**WHAT IS THE BBC NORMAN BEATON FELLOWSHIP (NBF)?**

The BBC Norman Beaton Fellowship is an initiative to draw new actors into Radio Drama.

Theatres around the United Kingdom have been invited to join us again in the search for new talent in this, the Fellowship’s **fourteenth** year.

* Each theatre will shortlist actors for a first round Audition Workshop.
* The next stage is a Semi-final in London on 16th February 2016, and then a Final on 14th – 15th March 2016 –also in London.
* From this, at least two actors will be awarded a five-month binding contract with the BBC Radio Drama Company (RDC) based in London, starting on 23rd July 2016.

**WHAT IS THE RADIO DRAMA COMPANY (RDC)?**

The celebrated RDC has been at the heart of BBC radio drama projects for over 70 years – and has featured in thousands of productions, many of them landmark projects such as *The Lord of The Rings, The Mahabharata, The History of Titus Groan,* James Joyce’s *Ulysses* and 2013’s Prix Italia winning dramatization of *1984*. RDC actors are contracted on a full-time basis for a fixed term, to play as cast in roles for BBC Radio drama projects, readings, news and magazine-style programmes. For more information please see [www.bbc.co.uk/soundstart](http://www.bbc.co.uk/soundstart).

**HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR THE AUDITION?**

* Theatres should provide you with a copy of the BBC’s notes on how to prepare for your audition.
* Please prepare two contrasting monologues lasting no more than three minutes in total. You don’t need to memorise your pieces, but you should have worked at them sufficiently to know the texts well and be able to anticipate every word. Try to find something that suits your natural voice, and only offer accents if you are totally confident with them. We prefer you not to perform material you’ve written yourself, and you should avoid using song or poetry.
  + We may take your photograph on arrival (just for identification).
  + There will be an introduction to Radio Drama
  + There might be some group work to begin the workshop.
  + Then the judges will ask you to present your prepared monologues.
  + You will also be given a short piece of sight-reading
  + This completes the audition.
  + Your audition will be recorded.
* **Listen to the plays on BBC Radio 4 and Radio 3**. This will give you a glimpse of the range of voices currently used by Radio Drama. You can also listen online at www.bbc.co.uk/drama/radio

**ENTRY TO THE EVENT IS FREE OF CHARGE**

**DOES THE BBC PAY TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR ATTENDING THE WORKSHOP?**

There are no expenses provided by the BBC for travel or meals at this stage of the event.

But applicants invited to the Semi-finals or Finals stage will be reimbursed reasonable expenses as advised at the time.

**AM I ELIGIBLE?**

1. You must be eligible to work in the UK. Applicants will be asked to provide information on their recent professional acting work.
2. Anyone who has graduated from a full-time course run by an accredited drama college **cannot** apply for the NBF. The list of accredited colleges is below. Radio Drama already runs a scheme in partnership with the Conference of Drama Schools called the BBC Carleton Hobbs Bursary Award for students at accredited Drama colleges.
3. If you have acted for Radio Drama before, you are still eligible.
4. If you have auditioned for NBF in a previous year, you are still eligible. But former BBC NBF winners are **not** permitted to re-apply.
5. You must be at least 18 years old on 23rd July 2016 to enter. There is no upper age limit

IN REGISTERING TO TAKE PART, YOU MUST SIGN THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE BBC NBF 2016’S TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**ACCREDITED COLLEGES**

If you are currently studying or have graduated from a **one or three year** fulltime acting course **accredited with the Drama UK** or **Conservatoires UK** at one of the listed schools you are **not** eligible. However if you have only done a short term course or masterclass at one of the schools below, or attended a school that is not on this list you are eligible.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ALRA | LIPA |
| Arts Educational London Schools | Manchester School of Theatre |
| Birmingham School of Acting | Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts |
| Bristol Old Vic Theatre School | Oxford School of Drama |
| Royal Central School of Speech and Drama | Queen Margaret University College |
| Drama Centre London | Rose Bruford College |
| Drama Studio London | Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) |
| East 15 Acting School | Royal Conservatoire of Scotland |
| Guildford School of Acting (GSA) | Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama |
| Guildhall School of Music and Drama | Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art |
| Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts | *(before it merged with Central School of Speech and Drama in 2006)* |
| LAMDA |  |

[www.bbc.co.uk/soundstart](http://www.bbc.co.uk/soundstart)

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