

RAD Ballet Exam Handbook

2026

The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD)

Founded in 1920 to elevate classical ballet teaching standards, the RAD is now the world's largest ballet examining body. It provides an internationally recognized portfolio of exams for students following its specific syllabus. To ensure quality, all registered RAD teachers must complete comprehensive training and pass rigorous examinations before they are permitted to enter students for exams.

The Examination Syllabus

The RAD syllabus offers a progressive learning structure designed to encourage and reward students of all ages and abilities. As students advance through graded levels, they develop:

- **Technical and Artistic Proficiency:** Gradually building skills as they move through the levels.
- **Physical and Creative Skills:** Improving coordination, fitness, rhythm, musicality, and self-expression.

Key Benefits of Ballet Exams

LCDC has spent over 35 years observing how the skills gained through RAD exams apply to dance, school, and other life activities.

1. Preparation and Structure

- **Readiness:** Students learn the importance of being prepared, from knowing their classwork to organizing their gear.
- **Life Skills:** Exams teach physical and mental preparation, which is useful for job interviews and academic tests.
- **Professionalism:** Exams provide a structured environment where proper grooming and behaviour are expected.

2. Goals and Achievement

- **Consistency:** Preparing for an exam teaches students to set personal goals and work steadily toward them.
- **Pride:** Students experience a sense of fulfillment and pride when performing to the best of their ability.

3. Commitment and Responsibility

- **Dedication:** Students learn the value of commitment to their teachers, parents, and peers.
- **Accountability:** The process encourages students to take responsibility for their own successes and failures.
- **Initiative:** Students are encouraged to practice outside of class, fostering time management and initiative.

RAD Ballet Exam Eligibility Criteria

RAD examinations if they meet the following requirements:

- **Syllabus Standard:**
 - Students must demonstrate a technical level within the RAD syllabus that ensures a confident "Pass".
- **Teacher Evaluation**
 - Teachers conduct internal discussions regarding each student's attendance and in-class work ethic.
- **Class Enrolments**
 - **Graded Levels**
 - Students must be enrolled in 2x RAD Ballet classes per week.
 - **Vocational Levels**
 - Students must be enrolled in at least 3x RAD Ballet classes per week.
- **Exceptions**
 - Invitations for students who do not meet the minimum class criteria are managed by the Director, Lisa, on a case-by-case basis.

Note on Entry Policy: To protect students' mental health and maintain the studio's license with the RAD, students will not be entered for an examination if they are at risk of failing.

Examination Commitments

Entering a student for an examination is a collective commitment made by both the student and the parent to the entire group within that specific grade. To ensure success, students must maintain consistent attendance at their regular classes.

Compulsory Holiday Classes

Attendance is mandatory for extra classes held during the second week of the July school holidays (ACT Holidays: Monday 13th July – Friday 17th July).

The timetable for these holiday classes will be sent out ahead of time, with a minimum of 3 week's notice for you to arrange around work commitments.

- Primary Students
 - One 1-hour class per day.
- Grades 1–5 Students
 - One 1-hour class, followed by a 15-minute break and a 45-minute class.
- Grades 6–8
 - One 1.5-hour class per day.
- Vocational Students
 - One 2-hour class per day.

Examination Dates & Times

The dates of the RAD Exams/Class Awards are set by the RAD, and will be held in July or August. The Examiner is sent by the Academy from interstate and the RAD is responsible for all timetabling. Once the timetable has been sent there can be no alterations.

Please note: Exams are typically scheduled Sunday-Friday between 9-4pm. Students will be required to come out of school for their Exam.

Examination Fees & Associated Costs

Examination Grade	RAD Exam Fee	LCDC Intensive Classes	Total
Primary in Dance	\$96.00	\$145.00	\$241.00
Grade 1	\$106	\$180.00	\$286.00
Grade 2	\$121.00	\$180.00	\$301.00
Grade 3	\$129.00	\$180.00	\$309.00
Grade 4	\$137.00	\$180.00	\$317.00
Grade 5	\$143.00	\$180.00	\$323.00
Grade 6	\$153.00	\$170.00	\$323.00
Grade 7	\$163.00	\$170.00	\$333.00
Grade 8	\$167.00	\$170.00	\$337.00
Intermediate Foundation	\$182.00	\$190.00	\$372.00
Intermediate	\$191.00	\$190.00	\$381.00
Advanced Foundation			
Member	\$197.00	\$190.00	\$387.00
Non-Member	\$396.00	\$190.00	\$586.00
Advanced 1			
Member	\$204.00	\$190.00	\$394.00
Non-Member	\$404.00	\$190.00	\$594.00
Advanced 2			
Member	\$230.00	\$190.00	\$420.00
Non-Member	\$428.00	\$190.00	\$618.00

All exam fees are inclusive of GST.

Payment for the RAD Exam Entry Fee must be paid in full by Friday 15th May, before the entry can be processed.

The entry fee will automatically be added to your account upon registration and can be paid immediately, or via Cash or EFTPOS (relevant surcharges apply) at the studio on or before Friday 15th May, 2026. Alternatively, the payment for the entry fee will be automatically withdrawn from your payment method on file on StudioLAB (1.5% + 30c for Direct Debits and 2.2% + 30c for Credit Cards on Saturday 16th May.

The fee for Intensive classes will be applied to your account manually after registration, and can be paid immediately, or via Cash or EFTPOS (1.5% surcharge for Credit Cards) at the studio on or before Monday 13th July.

Alternatively, the payment for the LCDC Fee will be automatically from your payment method on file on StudioLAB (1.5% + 30c for Direct Debits and 2.2% + 30c for Credit Cards on Tuesday 14th May.

If for any reason students are not participating in the compulsory LCDC Intensive Classes (with approval from the Director) a fee of \$75 will be payable to cover associated exam costs which are built in to the LCDC intensive fee.

Late Fees

As per our 2026 Terms & Conditions, \$5 per week late fees will be applied to any overdue Entry Fees or Intensive fees until paid.

RAD Membership

You'll notice that there are Member & Non-Member fees for students enrolling in their Vocational Exams from levels Advanced Foundation and above. Frankly, we think this is stupid but it's what the RAD do.

If you want to look at an RAD Membership, you need to look at the RAD Member Plus.

<https://www.royalacademyofdance.org/en-au/rad-membership/rad-member-plus-application/>

Exam Registration

To register your dancer for their RAD Exam, you will need to log into your portal on StudioLAB. From there, select 'Events' and register your dancer for the Exam for their level. This will be under the same name as their normal class (eg. Grade 1 Ballet).

Exam Cancellations & Withdrawals

In the event that students cancel their examination or are withdrawn by LCDC, the following policies are in place regarding the RAD fees:

- **Candidate Withdrawal (non-COVID related)**
 - Candidate withdrawal due to injury or illness (non-COVID-19 related) – option to carry forward exam fee via a transfer letter,

or up to 50% refund upon submission of evidence such as a doctor's certificate.

- Transfer letters or refunds will not be given:
 - where a teacher withdraws a candidate after the entry has been submitted
 - for clashes with events in the candidate's school, college or university calendar as these should have been foreseen at the time of entry (this includes exams, holidays, rehearsals or school trips)
 - where candidates' 'impossible dates' availability is changed after the entry has been submitted
 - where candidates' lessons have been curtailed before an exam due to a dispute between the applicant and the candidate (or the candidate's parent/guardian)
 - where a candidate withdraws from an exam due to a pre-requisite not being passed
 - where a candidate withdraws from an exam because they have not yet reached the minimum age for demonstration classes
 - where a candidate does not arrive for their exam where a candidate changes their mind about wishing to take their exam.

- **COVID-19**

- If exams are cancelled due to COVID-19, every attempt will be made to reschedule, carry-over an entry via a transfer letter or offer a video assessment option in the first instance. If none of these options are viable, RAD will refund 90% of the exam fee. Cancelled by COVID-19 means in any of the following circumstances:
 - changes in government guidance about who/how many can meet and for what purpose
 - lockdown measures being put into place
 - restrictions on travel meaning that the examiner/teacher and candidates cannot attend the planned examination day

- the examiner, teacher or candidate contracting COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19
- the teacher or candidate needing to self-isolate in alignment with government guidance.

In the event that students cancel their examination or are withdrawn by LCDC, the following policies are in place regarding the LCDC Intensive fees:

- LCDC Intensive fees are non-refundable
- A cancellation fee of \$75 will be payable

Exam Uniform Requirements

Girls (Primary – Grade 5):

- LCDC supplies all uniform items, except tights and shoes.
- All exam students **MUST** have MDM canvas ballet shoes. These can be purchased from Attitude, located in Mitchell. Please make sure you organise these at least 6 weeks in advance as MDM's stock levels can run low at this time of year.
- Ballet tights must be in new condition (ie, no discolouration, holes, ladders or pilling). Must be either MDM Brand (available online or at Attitude, or Studio7 available through LCDC).
- Ballet shoes must be clean with elastics properly secured.
- Students in Grade 1-2 must have flat-heel character shoes.
- Students in Grade 3-5 must have Cuban-heel character shoes.
- Staff will do the students hair before the exam. Students are to bring \$5 cash to cover supplies etc.

Girls (Vocational):

- LCDC supplies all uniform items, except tights and shoes.
- Shoes
 - Intermediate Foundation & Intermediate Girls
 - **MDM canvas ballet shoes with ribbons.** These can be purchased from Attitude, located in Mitchell. Please make sure you organise these at least 6 weeks in advance as MDM's stock levels can run low at this time of year.
 - **Pointe Shoes with Ribbons.** Need to be in good, clean condition and ready to wear for exams. Shoes cannot be

“dead” or not worked. New pointe shoes may be required ahead of the exam.

- Advanced Foundation – Advanced 2 Girls
 - **MDM canvas ballet shoes with elastics.** These can be purchased from Attitude, located in Mitchell. Please make sure you organise these at least 6 weeks in advance as MDM’s stock levels can run low at this time of year.
 - **Pointe Shoes with Ribbons.** Need to be in good, clean condition and ready to wear for exams. Shoes cannot be “dead” or not worked. New pointe shoes may be required ahead of the exam.
- Ballet tights must be in new condition (ie, no discolouration, holes, ladders or pilling). Must be either MDM Brand (available online or at Attitude, or Studio7 available through LCDC).
- Skirts and Half-Tutus will be supplied by LCDC.
- Water bottle (compulsory)
- Hand towel (compulsory)
- Staff will do the students hair before the exam. Students are to bring \$5 cash to cover supplies etc.

Boys: (Primary – Grade 5)

- Male students taking graded exams are to supply their own uniform.
- All male exam students MUST have MDM white canvas ballet shoes. can be purchased from Attitude, located in Phillip and Mitchell. Please make sure you organise these at least 6 weeks in advance as MDM’s stock levels can run low at this time of year.
- Male students will need new, long white socks. No colours or detailing.
- Ballet shoes must be clean with elastics properly secured.
- Male students in Grade 1-5 must have a black canvas character shoes.

Boys: (Vocational)

- Male students taking vocational exams are to supply their own uniform.
- White cap-sleeved leotard
- Navy blue or black full-length tights
- All male exam students MUST have MDM white canvas ballet shoes. can be purchased from Attitude, located in Phillip and Mitchell. Please make sure you organise these at least 6 weeks in advance as MDM’s stock levels can run low at this time of year.

- Male students will need new, long white socks. No colours or detailing.
- Ballet shoes must be clean with elastics properly secured.

Practicing At Home

The syllabus video for each level (Primary – Grade 8/Discovering Repertoire and Vocational levels) available on each class on BAND for students to watch/download to be able to practice at home.

If you haven't joined our BAND yet, use the link below to access our 'LCDC Master Group'.

<https://band.us/n/a0a408p3sbF0v>

Once you have been approved, you'll be able to add yourself/your dancer to their class group (listed in a pinned post on the 'LCDC Master Group').