

KALAKSHETRA FOUNDATION - AN INTRODUCTION

PROSPECTUS

4 YEAR DIPLOMA COURSES

Kalakshetra Foundation, formerly and popularly known as Kalakshetra is an arts and cultural institution dedicated to the preservation of traditional values in Indian arts and crafts, especially in the field of Bharatanatyam dance and Gandharvaveda music. Kalakshetra is a Temple of Fine Arts standing tall as the Banyan Tree perennially sending out aerial roots to anchor performing arts, visual arts, culture and heritage. It is a center for artistic endeavor, a treasure-trove of Traditional Dances, Carnatic Music, Fine Arts and Culture, has added name and fame to Chennai, the Cultural Capital of the country, erstwhile Madras Province. Founded in 1936 by the vibrant visionary Rukmini Devi Arundale, the Institution stands testimony to her dream of creating a space where the essence of Indian thought would find expression through artistic education. An institution she established with the vision "of imparting to the young the true spirit of Art, devoid of vulgarity and commercialism." Under her firm and committed guidance, the Institution achieved national and international recognition for its unique style and perfectionism.

Having cherished the founder's thoughts, imbibed their wisdom, inculcating their vision, inheriting their legacy we are passionate and proud to identify, nurture young dance, music and visual art talents across the length and breadth of the nation to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of this great land.

Spread over almost 100 acres by the seashore in Chennai, the Kalakshetra Foundation, as it is known today, is a vital center for the study and performance of fine arts, envisioned and designed with the style and proportion of Indian aesthetics.

After the demise of the Founder, recognizing the importance of Kalakshetra and its role in sustaining the cultural heritage of our country; and appreciating the need for providing adequate funding for its continued growth, the Government of India declared the

institution as one of 'National Importance' and Parliament unanimously passed an Act "Kalakshetra Foundation Act" (No.6 of 1994).

The Kalakshetra educational experience is a hallmark of excellence, marked by simplicity, elegance, and formal rigour. Known for its adherence to classicism, students of the Institution learn the nuances of Bharatanatyam Dance, Carnatic Music (both vocal and instrumental) and Visual Arts with exacting standards in theoretical study and practice. Kalakshetra offers a range of options for the needs of every individual interested in learning Music, Dance or Art.

Diploma Courses Offered

- a) Diploma in Bharatanatyam - 4 years
- b) Diploma in Carnatic Music - 4 years
- c) Diploma in Visual Arts - 4 years

Diploma in Bharatanatyam

The Diploma in Bharatanatyam is a rigorous four-year full-time course where the ingenious and comprehensive syllabus framed by the adept dance exponents will bloom and blossom out extraordinary dance talents. Students are taught the "adavus" based on Rukmini Devi's systematized method for their first year and most of their second year, in addition to exercises and yoga, which aid and diversify the range of movements. Items are gradually introduced into the curriculum from the second year onwards, and students begin learning "abhinaya" pieces from their third year. Students graduate from the four-year diploma course with a strong theoretical, musical and language foundation which allows them to understand and incorporate new items into their repertoire, and, with continued practice and performance, to gain further insights into the dance form.

Diploma in Bharatanatyam - Subjects

Main - Bharatanatyam	Dissertation
Allied - Vocal Music	Kutcheri - Final year
Theory of Dance	Allied - Mridangam
History of Dance	Nattuvangam
Heritage	Languages Tamil, Sanskrit, English
	Yoga, Kalari, Fitness

Diploma in Carnatic Music

The Diploma in Carnatic music is unique in requiring 4 years of meticulous and intricate training, with 3 hours of main music class daily, more than any other comparable program. Classes are small and individualized and the students' progress is based on their strength of learning and on the discretion of the teachers.

Teachers in their meticulously structured syllabus cover rare ragas and rare kritis as and when it aids the student's learning process. They also cover works by all of the major composers, including compositions by those great gurus who worked at Kalakshetra, like Tiger Varadachariar, Mysore Vasudevachariar, Budalur Krishnamurthi Sastri, and M.D. Ramanathan, who all chiseled, shaped and sculptured the way music is taught here.

Voice culture is an important aspect of vocal music teaching, with regular "sruti" exercises, "aakaram," and regular repetition of basic exercises in many "raagas". This helps students to practice and produce correct notes at quick and right speeds.

Every vocal student must take an instrument as a subsidiary subject, apart from other subjects like the theory of music, study of the lives of great musicians, and shastras related to music. They also do field trips to Thiruvaiyaru and other places of interest for Carnatic music. Yoga is commonly taught to all students in Kalakshetra and two out of three following languages are Compulsory-Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu.

If a student opts for an instrument like veena, violin, or mridangam as their main subject, then vocal music becomes their subsidiary subject. Apart from this, they follow the same syllabus as the vocal students.

Diploma Carnatic Music - Subjects

Main - Vocal, Veena, Violin, Flute, Mridangam

Allied - Vocal, Veena, Violin, Flute, Mridangam Theory of Music

Heritage

Dissertation

Kutcheri

Languages: Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, English, Yoga

Diploma in Visual Arts - Subjects

Indian Art

Academic Studies

Sculpture

Ceramics

Computer and Photography

Art History - Indian & Western

Contemporary Art - Indian & Western

Languages – English, Sanskrit, Yoga

Heritage

Eligibility

Pass in Higher Secondary or equivalent. Those who are about to complete higher secondary exam in April/May 2026 can also apply.

Maximum age 25 years as on 01.07.2026 for the AY 2026-2027

How to apply

Candidates having deserved qualifications have to submit online application forms. Log in our website fill up personal data pay application fee Rs. 500/- and submit the application form.

Candidates who has successfully submitted applications forms will get online confirmation Candidates are advised to fill up correct e-mail id & Mobile Number for future corresponds.

Only Practical Aspects of the following subjects will be taught

- Academic Studies - (Drawing & Painting)
- Indian Art - (Drawing & Painting)
- Sculpture
- Ceramics
- Graphics - (Print Making)

Teacher-student ratio:

The Institution offers an excellent Teacher -Student ratio of 1:8, as it is not simple and usual theoretical learning. Students have to closely observe and repeatedly practice to master the art of dancing and singing, therefore the healthy teacher-student ratio helps in individualized attention and holistic learning of the art.

Workshops & Lectures:

Eminent artists are invited to the campus to organize Workshops, Seminar, Lectures for Dance, Music, Visual Arts and Crafts. This is to train students in the creative arts and academics with excellence, gain mastery in the chosen arts and to showcase their skills effectively in their lives thereby positively impacting the community.

Mentorship Programme:

Eminent artists conduct mentoring sessions to the students throughout the year to make them better understand and fine tune their skills.

Guest Lectures:

Guest Lectures, Demonstrations, Talks and Meetings are periodically organized, as the Institution strongly believes that guest faculty are a valuable and great learning tool that needs to be used more often.

Art Festivals:

Various Art Festivals are conducted throughout the year which provide exposure to students in the field of Dance and Music.

Field Trips:

As part of the annual academic activity every year students are taken to field trips in order to strengthen their understanding of the historical, socio-political, economic, religious, ritualistic, artistic and above all, the philosophical importance of Indian culture.

Performance Spaces:

Bharata Kalakshetra Auditorium

It is also known as Koothambalam was built by Smt. Rukmini Devi, the founder of Kalakshetra. It was built drawing inspiration from the traditional Koothambalam in Kerala and was formally consecrated on 10.12.1982. Since its inauguration, it staged various performances, both of the Kalakshetra Repertory, and renowned artistes from all over the world and has been the main performance space of Kalakshetra Foundation.

Rukmini Arangam

Christened after our beloved founder, it was once an Open Air Theatre. A permanent roofing has recently been added to the structure. It can accommodate about 500 audiences. The corridor along the Administrative block and the entrance to the Arangam comes alive as a gallery during festivals to show case Visual Arts.

In addition, the Foundation has a small performance hall known as

- Tagore Hall - place for monthly concerts to nurture and encourage upcoming talents
- Banyan Tree Open air performance spaces
- Padma Pushkarni.

Hostel: Kalakshetra Foundation have 2 separate hostels (Vegetarian) for Girls and one for Boys. A dormitory type Vegetarian hostel is run for the students. Two or three students will be sharing a room. The boarding and lodging charges are payable in two instalments.

Library: A well-stocked Library housed in the campus with good collection of reference books of over 10,000 on Dance, Music and varied subjects caters to the student and staff needs.

Scholarships: Government of India Ministry of Social Justice Empowerment, Central Sector Scheme of Top Class Scholarship has been extended to RDCFA.

A limited number of scholarships with the assistance of CSR grants are available to students who exhibit extraordinary talents and whose parents/guardians are not in a

position to pay their fees. The case of each student will be considered and decided by a Committee constituted for the purpose of awarding scholarships which will be final and binding.

Selection procedure:

All the eligible candidates will be asked to appear before the panel of judges for an interview followed by an aptitude test and selection confirmation will be on clearing the fitness cum medical test and the decision of the panel will be final and binding. ICCR candidate & residing out of India, have to submit a video recording of their performance and have to appear before the panel via zoom meeting etc.

Rules and Regulations

- i) Application for admission should be made only on online in the prescribed application form.
- ii) All applicants are to produce a certificate of Physical Fitness from a registered Medical Practitioner while attending interview. In addition to this all applicants to the Diploma Course in Dance are required to undergo a mandatory medical examination and obtain a Certificate of Physical Fitness from our Medical Officer. Medical examination and physical fitness will be conducted at Kalakshetra Foundation at the time of interview.
- iii) Students will be admitted only if they are physically and medically fit, to pursue the course and found suitable in the interview by the Selection Committee. As regards admission, decision of the Director is final.
- iv) During the course of his/her study in the Institution no student will be allowed to learn or practice privately under any teacher.
- v) Students are not allowed to give public performance or accept professional engagements in any line of Art except under the direction and permission of the Institution as a part of their training.
- vi) Students shall fully equip themselves with all necessary articles required for their study such as text-books, note-books, practice costumes and musical instruments. Practice costumes for dance students are designed by the Kalakshetra, which may be strictly adhered.

- ix) Any damage to the Institution's property will be charged to the account of those responsible for it.
- x) Non vegetarian food stuffs, smoking, drugs in any form and alcohol are strictly prohibited in the entire campus. Offenders will be dealt with strictly which may even result in rustication.
- xi) Dress Code: As the Institution is founded for promotion of Indian Culture in all its aspects, it is important that combined with performing arts (like dance and music) there should be simplicity and representing truly Indian way of life, it is necessary that all students should wear purely Indian dress with simple designs and harmonious colors. Girls must wear sarees or half saree. Boys must wear Pyjama or Dhoti and Kurtha, preferably in white and light colors (for Kurthas). All students are advised to have extra dhothies for special occasions like pujas and special occasions.
- xii) Students are not allowed to meet their parents/guardians /visitors during the class hours unless the permission of the Principal is obtained.
- xiii) Students are advised to refrain from wearing expensive jewellery or carrying huge amounts of cash and they will be solely responsible for safe custody of their belongings.
- xiv) Canvassing / Propaganda / Money collections for any purpose. whatsoever is prohibited in the Campus, unless permitted in written by the Principal/Director.
- xv) Students are solely responsible for the musical Instruments they handle during the course, in case of any damage the cost at market price will be recovered.
- xvi) All students, especially the hostellers are advised to take part actively in extra-curricular activities and involve fully in organizing festivals/ concerts.
- (xvii) Students are advised not to indulge in any type of recording within the campus either directly or through some teacher without proper permission from the competent authority.
- (xviii) Students should not take part in any off campus programs not organized by the Institution.
- (xix) Students should maintain proper decorum failure of which may result in disciplinary action leading to expulsion.

- (xx) Students should not engage in any type of Tuition classes during their studentship.
- (xxi) Students are prohibited from bringing mobile phones to classes.

Leave of Absence

- (i) Students are not allowed to be absent without the written permission of the Principal/ Head of the Department / Class Teacher except for valid reasons.
- (ii) Absence without permission will be viewed seriously.
- (iii) Students must be in the college at least five minutes before the first bell and attend the morning prayer and assembly without fail. They should be present in the classes throughout during the college hours.
- iv) The morning prayers attendance is mandatory to all students.
- (v) Students absenting themselves for more than 7 consecutive working days are liable for removal of their names from the rolls, and thereafter, they can seek only readmission paying full fees.
- vi) Students who do not have at least 75% attendance will be barred from taking the semester examination.

College Timings

8.25 hrs	First Bell
08.30-08.45 hrs	Prayers
08.50-09.50 hrs	First Session
10.00-11.30 hrs	Second Session
11.30-13.00 hrs	Noon Break
13.00-14.00 hrs	Third Session
14.00-15.00 hrs	Fourth Session
15.00-16.00 hrs	Fifth Session

Fees Structure

- (i) First term fees are to be paid before admission.
- (ii) Second term fees are to be paid by 31st October.

Year	Name of the Course	Ist Term (To be paid by 30 th June)				II nd Term (To be paid by	Total Fees (Per Year)
		Admission fee	Calender Fee & Note	Tuition Fee	Total fee for Term	Tuition Fees II nd	
1 st Year	Diploma in Bharatanatyam	400	600	14,500	15,500	14,500	30,000
	Diploma In Carnatic Music	200	600	7,250	7,750	7,250	15,000
	Diploma In Visual Arts	200	600	7,250	7,750	7,250	15,000
2 nd Year	Diploma in Bharatanatyam, Carnatic Music Visual Arts		600	13,100	13,700	13,100	26,800
3 rd Year			600	13,100	13,700	13,100	26,800
4 th Year			600	13,100	13,700	13,100	26,800

Fees are to be deposited in the Foundation's account the details are as under; using any digital mode of payments.

SB Account No: 443596869

Bank: Indian Bank

Branch: Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai - 600041

IFSC Code: IDIB000T044

Late payment charges:

- Tuition Fees for each term has to be remitted before the last date for payment. Payment beyond last date will attract a late fee on a daily basis.
- Fee once remitted will not be refunded under any circumstances
- Students seeking readmission will be required to pay the prescribed Admission Fees.

- Even if a student leaves the course during the term, fee has to be paid for the whole term.

Contact details:

For any further information & assistance please contact:

College Office

Kalakshetra Foundation

Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai - 600 041.

Tel: 0091-(0)44-2452 0836 / 2452 1844 / 2452 3418

Email: registrar@kalakshetra.in

visit our website: www.kalakshetra.in