

To whom it may concern:

The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) is an Awarding Organisation recognised to award qualifications on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual).

The RAD offers examinations for a wide range of learners, from young children starting out in dance classes through to older students aspiring to become professional dancers. Each year, approximately 230,000 candidates worldwide take our Examinations, Class Awards and Solo Performance Awards, as well as non-assessed Presentation and Demonstration Classes.

The RAD's Graded Examinations (Grades 1 to 8) and Vocational Graded Examinations (Intermediate Foundation – Advanced 2) are placed on the QCF. The QCF includes qualifications of many types and in all fields of study, placing dance examinations in a wider context of learning and achievement, and recognising equivalence in levels of knowledge, skills and understanding. It provides candidates with opportunities for credit accumulation and transfer on the Framework. Additionally, RAD Examinations at Level 3 are included in the UK Universities and Admissions Service (UCAS) points tariff for entry into Higher Education.

Schools in England that have made a significant contribution to the dance training of pupils who took RAD examinations can claim points towards their Achievement and Attainment Tables. In such cases candidates should inform the RAD of the relevant National Centre Number (NCN) at the time of entry.

Due to the substantial numbers of entries (approx. 60,000 in the UK each year), it is regrettably not possible for us to organise all our examinations out of school hours. We fully appreciate the impact and interruption caused to the school day but would be most grateful if you would authorise the student's absence for the purpose of taking an RAD examination(s). We recommend that where necessary, absence should be recorded on the school register as Code C (Leave of absence authorised by the school) – see *School Attendance: Statutory guidance and departmental advice* (Department for Education, August 2013)¹.

Your assistance is very much appreciated and I do hope that you agree with us that taking RAD examinations is a valuable experience for students, which contributes to their overall education and personal development.

If you would like further information or have any questions, then please do contact me either at the above address or by email: gsowerby@rad.org.uk.

With thanks,



Gillian Sowerby
Head of Examinations

