

# **University of Plymouth**

Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Business

School of Society and Culture

## **Programme Specification**

BA (Hons) Acting  
7205

Date of Approval: July 2021

Approved Final Version for  
September 2022

## 1. BA

<b>Final award title:</b>	BA (Hons) Acting
<b>Level 5 Intermediate award title(s):</b>	Diploma in Higher Education
<b>Level 4 Intermediate award title(s):</b>	Certificate in Higher Education
<b>UCAS code:</b>	W411
<b>HECOS code:</b>	100067

2. **Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth

**Teaching institution(s):** University of Plymouth  
Theatre Royal Plymouth

3. **Accrediting body(ies):** N/A

**Date of re-accreditation:** N/A

## 4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

- Gain professional experience with a course delivered in partnership with the prestigious Theatre Royal Plymouth. You'll benefit from joint teaching and access to the production of new work.
- Enhance your employability with a vocational course providing professional training standards.
- Create your own works and perform in our purpose-built theatre and studio spaces in The House: our stunning performing arts facility where you'll mix with other music, dance and theatre students.
- Access industry expertise with the Theatre Royal Plymouth's creative staff and network with professionals and prospective employers through training and workshops.
- Benefit from highly practical teaching and master acting skills for both stage and recorded media.
- Perform in public productions and our final year showcase.

## 5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for [Dance, Drama and Performance](#) (2019).

## 6. Programme Structure

Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
ACT4001 Introduction to Acting 20 Credits	SSC400 Stage 1 Placement Year Preparation 0 Credits
ACT4002 Page to Stage 1: The Physical Action 20 Credits	ACT4004 Actor's Care of Self 20 Credits
PER4001 The Body in Performance 20 Credits	ACT4003 Page to Stage 2: Discovering the Through-Line 20 Credits
	ACT4005 Production 1 20 Credits

Level 5	
Semester 1	Semester 2
SSC500 Stage 2 Placement Year Preparation 0 Credits	
ACT5001 Production 2 20 Credits	PER5005 Theatre Residency 20 Credits
PER5002 Performance Practices 20 Credits	ACT5003 Production 3 20 Credits
<b>Choose one:</b>	<b>Choose one:</b>
<b>Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits</b>	<b>Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits</b>

Optional Placement Year	
Semester 1	Semester 2
SSC600 School of Society and Culture Placement Year 0 Credits	

<b>Level 6</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
PER6001 Performance Research 40 Credits	
ACT6001 Production 4 20 Credits	ACT6003 Acting Rediscovered 20 Credits
<b>Choose one:</b>	
<b>Specialism Module Elective</b> 20 Credits	ACT6004 Production 5 20 Credits

### **Specialism Modules**

All undergraduate programmes in the School of Society and Culture have been designed to enable students to personalise their degree through a wide assortment of optional modules. These allow students to study more topics related to their core degree or branch out and explore up to three modules from other disciplines across the School. This flexibility starts in the second year, with students being able to choose one module from within cross-school elective pools at level 5 semester 1, level 5 semester 2, and level 6 semester 1. These are marked by the term *Specialism Module* in the programme structure above.

Students can elect to take any combination of modules from the three cross-school elective pools, and options will always be available from their core degree subject. However, students who complete three modules from another discipline will have the choice of graduating with that discipline as a specialism on their certificate: BA (Hons) Acting with <specialism>. The School offers modules in the following areas:

- Acting
- Anthropology
- Art History
- Computing
- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Dance
- Drama
- English
- History
- International Relations
- Law
- Music
- Musical Theatre
- Politics
- Policing and Security Management
- Sociology

A list of available specialism modules and their associated learning outcomes can be found in the School of Society and Culture's Specialism Specification and on the programme's webpage.

## **7. Programme Aims**

The aim of the programme is to give experiences of the realisation of performance: of techniques, processes, methodologies and genres, and for these experiences to provide the basis for a lifelong engagement in the development and production of performance forms.

Graduates will meet the current needs of the creative industries, and also be equipped to redefine and refine these needs for the future as they work and develop as practitioners.

## **8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes**

### **8.1 Knowledge and understanding**

On successful completion graduates will have developed knowledge and understanding of:

1. Specific performance vocabularies, techniques, crafts, structures and key professional and creative working methods in the broad field of performance (4.2.3; 4.2.7 QAA)
2. Key practitioners and practices and/or theorists and their cultural and/or historical contexts and of related practices (4.2.4 QAA)
3. Cultural frameworks that surround theatre and other performance events and on which these events impinge (4.2.2 QAA)

### **8.2 Cognitive and intellectual skills**

On successful completion graduates will have developed:

1. The ability to describe, interpret and analyse performance texts, production techniques and disciplines and performance events, using a range of specific strategies and methods (4.3.3 QAA)
2. An intelligent engagement with the interplay between current practice and theory within the field of performance, and an understanding of the lineages of these ideas (4.3.1 QAA)
3. An intelligent engagement with varied forms, practices, traditions, theories and histories of performance not exclusive to theatre, and theoretical explanations of these (4.3.2 QAA)

### **8.3 Key and transferable skills**

On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:

1. Work individually and as part of a group to achieve objectives, to schedule (5.8.1 QAA)
2. Engage in appropriate independent research (5.7.2 QAA)
3. Formulate ideas and express these to others in an appropriate form (5.9.1 QAA)

## **8.4 Employment related skills**

On successful completion graduates will have developed:

1. Understanding of the possibilities for performance implied by a text and abilities in realising these sources through performance, to a high standard (5.2.4 QAA)
2. Ability to contribute to the creation and/or production of theatre performance through a skilled practical understanding of appropriate performance vocabularies, techniques, crafts, structures and working methods (5.2.1 QAA)
3. Competency in utilising digital skills and platforms to promote and market their own performance work. (5.10.3; 5.10.2; 5.9.4 QAA)

## **8.5 Practical skills**

On successful completion graduates will have developed skills and proficiencies in:

1. Interpreting dramatic texts and scores, and transitioning these from page to stage to produce a high, professional standard of performance (5.2.2 QAA)
2. Utilising collective processes and the interplay between the performers' internal resources and the resources of the group, managing difference and conflict to achieve outcomes (5.8.2; 5.8.3; 5.8.4; 5.8.5 QAA)
3. Processes of production, design and rehearsal by which theatre performance is created, and have experience of their realisation and presentation in performance (5.2.1 QAA)

## **8. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements**

Applicants upload a showreel to a suitable platform (vimeo, youtube etc.) and share a link to this in their application. Following review of the showreel, successful candidates will be contacted for an interview. In auditioning and interviewing potential students, we look for:

- evidence of a serious, ongoing commitment to an acting career in the professional theatre evidence of fluent written and spoken English (equiv to IELTS level 6.0)
- evidence of trainable vocal, physical and imaginative/emotional skills
- evidence of potential benefit from the study in acting offered at Plymouth
- evidence of an ability to understand, interpret and embody a dramatic text
- evidence of an ability to participate in group or ensemble situations
- an open, receptive and enquiring mind
- enthusiasm and readiness for rigorous work requiring sustained concentration
- a sense of language and rhythm, and the potential for identification with the thought process of a dramatic text
- the ability to portray and inhabit an imagined or fictional situation
- physical, vocal and imaginative/emotional skills with significant theatrical potential.

All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade 4 or above (equivalent to a Grade C as per the GSCE grading system until 2017).

<b>Entry Requirements for BA (Hons) Acting</b>	
A-level/AS-level	Normal minimum entry requirements are A level/AS level/Vocational A level: 104-112 points
BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma	Candidates can be interviewed before an offer is made. Grade Pass MMM - DMM in any subject.
Access to Higher Education at level 3	Candidates can be interviewed before an offer is made. Pass an Access to HE Diploma in any subject, including GCSE English and Maths grade 4 or above or equivalent with at least 33 credits at Merit/Dist.
Welsh Baccalaureate	Accept as add on points; in addition to 2 A Levels
Scottish Qualifications Authority	104-120 points
Irish Leaving Certificate	Obtain H4, H4, H4, H4, H4 - H3 H3 H4 H4 H4 (all at Higher level)
International Baccalaureate	26-30 overall to include 4 at in any subjects at Higher Level. English accepted within Higher Level = 4+ (A1) or 5 (A2/B) Standard Level = 5+ (A1) or 6 (A2/B) If overseas and not studying English within IB – MUST have IELTS: 6.0 overall with 5.5 in all elements.

## 9. Progression routes/criteria for progression to Final and Intermediate Awards

<b>Certificate in Higher Education</b>	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4 .
<b>Diploma in Higher Education</b>	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4 and 120 credits at level 5.
<b>BA (Hons) Acting</b>	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4, 120 credits at level 5, and 120 credits at level 6.

## 10. Non Standard Regulations

N/A

## 11. Transitional Arrangements for existing students looking to progress onto the programme

N/A

## Appendices

### Programme Specification Mapping (UG) – core/elective modules

**Appendix 1: Programme Specification Mapping (UG): module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes**

**CORE MODULES:** tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes. Insert rows and columns as required.

Core Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)															Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1- exam E2 – clinical exam T1- test C1- coursework A1 – generic assessment P1 - practical
		Knowledge & understanding			Cognitive & intellectual skills			Key & transferable skills			Employment related skills			Practical skills				
		1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3		
Level 4	ACT4001	X									X			X			Y	P1 100%
	ACT4002													X	X	X	Y	P1 100%
	PER4001		X	X		X	X		X	X							Y	C1 100%
	ACT4003	X	X	X										X			Y	C1 40% P1 60%
	ACT4004							X		X					X		Y	C1 100%
	ACT4005	X						X			X	X					Y	P1 100%
<b>Level 4 LOs</b>		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Level 5	ACT5001										X		X			Y	P1 100%	
	PER5002	X	X	X	X	X	X									Y	P1 100%	
	ACT5003						X	X				X			X	Y	P1 100%	
	PER5005						X					X				Y	P1 100%	
<b>Level 5 LOs</b>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X			
Level 6	ACT6003	X	X			X	X									Y	P1 100%	
	ACT6001	X	X			X										Y	P1 100%	
	ACT6004					X	X	X					X			N	P1 100%	
	PER6001	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	N	C1 100%	
<b>Level 6 LOs</b>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X			
<b>Confirmed Award LOs</b>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			



