

Next Generation 2025-2026 Programme Information



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 10-15 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 take part in online and in-person training and development activity on a part-time basis **between September 2025 and August 2026**. Part of the **training is accredited at SCQF Level 3** (see below) which provides participants the opportunity to continue on to further qualifications with Youth Scotland.

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 could be 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.

If you are already employed with a youth theatre, this programme could still be for you - it will develop your skills further, connect you to like-minded individuals across the country, and provide you with a qualification.

What are the benefits of taking part?

- An [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 (April 2026).
- 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 the [National Festival of Youth Theatre](#).
- [Free places](#) at all YTAS in-person events from September 2025 to August 2026. To include [Regional Training Hubs](#) and [National Convention of Youth Drama](#).
- The opportunity to take part in [theatre trips](#) and [in-person workshops](#) with fellow Next Generation participants.

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 **Wednesday 3 September 2025**, from 6-8pm.
- Attending **at least two** Next Generation Academy 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 the Next Generation Programme in-person Residential Weekend, **Thursday 16 – Sunday 20 April 2026**.

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 Youth Theatre Arts Scotland.
- **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. Either...

a. in writing

Answer the three questions in this online form <https://forms.office.com/e/yP32VtWEtJ>

b. via video or audio clip

Maximum five minutes. Before submitting audio or video files - these should be uploaded to file sharing site like GoogleDrive, OneDrive, or Dropbox. File sharing permission should be granted to enable the YTAS team to download these files. Once uploaded to the sharing platform, a link to these files should then be sent 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, voluntary positions, details of your participation in youth theatre or 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 14 July 2025**

Participant Selection: **by 5pm, Friday 18 July 2025**

Introduction Session: **6-8pm, Wednesday 3 September 2025 (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>Wed 3 Sep 2025* 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 covers what to expect as a Next Generation participant, introduces a few games, and our first 'skills share'.</p>
<p>Wed 10 Sep 2025 6-8pm (Online)</p>	<p>Academy Workshop Facilitating in a Virtual Space</p> <p>You remember the pandemic? We all had to adjust - and companies will now not shy away from a digital workshop. This online workshop explores how to lead a session through a video or audio online platform.</p>
<p>1, 8, 29 Oct 2025 and 8, 12, 19, 26 Nov 2025*</p> <p>(Six three-hour sessions online, and one in-person on Sat 8 Oct. This includes delivery time, breaks, and reflection/portfolio work. Some of the dates are subject to change).</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, constructive 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 ● Leading Games and Creative Evaluation. (in-person) ● Child Protection Awareness ● Emergency First Aid Awareness

<p>Sat 8 Nov 2025* 10am – 5pm (In-person, Location TBC)</p>	<p>Academy Workshop: Voice for the Facilitator At our first in-person get together... Join a leading Scottish Voice expert for some vocal training. Learn some basics on voice technique to take into your workshops and how to harness your own voice when leading a room.</p> <p>Ready for Youth Work: Games Exchange In the afternoon we'll take part in a games exchange as part of your Ready for Youth Theatre qualification (see above).</p> <p>Programme Check-In To finish the day, we'll have a programme check-in: how's it going so far? And reveal more about activities in 2026!</p>
<p>Wed 14 Jan 2026 6-8pm2 (Online)</p>	<p>Academy Workshop: Autobiographical Material</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>Sat 14 Feb 2026 12-4pm (In-person, location TBC)</p>	<p>Academy Workshop: Movement</p> <p>A practical, in-person workshop exploring how to create work starting from movement.</p>
<p>Thu 5 Mar 2026 6-8pm (Online)</p>	<p>Academy Workshop: ...You Pick!</p> <p>This online workshop will be led by a dynamic experienced Scottish practitioner – selected by you early in the programme.</p>

<p>Thu 16 – Sun 19 Apr 2026*</p> <p>(In-person, Location TBC)</p>	<p>Next Generation Residential Weekend</p> <p>A multi-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>May – Aug 2026</p> <p>(Two, two-hour sessions online)</p>	<p>Next Generation Academy: Professional Development</p> <p>Two additional online workshops exploring professional development topics. Full details will be shared in January 2026.</p>
<p>May – Aug 2026</p>	<p>Work Placements</p> <p>For those interested in taking further steps with our support, Drew and Emma (YTAS' Sector Development Manager) 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>This year's Next Generation cohort have the opportunity to work alongside YTAS to deliver the National Festival of Youth Theatre 2026.</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 an **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

We have aimed to make the information in this pack as accessible as possible by using dyslexia-friendly formatting. If it would help you to have the information in another format, please let us know.

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