



Focus on Exams

Issue 1 – February 2018

Welcome to *Focus on Exams*, the RAD publication dedicated entirely to exams matters.

In this electronic edition we include key exams news and updates, but some information, such as names of successful Solo Seal candidates and new and retiring examiners, will be included in the next printed copy.

In other exams news...

- New Specifications documentation
- RADius for Exams

- The [Fiona Campbell Examinations Bursary](#) opens again during February – visit our website for more information, or to apply...

Please do let us know how we are doing – we're always pleased to receive feedback about any aspect of RAD exams! [Fill in our survey](#) or email exams@rad.org.uk

[Watch our exams video!](#)

Dr Andrew McBirnie
Director of Examinations



Specifications

The collated, single Specifications document is now finalised and available to download from the main RAD website [here](#). This document is valid from January 2018 and supersedes all previous Specifications



Discovering Repertoire

Students following the Discovering Repertoire programme have the option of taking examinations (regulated by Ofqual, the Welsh Government and CCEA Accreditation) or class awards to mark their progress and achievement. The assessments are designed to be taken in a modular format as individual units.

More information can be found in the extracted *Discovering Repertoire* specification [here](#), or by contacting your National Office or exams@rad.org.uk.

and *Examinations Information, Rules and Regulations* documentation.

As part of the review undertaken to create this Specifications document, the learning outcomes and assessment criteria for all exams have been revised and now reflect more clearly the fact that differentiation between grades is essentially defined by level of choreographic demand rather than the standard of technique, musicality and performance expected (i.e. 'a plié at Grade 1 is the same as a plié at Advanced 2'!)

Any duplication has been removed and information has been presented in a more concentrated and clear format. We have provided internal hyperlinks so that users can hopefully find the information they need quickly without having to scroll through the whole document.

Alternative versions of the document are available (i) for qualifications regulated in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (which comprises all worldwide provision with the exception of Scotland) and (ii) for exams delivered in Scotland.

There is also a separate *Discovering Repertoire* specification which extracts key information about this new provision in a standalone document so that it is easily accessible.



Solo Seal finale

From January 2018, an assessed finale forms a compulsory element of the Solo Seal. This serves to highlight grand allegro, batterie, and turning movements including an opportunity to thank the pianist and the judges and audience. This additional variation, choreographed by the teachers and/or candidates themselves, will also add a creative element to this examination.

For further information, please consult the Specifications document [here](#), or contact your National Office or exams@rad.org.uk.

We are now working on translating this document into 9 different languages so that users of RAD exams all over the world can find the information they need more easily.



RADius for exams

The RAD launched its new IT system, RADius, in January 2018.

What will this mean for teachers? In the immediate term, nothing! RADius does enable external users such as teachers to log on to the system, register and edit their students and school details, create and submit exam entries, and receive results. However, in the first phase of operation, RADius will be used internally, enabling us to continue to work on 'snagging' bugs and defects, and ensure that the system is 100% operational before it is rolled out externally. So in the first part of 2018, you will continue to register students and enter them for exams exactly as you do now – but RADius will be operating behind the scenes. It is likely however that we will work with specific



Fiona Campbell Examinations Bursary

The Bursary is open for applicants throughout February 2018. Teachers can apply on behalf of deserving candidates, to the value of their next exam. The process is very simple – through an online form, you have 150 words to explain why your candidate is deserving of a bursary.

There are no published criteria – candidates will be chosen by the panel based on their subjective response to the applications, up to the total value of the fund in each application round.

All exams are eligible (apart from the Solo Seal). Bursaries are available worldwide to exam candidates of RAD teachers. Successful candidates will have 12 months to use the bursary from the date of being informed of their award.

We hope you or a teacher you know

groups of teachers to test the system in a live environment, so watch out for a special request from your local office!

Slightly different arrangements will apply for countries whose exam results are not currently processed through London. While New Zealand adopted RADius in full from January 2018, working alongside London, Australia, Canada and South Africa will continue to use their current system in the first instance, and will switch to RADius at a later stage. Australia and Canada will want to go live immediately with access to external users, as teachers in these countries are already able to register and enter candidates online.

Please be aware that it may take slightly longer than normal to process exam results while London transfers to the new system in early 2018. Of course, we will do our best to minimise this and have already put more resource in place. We will however need to ask for your patience, co-operation and understanding during this time.

may be able to take up this opportunity of providing financial assistance to a deserving candidate.

Applications can be made via the [RAD website](#).

Staff and contacts

For general queries contact exams@rad.org.uk. This email address is checked on a daily basis and enquiries will be passed to the most appropriate member of staff to deal with.

To register candidates in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, contact the relevant office. To register candidates anywhere else in the world email idregistration@rad.org.uk.

To find an RAD contact, visit our [website](#).