



Royal Academy of Dance Australia
COVID-19 Events, Exams and Special Measures update

Dated - 16 March 2020

RAD Australia recognizes the importance of vigilance and safeguarding especially during this time of the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19). We are monitoring government advice and notifications and are responding accordingly on a rolling basis.

Unfortunately over the past weeks we have come to recognise that broader mitigating factors outside of our control also have a role to play in the decision making process around our current activities. International and national travel limitations, isolation controls, venue closures and of course, the health and wellbeing of our faculty and students have all been considered when making the following decisions.

As of 16 March 2020 RAD Australia has decided:

Exams

All exams will proceed as planned. The small number of students engaged in an exam session, along with additional procedures and hygiene measures put into place mean that this is a low risk environment for the transmission of COVID-19. We will continue to monitor this activity in the coming months factoring in any changes to government advice, venue availability and examiner and pianist availability. Any changes will be communicated as soon as possible.

Special exams

Special exam sessions for Advanced students in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane will also proceed as planned at this time.

Autumn Exam Preparation Workshops

Reluctantly due to a number of factors including potential venue closures, examiner availability and large numbers of students gathering from a number of schools across the week, we have decided to cancel all Autumn exam preparation workshops around the country. All entrants will be notified immediately and entry fees will be refunded in full.

We are currently looking into developing alternative resources both for teachers and students to support exam preparation in their own studios and from home if needs be. We will send out more on this when we have it.

Student Events and Awards

All student events and awards programmes from now until the end of May (up to and including the WA Festival of Dance Gala on 1 June) will be postponed. We are actively looking for dates to reschedule these activities in the latter half of the year and look forward to announcing more information soon. If at that time students are unable to participate on the rescheduled dates, entry fees will be refunded in full.

Centenary Events

Given the current COVID-19 situation and the recent pressures on Members' and their students with the Bushfire crisis and drought and flood, RAD Australia will now postpone all Centenary celebrations until 2021. As our actual birthday is 31 December 2020 we look forward to having an after birthday party when we are all more able to participate and enjoy the celebrations. Entries or tickets for these events to date will be refunded in full.

CPD

All CPD will proceed as planned at present with additional procedures and measures in place, given the smaller number of teachers in CPD courses. However each course will still be assessed on a case-by-case basis and any updates communicated to participants directly by our CPD and Membership Manager.

What happens now?

Our Regional Managers will be in contact directly with anyone who has booked for our events or workshops to advise on specific event rescheduling and refunding.

In line with evolving government advice our Sydney office staff will now work remotely for a period of 2 weeks and all office phone lines will be diverted to mobiles during this time. This measure will be reviewed alongside government advice on a rolling basis but be assured all calls will be answered during normal office hours. A limited number of staff will still be in the office up to 2 times per week at a minimum. We already have a number of staff who have always worked remotely and are confident we can continue to offer the highest levels of service under these changed operating conditions.

As this situation unfolds in Australia we will continue to work with our global colleagues to respond to changes in advice as they happen and we will continue to update Members and students as soon as possible. We hope that we will be able to safely resume our wider student activities later in the year, even if that is with a modified programme.

In the meantime we recommend the following measures that we will be applying to exams also be applied in our Members' own studios.

COVID-19 Hygiene procedures

- To ensure studios and environments are safe for examinations the following instructions apply and RAD staff will:
 - Wipe down barres, equipment and props between every exam with disinfectant wipes
 - Wipe down disinfectant of door handles, balustrades and other high-touch surfaces on studio premises
 - Ensure availability of hand soap (antibacterial if possible) in bathrooms and hand sanitiser in waiting areas and studios
 - Minimise contact during the registration process
 - Ensure studios have appropriate and additional cleaning procedures of the premises in place if required.

- To ensure students are aware of the following through instruction and relevant signage:
 - Encourage regular hand washing and use of hand sanitiser
 - Ensure nose and mouth are covered by a tissue or into an elbow for any sneezing and coughing. Tissues disposed of immediately.

- Do not share water bottles and all unclaimed water bottles will be disposed of.
- To speak up if a student is feeling unwell during an exam.
- To not attend at all if a student is feeling unwell and to contact the tour organiser immediately to reschedule if appropriate.