

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Business

School of Society and Culture

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Drama
7213

Date of Approval: July 2021

Approved Final Version for
September 2022

1. BA

Final award title: BA (Hons) Drama

Level 5 Intermediate award title(s) Diploma in Higher Education

Level 4 Intermediate award title(s) Certificate in Higher Education

UCAS code:

HECOS code: 100069

2. Awarding Institution: University of Plymouth
Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth

3. Accrediting body(ies): N/A

Date of re-accreditation: N/A

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

- The programme fosters a spirit of curiosity about the role and function of performance from its formal expression in theatre to its occurrence in everyday life.
- A programme that supports diverse learners and enables students to evidence skills and understanding in a variety of different assessment modes.
- The programme encourages innovation and produces skilled theatre makers of contemporary live performance and students who have developed their own artistic voice over the three-year period of study.
- Students on core modules engage in peer mentoring, leading workshops, master classes, practitioner talks and are encouraged to engage with external theatre events and activities to develop their career portfolio.
- The programme is supported by a placement officer who fosters opportunities for students to network with employers and artists and showcase their performance work in Plymouth and at other city venues.
- The programme is taught in our award-winning, purpose-built performing arts centre, The House, comprising fully accessible and state-of-the-art studios and theatre facilities.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

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

6. Programme Structure

Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
DRA4002 Theatre Making and Collaborative Processes 20 Credits	ACT4004 Self and Character 20 Credits
DRA4001 Devising Toolkit 1: Improvisation and Creativity 20 Credits	PER4003 Theatre Criticism 20 Credits
PER4001 The Body in Performance 20 Credits	PER4002 Devising Toolkit 2: Ensemble Practice 20 Credits

Level 5	
Semester 1	Semester 2
SSC500 Stage 2 Placement Year Preparation 0 Credits	
PER5001 Performance Skills 20 Credits	PER5005 Theatre Residency 20 Credits
PER5002 Performance Practices 20 Credits	PER5004 Performance Making 20 Credits
Choose one:	Choose one:
Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits	Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits

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

Level 6	
Semester 1	Semester 2
PER6001 Performance Research 40 Credits	

DRA6001 Advanced Skills in Dramaturgy, Composition and Performance 20 Credits	PER6003 Professional Placement and Practice 20 Credits
Choose one:	
Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits	PER6004 Festival Practices 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) Drama 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

- To engage students, historically, aesthetically and culturally with the key figures, movements and cross-disciplinary developments of contemporary Western Theatre and Performance.
- To enable students to realise a dynamic relationship between theory and practice and articulate embodied understanding.
- To enable students to consistently reflect upon their academic and professional development.
- To create opportunities for students to engage with models of professional practice and learning outside of the formal curriculum.
- To familiarise students with aspects of the practical experimentation and theoretical arguments occurring within the major strands of World Theatre.
- To develop in students a practical awareness and understanding of the skills, techniques, forms and styles necessary to create effective and innovative theatre and performance.
- To develop students' skills in communication, analysis and research to articulate a critical understanding of key aspects of theatre and performance disciplines.
- To promote the intellectual, creative and personal growth of each student and develop confident and autonomous learners.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

8.1 Knowledge and understanding

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

1. Knowledge of the key terminologies, discourses, and theories of 20th and 21st century Western theatre which help to develop a critical practice and develop an understanding of the complex relationship between culture, theatre, politics and ideology (4.2.3; 4.2.7 QAA)
2. A practical and conceptual awareness of contemporary approaches to making performance and ability to engage with theatre and performance theory and discourses, leading to insight and knowledge gained through the symbiotic relationship between theory and practice (4.2.4 QAA)
3. A theoretical and practical understanding of the relationship between the major elements of performer, space and spectator and its centrality in all performance and an understanding of the requirement to construct meaning and aesthetic coherence in performance structures and forms (4.2.2 QAA)

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. The ability to analyse complex concepts and theories and to use this understanding to develop new insight and independent, critical thinking (4.3.3 QAA)
2. The ability to structure and organise materials effectively and develop intelligent, convincing arguments supported by theoretical and practical knowledge (4.3.1 QAA)
3. The ability to research and understand forms, practices, traditions and theories of performance and communicate that understanding fluently and coherently in appropriate modes (4.3.1; 5.9.1 QAA)

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Evidence strong interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively in the group context while still pursuing individual goals (5.8.1 QAA)
2. Communicate effectively in writing and orally and adhere to scholarly conventions and utilise reflexive, critical and independent thinking and ability to undertake independent research (5.7.2 QAA)
3. Evidence a competency in the application of creative, imaginative, practical critical and analytical skills in the formation and communication of ideas with others (5.9.1 QAA)

8.4. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. Skills in self-promotion, networking, flexibility and adaptability, team work and leadership (5.10.3 QAA)
2. The ability to plan, time manage and organise projects with external partners where appropriate to the study (5. 9.3; 5.9.1 QAA)
3. The confidence and ability to liaise effectively with outside professional arts practitioners and organisations (5.10.3; 5.9.1 QAA)

8.5. Practical skills

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

1. Their performance skills and individual artistic voice and expression (5.2.2 QAA)
2. Utilising practical awareness and application of the inter-relationships between performer, space and elements of design which produce a unified meaning and performance aesthetic (5.8.2; 5.8.3; 5.8.4; 5.8.5 QAA)

3. The ability to devise, structure and refine their own performance materials outcomes and to engage creatively and critically with the skills and processes required in rehearsals and productions (5.2.1 QAA)

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements

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).

Entry Requirements for BA (Hons) Drama	
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.

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

Certificate in Higher Education	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4 .
Diploma in Higher Education	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4 and 120 credits at level 5.
BA (Hons) Drama	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4, 120 credits at level 5, and 120 credits at level 6.

11. Non Standard Regulations

N/A

12. 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	DRA4002	X						X						X			Y	P1 100%
	ACT4004							X		X					X		Y	C1 100%
	PER4001		X	X		X	X		X	X							Y	C1 100%
	DRA4001		X	X		X				X	X			X	X		Y	P1 100%
	PER4003	X	X					X	X			X	X	X		X	Y	C1 100%
	PER4002				X					X	X				X	X	Y	C1 100%
Level 4 LOs		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Level 5	PER5002	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									Y	P1 100%
	PER5004		X	X		X									X		N	P1 100%
	PER5001					X				X				X			N	P1 100%
	PER5005						X					X					Y	P1 100%
Level 5 LOs			X	X		X	X	X		X				X	X	X		
Level 6	PER6001	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X		N	C1: 100%
	PER6003						X	X			X	X	X				Y	C1: 100%
	PER6004		X	X				X		X	X			X	X	X	Y	P1: 100%
	DRA6001	X	X	X	X			X				X			X	X	Y	P1: 100%
Level 6 LOs			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Confirmed Award LOs		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		