

15 Best Drama Schools in the UK

By [Acting in London](#)

Sylvia Young Theatre School (London)

- **Address:** 1 Nutford Pl, London W1H 5YZ, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 20 7258 2330 / info@syts.co.uk
- **Website:** <http://www.sylviayoungtheatreschool.co.uk>
- **Graduates:** Nick Berry, Adam Woodyatt, Perry Fenwick

Sylvia Young is one of the very few drama schools that is offering part-time classes. While I wouldn't recommend them, because that is not the reason why one should train in a drama school, there might be exceptional cases where no other option is available.

The school was established in 1972 with full-time acting training course launching in 1981, and have trained some amazing talent since that time. Sylvia Young is up there with the rest of the top schools when it comes to offering a variety of acting training, both for stage and screen, as well as other performing arts.

Guildford School of Acting (Guildford)

- **Address:** Stag Hill Campus, Perimeter Rd, Guildford GU2 7XH, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 1483 684040 / admissions@surrey.ac.uk
- **Website:** <http://gsauk.org>
- **Graduates:** Bill Nighy, Sasha Roiz, Peter Alexander

Second on the list of best drama schools in UK is GSA, which first opened its doors in 1935 under the name of Grant-Bellairs School of Dance and Drama. It has moved around a little since then until finally settling down in Guildford, Surrey and is now part of School of Arts at the University of Surrey.

Being another one of the few drama schools that offers part-time courses, GSA has progressively built a reputation of providing quality training to its actors and performers. If you're anywhere around the area, or you're in the position where part-time acting course is your only choice, you will never go wrong with an acting school like GSA.

Manchester Metropolitan University School of Theatre (Manchester)

- **Address:** Mabel Tylecote Building, 70 Oxford St, Manchester M1 5NH, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 161 247 1306 / artschool@mmu.ac.uk
- **Website:** <http://www.theatre.mmu.ac.uk>
- **Graduates:** Amanda Burton, Steve Coogan, Richard Griffiths

MMU is a well know acting school that is a popular choice for actors in the North West of England. Having trained some of the established names in the United Kingdom's industry, MMU is holding onto a strong title of one of the best drama schools in UK.

The school is closely working with BBC North and Granada, and now, as a lot of production has moved to Manchester, connections from MMU will guarantee a spot on a map for most alumni actors. Their training is strongly based on physical theatre practitioners like Grotowski, and works of Brecht and Stanislavski's teachings.

Rose Bruford College of Theatre & Performance

(London)

- **Address:** Burnt Oak Ln, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9DF, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 20 8308 2600 / enquiries@bruford.ac.uk
- **Website:** <http://www.bruford.ac.uk>
- **Graduates:** Cheryl Ferguson, Greg Hicks, Roy Williams

Rose Bruford, a trained actress and speech teacher, has established this school in 1950 under the name of Rose Bruford Training College of Speech and Drama.

They are considered to be a strong drama school with quality reputation that's currently offering University-level degrees for performers that are approved by University of Manchester. Rose Bruford is a large and one of the most comprehensive providers of a solid theatre-focused training in Western Europe.

East 15 Acting School

(Loughton)

- **Address:** Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 20 8508 5983 / east15@essex.ac.uk
- **Website:** <http://www.east15.ac.uk>
- **Graduates:** Alan Ford, Billy Murray, David Yates

E15 drama school was founded in 1961 by Margaret Walker. As most of this schools approach was based on the works of Mr. Stanislavski, his spirit is still always around; so just keep this in mind in case you are not a fan of *the system* ("method" for our US visitors).

It's in the fifth place of our best drama schools in UK list, because since opening the doors for the first time, E15 has been provided some very good training both

for stage and screen acting. They also provide the additional training like combat, fencing, etc. that is extremely useful for any actor getting ready to go out there.

Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts (London)

- **Address:** Kingfisher Place, Clarendon Rd, London N22 6XF, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 20 8826 9210 / enquiries@mountview.org.uk
- **Website:** <http://www.mountview.org.uk>
- **Graduates:** Brendan Coyle, Denise Welch, Eddie Marsan

Mountview, as it is often referred to, is currently one of the leading drama schools in the United Kingdom. It was founded in 1945 and who's current president is our beloved 'M', Dame Judi Dench. The school places a strong emphasis on professional stage training, but of course introduction to related industries is also there.

There are claims that Mountview also supports their alumnus months and even years after they have graduated. So if that is something you are looking into (connections for years to come, why not?), then you should definitely consider applying to Mountview. Make sure you have what it takes though.

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (Glasgow)

- **Address:** 100 Renfrew St, Glasgow G2 3DB, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 141 332 4101 / admissions@rsc.ac.uk
- **Website:** <http://www.rsc.ac.uk>
- **Graduates:** Robert Carlyle, John Hannah, Billy Boyd, Angela Lonsdale

Another one on the list of best drama schools in UK is a drama school for actors in Scotland. RCS (formally RSAMD for Royal Scottish Academy of Music and

Drama) is a strong drama school founded as long ago as 1847. Prince Charles is currently a patron of the Academy, helping to maintain a school's place as a vibrant conservatoire.

Apart from great undergraduate and post-graduate courses, RCS also has Junior Academy of Drama for under 18 year old youngsters looking to get a head start in their acting career. It is definitely one of the places you will not regret being trained.

London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (London)

- **Address:** 155 Talgarth Rd, London W14 9DA, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 20 8834 0500 / enquiries@lamda.org.uk
- **Website:** <http://www.lamda.org.uk>
- **Graduates:** Donald Sutherland, John Lithgow, Jim Broadbent, Swoosie Kurtz, Brian Cox

LAMDA is one of the oldest drama schools in the world. After being founded in 1861, it has produced some absolutely great talent. Graduates of this drama school has already taken 19 BAFTAs, 4 Academy Awards, 16 Golden Globes, 36 Olivier Awards and 12 Tonys.

Besides the fact that this school is looking strong, someone who can manage to get LAMDA onto their resume will score some major points in the great training and showbiz connections department.

Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (London)

- **Address:** 62-64 Gower St, London WC1E 6ED, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 20 7636 7076 / enquiries@rada.ac.uk
- **Website:** <http://www.rada.ac.uk>

- **Graduates:** Peter O'Toole, Joan Collins, Anthony Hopkins, Ralph Fiennes, Vivien Leigh

RADA was founded in 1904 and in addition to being considered one of the top acting schools, it's the top school hardest to get into. It is named this way for a reason, as it radiates royal reputation.

There are classes that involve just one teacher and up to three students. It is said that The Beatles were famous because their RADA-trained manager taught them how to be dramatic. If you're able to get in, after graduation you'll be definitely on agents' and casting directors' radar.

Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (Cardiff)

- **Address:** Castle Grounds, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3ER, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 29 2034 2854 / admissions@rwcmd.ac.uk
- **Website:** <http://www.rwcmd.ac.uk>
- **Graduates:** Sir Anthony Hopkins, Rob Brydon, Ruth Jones

One more of the top ones on the list of best drama schools in UK is RWCMD. Established in 1949 in Cardiff Castle, RWCMD — the National Conservatoire of Wales — is on the top level with all other great drama schools of the United Kingdom, and even the world.

From what I have read about this school, they really take care of their students during and after the studies to get them onto their feet in the industry. The school has strong connections to local TV broadcast stations, constantly invites casting directors and stages over 300 public performances per year. If you are anywhere near Cardiff or Wales, consider applying to this drama school — satisfaction is guaranteed.

Oxford School of Drama

(Woodstock)

- **Address:** Sansomes Farm Studios, Woodstock OX20 1ER, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 1993 812883 / info@oxforddrama.ac.uk
- **Website:** <http://oxforddrama.ac.uk>
- **Graduates:** Lee Boardman, Christina Cole, Catherine McCormack

Oxford's drama school is one of the youngest best drama schools in UK. While it has been around for only about 26 years, it has already produced a respectable amount of talented and famous performers.

It's a relatively small school with just 18 students on a course, so the competition for a place at this school between elite wanna be actors is a fierce one. This drama school is absolutely independent and is not attached to any of the Universities of the United Kingdom.

Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts

(London)

- **Address:** Italia Conti House, 23 Goswell Rd, London EC1M 7AJ, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 20 7608 0044 / admin@italiaconti.co.uk
- **Website:** <http://www.italiaconti.com>
- **Graduates:** Noel Coward, Russell Brand, Leslie Phillips

Italia Conti was founded in 1911 and is named after its founder Italia Conti, who was an established female actor at the time.

This drama school has always provided a modern approach to actor's training based on the core of traditional skills, which means a strong emphasis on screen acting. Many professionals at this school are working in the industry and that means great connections after you graduate.

Central School of Speech and Drama

(London)

- **Address:** 62-64 Eton Ave, London NW3 3HY, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 20 7722 8183 / enquiries@cssd.ac.uk
- **Website:** <http://www.cssd.ac.uk>
- **Graduates:** Sir Laurence Olivier, Dame Judi Dench, Harold Pinter, Vanessa Redgrave

One school making its transfer from London's list onto best drama schools in UK list. CSSD is a very highly regarded theater and drama school that was founded in 1906. To say that you were able to fill a place in Central, as it's also known, is a statement to be proud of.

Throughout the years this drama school has produced some extremely talented actors that were successful both on stage and in film/TV. This is one of the most unique centers for aspiring actors in London that always there to offer a new form of training in theater and film acting.

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School

(Bristol)

- **Address:** 1-2 Downside Rd, Bristol BS8 2XF, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 117 973 3535 / enquiries@oldvic.ac.uk
- **Website:** <http://www.oldvic.ac.uk>
- **Graduates:** Gene Wilder, Patrick Stewart, Daniel Day-Lewis, Jeremy Irons

Old Vic Theater School was opened in 1946 by Sir Laurence Olivier. It is now an affiliate of the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama and an associate school of the Faculty of Creative Arts of the University of the West of England.

The school provides a world class actors training and has trained some of today's most famous and talented actors, including the only actor to ever receive 3 Academy Awards in the leading category, Daniel Day-Lewis. Don't doubt that Old

Vic deserves a place on a top 15 list of best drama schools in UK, and if you have a chance, try and get a training in this amazing institution.

Guildhall School of Music & Drama (London)

- **Address:** Silk St, London EC2Y 8DT, United Kingdom
- **Contact:** +44 20 7628 2571 / registry@gsmd.ac.uk
- **Website:** <http://www.gsmd.ac.uk>
- **Graduates:** Ewan McGregor, Joseph Fiennes, Daniel Craig, Orlando Bloom

Once again, the last one on our best drama schools in UK list is GSMD from London. This drama school is one of the most prestigious in the country, rubbing shoulders not only with great musicians like Jacqueline du Pre and James Galway, but also actors that made a name for themselves both in UK and US markets.

Dominic West says of GSMD: “Guildhall gives a broad training — it’s not prescriptive. We’re able to be versatile.” Michelle Dockery said: “Getting in was like winning the lottery.”