

Next Generation 2024-2025 Programme Information



Introduction

Next Generation is a free support, development and training programme for young people aged 16-24 who are in the early stages of their working lives as practitioners in the arts, and who have a particular connection to youth theatre.

Delivered by Youth Theatre Arts Scotland (YTAS), the Next Generation programme will bring together a **cohort of 15-20 early career practitioners** to develop foundational leadership skills and professional knowledge which will allow them to thrive as youth theatre assistants, leaders, artists and future arts managers.

Programme participants will be invited to take part in online and in-person training and development activity on a part-time basis **between November 2024 and June 2025**.

One element of the **training is accredited at SCQF Level 3** (see below) and once this is achieved, participants will have the opportunity to continue on their Next Generation journey for a second year (until June 2026). This second year will lead to an **SCQF Level 6** qualification.

Participants in the Next Generation cohort will become independent, active and confident individuals with the skills and abilities to realise their career potential, and to bring new ideas, aspiration and advocacy to Scotland's youth theatre sector.

Who can apply to take part?

The Next Generation Programme is for you if...

- You are between 16-24 years old.
- You are interested in pursuing an arts career that includes youth theatre leadership.

- You have assisted in the delivery of youth theatre workshops/sessions or have started to deliver on your own and want to learn more to develop your practice.
- You are interested in developing your skills in youth theatre facilitation, lesson planning, youth work essentials, and more.
- You are interested in joining a community and support network of fellow early career practitioners.
- You want to engage regularly with a youth theatre local to you.

What are the benefits of taking part?

In year one, the Next Generation Programme will offer you...

- A **SCQF Level 3** qualification (on completion of the 'Ready for Youth Theatre' course delivered by YTAS and Youth Scotland).
- Free **YTAS membership** for a year.
- Four-to-six online **professional development workshops** delivered by leading industry practitioners.
- A free **residential weekend** where you will connect with fellow programme participants and share your practice (late June 2025).
- Up to three online or in-person **mentoring sessions** with Next Generation Coordinator, Drew Taylor-Wilson.
- Two online or in-person **advice sessions** with a YTAS staff member to explore your rights as a freelancer or employee, or to explore setting up your own company.
- An in-person **work placement** with a local youth theatre or at a youth theatre festival.
- **Free places** at all YTAS in-person events from November 2024 to June 2025. To include **Regional Training Hubs** and **Interchange**.
- The opportunity to take part in **theatre trips** and **in-person workshops** with fellow Next Generation participants.

In year two, the Next Generation Programme will offer you...

- A further qualification at **SCQF Level 6** (by completing the Professional Development Award course delivered by YTAS and Youth Scotland).
- Further online and in-person **professional development workshops** and **theatre trips**.
- Further **mentoring** with YTAS staff and the Next Generation Coordinator.
- **Free places** at all YTAS in-person events from November 2025 to June 2026, including Regional Training Hubs and the National Convention of Youth Drama.

What's the time commitment?

Compulsory participation

To join the Next Generation Programme you will need to commit to...

- Attending an introductory online session on Thursday 21 November 2024, from 6-8pm.
- Attending at least two professional development workshops throughout the year. You will be able to book each workshop separately.
- Attending two online mentoring or development meetings with the Next Generation Coordinator or a member of the YTAS staff team.
- Attending all necessary online workshops (approximately six throughout the programme) and completing a reflective portfolio as part of your SCQF Level 3 'Ready for Youth Theatre' course.
- Attending a Next Generation Programme in-person Residential Weekend.

Optional Participation

- While in-person work placements with local youth theatres are not compulsory, you will be encouraged to engage directly with an existing group to get the most out of this development opportunity. The Next Generation staff team will work with you (and a local youth theatre) group to establish the most appropriate way for a placement to happen.
- While we hope that all Next Generation participants choose to stay on the programme for year two, this is not a requirement for entry to year one.

Access Support

The Next Generation Programme is designed with access at its core. We want to help early career practitioners of all backgrounds, and from all across Scotland, achieve their professional goals. We will work with you individually to find ways to make sure that taking part can be as accessible as possible for you.

Please note...

- There will be one or two activities each month which you will be invited to join. These will vary in length from two hours to a full day. 80% of the activity will take place online.
- We are committed to helping you to coordinate attending any in-person activity you want to take part in.
- Most online professional development workshops will take place in the evening to accommodate studies and day jobs.
- Travel and accommodation costs for the Residential Weekend will be covered by YTAS.
- Access Bursaries to cover travel and accommodation for other Next Generation Programme in-person events are available on application to YTAS at the time of the event.
- You will be invited to tell us about any personal access requirements you may have. These could include:
 - One-to-one support to compile your portfolio.
 - BSL support.
 - An access support worker.
 - Support with expenses and invoice administration.
 - Outlines of workshops provided in advance.
 - Being able to talk through any programme activity in advance with a YTAS staff member.

How to apply

To apply to take part in the Next Generation programme, please tell us about your interest in youth theatre and your experience so far. You can do this in one of two ways:

- a. **in writing** by answering the three application questions in this online form <https://forms.office.com/e/ebLuZQ82T5>,
- b. **via video or audio clip** (maximum five minutes) emailing your file or a link to drew@ytas.org.uk

Application Questions

1. **Why are you interested in pursuing a career in youth theatre?**
(maximum 200 words)
2. **Tell us a bit about your experience that you think is relevant to joining the Next Generation Programme** (maximum 300 words)

This could be details of previous employment or voluntary positions. It could be details of your participation in youth theatre/engagement activity, or anything else you think is relevant.

3. **What do you think makes a good youth theatre leader?**
(maximum 100 words)

Your application will help us make sure that the Next Generation programme is a good fit for you. It will also help us start to identify pathways and collaborative partners that could be of particular interest to you.

Application Deadline: 5pm, Monday 11 November 2024

Participant Selection: by 5pm, Friday 15 November 2024

Introduction Session: 6-8pm, Thursday 21 November 2024 (online)

Programme Schedule

The Next Generation programme includes several 'Next Generation Academy' events. These are professional development workshops, led by leading practitioners, designed to enhance your skills and practice as a youth theatre leader.

Please note... Dates marked * are compulsory events
 Dates in purple are in-person events

<p>Thursday 21 November 2024 * 6-8pm (online)</p>	<p>Introduction Session with Drew Taylor-Wilson, Next Generation Coordinator</p> <p>An informal hello for everyone on the programme, this session will cover what to expect as a Next Generation participant, introduce a few games and our first 'skills share'.</p>
<p>Thursday 5 December 2024 6-8pm (online)</p>	<p>Shadow Puppetry Basics</p> <p>This online workshop will explore how to elevate your storytelling through shadow puppetry. We will build puppets with materials you can find around your house and explore creative ways to 'catch' and 'throw' shadows.</p>
<p>Thursday 9 January 2024 6-8pm (online)</p>	<p>Creating Autobiographical Theatre</p> <p>This online workshop will explore tools and exercises for generating performance from autobiographical material. Together we'll take part in practical exercises while discussing how to safeguard your groups when generating material linked to identities and personal experiences.</p>
<p>Saturday 1 February 2025 * 11am – 5pm (in-person, Perth)</p>	<p>Programme Check-in and Movement-based Performance</p> <p>At our first in-person get-together, we'll start the day with a group check-in. We'll then take some time to review our goals and reflect on the workshops we've attended so far. This session</p>

	<p>will be led by Drew with support from the YTAS team.</p> <p>In the afternoon we'll take part in a practical workshop exploring how to create work starting from movement.</p>
<p>Thursday 20 February 2025 6-8pm (online)</p>	<p>Applications and Interviews 101</p> <p>This online workshop will explore how to write good job applications and prepare for interviews. Breaking down the process step-by-step, we'll look at some simple 'dos' and 'don'ts' and practise the basics together.</p>
<p>Friday 4 – Sunday 6 April 2025 (in-person, The Lanternhouse, Cumbernauld)</p>	<p>Interchange</p> <p>Next Generation participants will be offered FREE tickets to attend Interchange, a multi-day training event for anyone who uses theatre in their work with children and young people. You will get the chance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet potential employers and collaborators. • Participate in creative workshops. • Gain a better understanding of Scotland's youth theatre sector. <p>There will be a specific Next Generation workshop on Friday 4 April.</p>
<p>March – June 2025 * (Six three-hour sessions online)</p> <p><i>This includes delivery time, breaks and reflection/portfolio work.</i></p> <p><i>Sessions will be scheduled once the cohort is confirmed, to take into account prior commitments, availability, and access needs of all participants.</i></p>	<p>'Ready for Youth Theatre' Course with Youth Scotland</p> <p>This accredited course will link the youth theatre and youth work worlds, providing participants with foundational skills to create safe and constructive working environments for young people.</p> <p>Modules include...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Youth Work. • Introduction to Youth Participation. • Hi5 and Dynamic Youth Award Introductory Training.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading Games and Creative Evaluation. • Child Protection Awareness. • Emergency First Aid Awareness.
<p>June 2025 * (in-person, date and location will be confirmed in January 2025)</p> <p><i>The residential will be scheduled once the cohort is confirmed, to take into account prior commitments, availability, and access needs of all participants.</i></p>	<p>Next Generation Residential Weekend</p> <p>A two-day creative event where you will have the chance to bring together all your learning so far. Participants will be asked to plan a workshop and practice delivering it with their peers in a safe space.</p>
<p>June 2024 – December 2025</p>	<p>Work Placements</p> <p>For those interested in taking further steps with our support, Drew and the YTAS team will work with youth theatres and youth theatre festivals across Scotland to create opportunities where you can practise your skills.</p> <p>This may mean working with an organisation you already know or supporting you on a project you are already delivering. It could also involve matching you with a new opportunity.</p>
<p>September – November 2025 (Two, two-hour sessions online)</p>	<p>Next Generation Academy Workshops</p> <p>Two additional online workshops exploring creative skills or professional development topics. Full details will be shared in spring 2025.</p>
<p>November 2025</p>	<p>Option to progress to Next Generation Year Two</p> <p>Those interested in continuing with the programme will be invited to complete a reflective self-assessment and set goals for further development.</p>

About Youth Theatre Arts Scotland (YTAS)

YTAS is the national development agency and umbrella body for Scotland's youth theatre sector. Our vision is for universal access to quality youth theatre activity across Scotland and universal recognition of its impact.

We deliver our work through a combination of...

- **sector support,**
- **sector training and development,**
- **youth theatre events and projects,** and
- **research and advocacy.**

As an organisation we value...

- **Helping Others**
We support, enable and champion.
- **Community**
We are welcoming. We respect difference, provide inspiration, and build collective confidence.
- **Collaboration**
We work with and connect a rich network of people and places.
- **Excellence**
We encourage ambition, experimentation, and progression. We always strive for quality.
- **Joy**
We have an upbeat and positive approach.

We are a **LGBT Charter Organisation** and a recognised leader in Scotland's youth arts scene.

You can find more information about our work at www.ytas.org.uk

Any questions?

If you have any questions or would like to speak to us informally about the programme, or to find out if it might be right for you before you apply, please contact our Next Generation Coordinator, **Drew Taylor-Wilson**, at drew@ytas.org.uk

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