

Provider Monitoring Report

Royal Academy of Dance (RAD)

22 June 2026

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1 Background

One exam venue was monitored in person on 22 June 2026. The Accreditation Auditor observed exams, spoke to the RAD examiner, the teacher and some learners.

1.1 Scope

Qualifications Scotland Accreditation carries out quality assurance activity in line with its *Quality Assurance of Approved Awarding Bodies Policy*. This involves monitoring a sample of the awarding body's approved providers or assessment sites. Provider monitoring visits will be conducted in a consistent manner within and between providers.

The aim of monitoring is to:

- ensure the awarding body's compliance with Qualifications Scotland Accreditation's regulatory requirements
- confirm that quality assurance arrangements are being conducted by the awarding body in accordance with its prescribed arrangements
- ensure that quality assurance arrangements are being conducted in a consistent manner, within and between providers
- ensure that providers are receiving the appropriate guidance, support and documentation from the awarding body in order to facilitate a high standard of qualification delivery
- inform future audit and monitoring activity for the awarding body

All Principles may be included within the scope of the provider monitoring activity.

Awarding body documentation considered for review includes all documents banked on the awarding body's SharePoint Place at the time of provider monitoring and information supplied by providers to support provider monitoring activity. Restricted or commercially sensitive information gathered during Qualifications Scotland Accreditation's quality assurance activities is treated in the strictest confidence.

Qualifications Scotland Accreditation provider monitoring reports are written by exception focusing only on those areas where corrective action is required or recommended.

1.2 Provider Monitoring Report Timescales

RAD provider monitoring date: 22 June 2026

Provider Monitoring Report approved by
Accreditation Co-ordination Group on: 15 July 2026

Provider Monitoring Report to be signed by RAD: 27 August 2026

The process will apply in relation to the timescales specified above:

The awarding body will be sent a copy of the Provider Monitoring Report by email.

- The awarding body must sign the copy of the Provider Monitoring Report and return by email to Qualifications Scotland Accreditation in accordance with the timescale specified above.

The findings of this Provider Monitoring Report will be published on Qualifications Scotland Accreditation's website following signed agreement.

1.3 Summary of Provider Monitoring Issues and Recommendations

As a result of the provider monitoring activity, no Issues have been recorded and three Recommendations have been noted.

A Recommendation has been noted where Qualifications Scotland Accreditation considers there is potential for enhancement. The awarding body is advised to address any Recommendations in order to reinforce ongoing continuous improvement. However, measures to correct or prevent these are not mandatory and therefore do not form part of the Action Plan.

Recommendation	Detail of Recommendation noted
1. Principle 6	RAD may wish to explore if there are any ways of extending the exam entry closing dates.
2. Principle 7	RAD may wish to consider imparting information again to relevant RAD teachers and learners about which RAD qualifications are accredited through Qualifications Scotland Accreditation and that learner certificates will carry this logo.
3. Principle 12	Both the RAD examiner and the teacher commented that the filmed exams which were introduced during the pandemic, have been a great addition to the assessment system. RAD should continue to include filmed exams as an option.

2 Good Practice, Issues and Recommendations

The following sections detail:

- good practice noted by providers
- Issues recorded and Recommendations noted against Qualifications Scotland Accreditation's regulatory requirements

2.1 Good Practice

The following areas of good practice were noted by providers:

The RAD examiner highlighted the:

- thorough and comprehensive examiner recruitment and training
- exemplary organisation of exam tours and itineraries
- exceptional care of examiners in terms of travel and accommodation
- excellent organisation of exam tour paperwork
- marking app which is updated regularly based on examiner feedback
- standardisation activities convened by RAD
- option to undertake filmed exams

The teacher highlighted the:

- worldwide reputation of RAD as sector leaders in dance
- organisation of exam tours and itineraries
- exceptional help and support from the regional manager
- standard of the continuing professional development offered
- easy to follow registration system
- quick receipt of learner results online and learner certificates
- option to undertake filmed exams

2.2 Issues

No Issues have been recorded.

2.3 Recommendations

Regulatory Principle 6. The awarding body must continually review the effectiveness of its services, systems, policies and processes.

The teacher at the venue told the Accreditation Auditor that the closing date for exam entries was sometimes relatively short, especially after the summer break and on occasion, at Easter.

The teacher fully acknowledged that the coordination of entries and the setting up of tours and exam itineraries was a huge undertaking for RAD and that this was managed with great efficiency. However, RAD may wish to explore if there are any ways of extending the exam entry closing dates.

This has been noted as **Recommendation 1**.

Regulatory Principle 7. The awarding body must have an effective approach for communicating with its staff, stakeholders and Qualifications Scotland Accreditation.

The Accreditation Auditor spoke to four learners after their exams. These learners knew that their RAD dance exams would be allocated points on the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) tariff. However, they did not know that the qualifications were accredited through Qualifications Scotland Accreditation or that their certificates would have our logo. Learners were particularly interested in this inclusion, as in their minds it links to their school certificate because Qualifications Scotland is the statutory awarding body.

RAD may wish to consider imparting information again to relevant RAD teachers and learners about which RAD qualifications are accredited through Qualifications Scotland Accreditation and also, that learner certificates will carry this logo.

This has been noted as **Recommendation 2**.

Regulatory Principle 12. The awarding body and its providers must ensure that they have the necessary arrangements and resources required to manage and administer qualification delivery and assessment.

Both the RAD examiner and the teacher commented that the filmed exams, which were introduced during the pandemic, have been a great addition to the assessment system. Both agreed that they were extremely useful for occasions when learners could not attend in person. Indeed, the last exam on the day of monitoring was cancelled due to the last-minute unavailability of a learner and the teacher commented that she would now use the filmed exam option to facilitate this exam entry.

RAD should continue to include filmed exams as an option.

This has been noted as **Recommendation 3**.