled Students Allowance/DSA).

We can then have the appropriate support in place for when your studies commence. If your diagnosis occurred before your 16th birthday, you will need to organise another assessment. The sooner this takes place, the more likely it will be that support can be set up for you before your course begins. For all other disabilities and long term health conditions, you will need medical evidence or a report from a suitably qualified specialist to support your funding application.

What should I do if I suspect I may have a disability or learning difficulty?

If you are unsure but think you might have a disability, we would encourage you to contact the appropriate contact prior to starting your course or at your earliest opportunity once your studies commence (although this can be at any point during your course) so we can offer you an informal discussion regarding your needs and studies at Rom Theatre arts. Once your course begins it can be difficult to prioritise this so we would encourage you to get in touch as soon as any issues arise, so that we can get appropriate support in place to enable you to get the most out of your time at the College. Academic staff are also incredibly supportive and you may wish to discuss your concerns with a tutor in the first instance.

Non-Medical Helper Support

Rom Theatre arts aims to provide non-medical helper support to all of our disabled students as required. Where we do not necessarily have the support in-house, we work and liaise with external specialist agencies to provide this.