



Institute of the Arts
Barcelona

MUSICAL THEATRE AUDITION GUIDE

For Foundation and BA (Hons) programmes

For entry in September 2023

There is a two-stage audition process for the IAB musical theatre programmes. The first stage is the submission of a video audition. Applicants who demonstrate an appropriate entry-level technique move forward to the second stage. The second stage is a live online or in-person audition, plus one-to-one interview.

01 AUDITION PROCESS

FIRST STAGE

Following submission of the application form, you will be asked to submit the first stage video footage requirements by the deadline given on the IAB website. You need to submit:

1. Singing

Present two contrasting songs from the musical theatre genre. Both songs are to be sung in English.

One song should be a ballad and one song should be up-tempo. One of the songs should be written before 1965 and one song should be written after 1965 - it is your choice which is the ballad or up-tempo. You must sing to musical accompaniment, which could include live or pre-recorded accompaniment. No "a cappella" singing (meaning singing without music).

Each song file should be 60-90 seconds. This time limit includes the introduction (slate) at the beginning of the piece and must be strictly adhered to; please do not upload media files longer than 90 seconds.

The proper slate for a song is to share your name, the song title, and the musical in which it appears.

Songs should be filmed in a 3/4 shot, this means the top of the head to the knees should be visible in the frame.

2. Acting

Present one contemporary (written after 1900) monologue, in English. The monologue must be from a published play or musical; it cannot be taken from a television show or a movie.

Each monologue file should be 60-90 seconds in length. This time limit includes the introduction (slate) at the beginning of the piece and must be strictly adhered to; please do not upload media files longer than 90 seconds.

The proper slate for a monologue is to share your name, the title of the play, the character's name and the playwright.

The monologue should be filmed in a "close-up" shot which means the top of the head to the chest should be visible in the frame.

01 AUDITION PROCESS

3. Dance

Present a 60-second jazz dance combination.

All dance footage should be filmed in a “full body” shot, taking care to keep your entire body in the frame at all times.

You do not need to introduce (slate) the dance footage.

The choreography and the movement should be story-driven and connected to the music where the applicant is dancing with a sense of purpose. Please use steps, movement, and physical vocabulary that you are familiar with and can execute well.

Dance footage can be self-choreographed, but must be a solo video of you. This can include a show, competition, or other performance so long as you are clearly featured on your own.

All choreography must be performed to music; no “a cappella” dance footage.

4. Wild card video - optional

This media can be anything you want - a special skill, another dance style (i.e. tap, an instrument you play, etc.). “What do you want us to know about you?” and “What makes you unique?”

Submissions should be no more than 60 seconds. You do not need to introduce (slate) in any wild card media.

Video production and submission

Do not worry about technical production values. Simply ensure that:

- There is adequate light - always video with the principle light source behind the camera.
- There is no background noise, except for the music, as you record your footage.
- You are encouraged to use standard technology/recording devices (i.e. smartphones, tablets, etc.).
- Each piece should be filmed/uploaded as a separate piece of media. No continuous videos.
- Upload the videos to YouTube and create an unlisted YouTube playlist for the videos. One link to the YouTube playlist should be submitted to apply@iabarcelona.es

01 AUDITION PROCESS

SECOND STAGE

At the start of the audition, the musical theatre team will introduce themselves and explain the audition process. The audition start time and approximate end time will be listed on the IAB website. You will be given a breakdown of timings in advance of the audition.

1. Dance

Participation in a tutor-led ballet and jazz masterclass. Preparation of a solo is not required.

2. Individual presentation of material and interview

This may include:

- Individual presentation of two contrasting songs - see guidance above. You can present the same songs as the first stage audition.
- One monologue - see guidance above. You can present the same monologue as the first stage.
- Individual interview and discussion about your previous training and your personal aspirations as a musical theatre performer.

02 AUDITION TYPE

IN-PERSON AUDITION

Plan your travel in advance and stay overnight locally if you need to. Please arrive early to warm up. You will receive location details in advance.

Please bring your sheet music with you, in the correct key, sellotaped together or in a folder - no loose pages please.

LIVE ONLINE AUDITION

You can do the audition from a safe and suitable space at home if you do not have access to a dance studio. If you are joining from your home, use the back of a sturdy chair to hold on to in ballet, instead of a barre. Avoid outdoor locations as it will be hard to see the screen and hear what is being said.

You will need a space in which you can move your limbs safely and freely, as well as be able to take a few steps in a given direction. We will suggest the use of alternative directions during the auditions should there be the need.

Before the audition, check that we can see your full body through the camera of your device, place it at a good distance and if needed lift it or lower it accordingly. Please make sure the camera of your device is not facing a window, as the light will not allow us to see you properly.

You will need a computer or mobile device with a camera, and a good speed internet connection which will allow you to stay connected on Zoom throughout the audition.

You will need another device for playing the backing music to your songs as it will interfere with the sound on Zoom if you try to play the music on the same device.

If you are in a different time zone to Spain, double check the audition start time for your time zone.

03 Q&A

1. What do I need to wear?

For the dance elements, please wear appropriate dancewear that enables us to see clear lines, placement and technical and performance skills. For the acting and singing elements, you should wear clothes appropriate for a formal audition.

2. Will my audition be filmed?

Yes. We record our auditions to share with appropriate members of staff in order to assess your suitability for our programmes.

3. Will my audition take place with other people?

The dance elements will be led by one of our dance teachers with other applicants. The interview will be on a one-to-one basis.

4. Can I do the second audition via video?

In exceptional circumstances, upon application and at the discretion of the audition team, applicants can audition via video for the second audition. Details will be provided if the video audition application is approved. An online interview will still be required.

03 Q&A

5. How can I prepare for my interview?

Think about your answers to possible questions such as:

- Why do you want to study this programme?
- Why do you want to come to the IAB?
- Who has influenced you from the world of dance and performance?
- What live performance/stage experience do you have?
- Which professional performances have you seen?
- What do you want to do after your time at the IAB?

6. What are you looking for in a successful applicant?

A successful applicant will evidence their skills, knowledge of the subject, enthusiasm and commitment for their chosen programme. Please look below at the criteria section - this will explain exactly what we are looking for.

7. Can I use a language other than English in the audition pieces and interview?

No, all our programmes are fully taught and assessed in English therefore all spoken elements of the audition must be undertaken in English.

8. When will I know the outcome of my audition?

You will be informed of the outcome of your first stage process at least one week prior to the next live audition date.

If you are invited to the second stage audition, we aim to inform you of the outcome within two weeks of completing all elements of your audition.

03 Q&A

9. What are the requirements if I am disabled?

If you are registered as disabled, please contact the IAB. Please note, we do not vary the criteria we use but we do recognise that people with disabilities may demonstrate meeting those criteria in a different way.

10. Who do I contact if I still have a question?

Email apply@iabarcelona.es if you have any more questions.

04 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

| Criteria | Evidenced by/in |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Dance Technique: Alignment, musicality and flexibility. | Dance |
| Physicality: Strength, extension and core stability. | Dance |
| Singing: clarity of tone, intonation, timing/rhythm, phrasing, vocal range, characterisation and embodiment of style. | Songs |
| Voice: How you use your voice, tone, variation, timing, rhythm and pause. | Monologue |
| Physicality: How you move, use your body to convey character and meaning. | Songs, monologue and dance |
| Presence: This is the life you instil in the songs, your acted character, your dance work and your responsiveness to given direction. | Songs, monologue, dance and interview |
| Engagement: Your interest in musical theatre and the programme. | Application and interview |

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Your health and safety are of paramount importance to us. The staff members leading the audition are experienced professionals and will not ask you to do anything which will impact on your health and safety. If you feel unprepared for any specific exercise or activity or feel that it may cause you injury, let the member of staff know and you should refrain from undertaking it. Please be sure to state any injuries on your application form.

05 CHECKLIST

First stage video

- Two songs
- One monologue
- One jazz dance
- Wild card - optional

Second stage audition - In-person

- Printed sheet music
- Appropriate clothing for the audition
- Be clear on the order of the day
- Bring water and food for the day
- Plan your travel

Second stage audition - Live online

- Computer or mobile device with a camera
- Set up with a full-body shot and good source of light
- Good wi-fi
- Ballet barre or sturdy chair
- Extra device to play backing music