

Royal Holloway, University of London

Course specification for an undergraduate award

BA Drama and Theatre Studies (W440)

Section 1 – Introduction to your course

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

Your degree course in Drama and Theatre Studies is delivered in three stages, each of which normally comprises one year of full-time study, during which you must follow modules to the value of 120 credits.

At **stage one**, you are introduced to four key themes through four **pathways**, denoting areas of theatrical activity and ways that theatre and performance engage with the world: theatre and performance making, theatre and text, theatre and culture, theatre and ideas. You will also study a skills-based module. Stage one offers a broad-based grounding in the subject, suitable for those of you with different levels of experience and understanding, giving everyone a shared basis of critical and creative skills that will prepare you for stages two and three. All modules are compulsory. At **stage two**, students extend their exploration of the **pathways** at a higher level, taking specialist modules grouped under these themes. At **stage three**, you have greater choice and responsibility, drawing on your work at stages one and two to choose your own final projects, follow a research-intensive seminar module, and engage directly with debates and practices in the contemporary creative industries. You contribute to a substantial **Finalists Festival** towards the end of stage three, in which work is publicly performed, presented and discussed.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is a brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree course – May also be referred to as 'degree programme' or simply 'programme', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.

Module – May also be referred to as 'course', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree course. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise a combination of modules in multiples of 15 credits to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	November 2023	Location of study	Egham Campus
Course award and title	BA Drama and Theatre Studies	Level of study	Undergraduate
Course code	1081	UCAS code	W440
Year of entry	2024/25		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Drama, Theatre and Dance	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	N/A
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time or part-time	Duration of the course	Three years or six years
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/	For queries on admissions:	https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery

Section 3 – Degree course structure

3.1 Mandatory module information
 The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study

Year	Module code	Module title	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (Mandatory Condonable MC or Mandatory Non-Condonable MNC)
1	DT1100	Theatre and Performance-Making	30	4	MC
1	DT1200	Theatre and Text	30	4	MC
1	DT1300	Theatre and Culture	30	4	MC
1	DT1400	Theatre & Ideas	15	4	MC
1	DT1600	Skills Lab	15	4	MC
3	DT3202	Group Project	30	6	MC

This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules each year. Mandatory modules fall into two categories: 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module before you can proceed to the next year of your course, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example: where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

3.2 Optional modules

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback

and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection; please contact the Department for further information.

In your **second year** you will need to select modules as follows:

- A) One module of 30 credits from Theatre and Performance- Making 2:
 - DT2102 Theatre & Performance Making: Devising
 - DT2103 Theatre & Performance Making: Theatre Directing
 - DT2104 Theatre & Performance Making: Acting for Camera
 - DT2105 Theatre & Performance Making: Dance and Theatre
 - DT2106 Design for Performance
 - DT2107 Theatre and Performance-Making: Site-based Performance
 - DT2108 Theatre & Performance Making 2: Stage Acting
 - DT2109 Theatre & Performance-Making 2: Puppetry and Object Theatre

- B) One module of 30 credits from Theatre and Text 2:
 - DT2201 Theatre & Text: Staging the Real
 - DT2202 Theatre & Text: Greek Tragedy
 - DT2203 Theatre & Text 2: Decoding debbie tucker green
 - DT2204 Theatre & Text: Dramaturgy
 - DT2206 Paranoia Film in the long 1970s
 - DT2215 Shakespeare, Ecology and Performance

- C) One module of 30 credits from Theatre and Culture 2:
 - DT2301 Theatre & Culture: Southeast Asian Theatre and Performance
 - DT2302 Theatre & Culture: Theatre for Young Audiences
 - DT2303 Theatre & Culture: Aesthetics of Anxiety
 - DT2304 Theatre & Culture: Cultures of Memory
 - DT2306 Theatre & Culture: Dancing Bodies, Global Culture
 - DT2307 Archive Workshop
 - DT2308 Theatre and Culture 2: Performing Feminisms

- D) Two modules of 15 credits each from Theatre and Ideas 2:
 - DT2401 Theatre & Ideas: The Idea of Live Art
 - DT2402 Theatre & Ideas: The Idea of Acting
 - DT2403 Theatre & Ideas: Ideas of Race and Indigeneity
 - DT2404 Theatre & Ideas: Arts Entrepreneurship

DT2405 Theatre & Ideas: Arts Entrepreneurship
DT2406 Theatre & Ideas: Ideas of Gender and Sexuality
DT2407 Theatre & Ideas: The Idea of Time
DT2408 Theatre & Ideas: The Idea of Knowledge and the Body
DT2409 Theatre & Ideas: The Idea of Tragedy
DT2411 Theatre & Ideas: The Idea of Casting
DT2412 Theatre & Ideas: The Idea of Adaptation
DT2413 The Idea of the Musical
DT2414 Aesthetic Philosophy
DT2415 Cultural Heritage

In your **final year** you must choose **three** Advanced Option modules in the autumn term:

Advanced Options : students choose **one** seminar-based (30 credits) and **two** workshop-based options (15 credits each)

You must also choose **30 credits** from the following modules:

DT3201 Final Year Project – Dissertation (30 credits)

DT3204 Taught Dissertation (30 credits)

DT3203 Final Year Project – Creative Dissertation (30 credits)

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#).

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

All first year students on single, joint or combined honours courses offered all or in part by the School of Humanities, School of Performing and Digital Arts, or department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy are required to pass a Moodle-based writing skills quiz in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Certificates of Distinction are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the [College's Undergraduate Regulations](#) (Section: Conditions for progression to the next stage) but fail to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are:

- To engage you critically and creatively in the process of making and experiencing drama, theatre and performance.
- To enable you to develop independent critical thinking and judgement;
- To develop and enhance your expression of your ideas in a variety of modes and contexts;
- To foster the appreciation of diverse theatre and performance practices from a range of historical and geographical contexts;
- To encourage an awareness of theatre's relationship with a wide range of different intellectual and cultural practices;
- To foster understanding of the complementary value of critical and creative exploration;
- To encourage you to take progressive responsibility for your own study through negotiating subject areas of specialism with other students in seminars, through the informed choice of options and an extended piece of independent work in the final year.

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*))

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experience and understanding of processes by which performances are created, which may include devising, improvisation, scoring, training, directing, acting, performing, playwriting, adaptation, set, costume and lighting design, choreography, digital media, and community engagement (K); 2. Understanding of the performance possibilities implied by a script, score and other sources (K); 3. Experience of engaging in performance-making, based on an acquisition and understanding of appropriate creative vocabularies, skills, structures, and working methods (K); 4. Appreciation of 'Embodied knowledge' and 'practice as research' (K); 5. Awareness of relationships between past traditions and present practice (K); 6. Understanding of the relationship between individual and group creative activity (K); 7. Knowledge and understanding of various ways in which 'performance' originates, is constructed, circulated and received (K); 8. Ability to describe, interpret, theorise, and evaluate performance texts and events from a range of critical, theoretical, and philosophical perspectives (K); | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Understanding of the function, value, and practice of theatre and performance (K); 10. Ability to follow and engage in cross-disciplinary conversations about theatre, theory and philosophy (K); 11. Ability to work independently and autonomously, showing initiative and personal motivation (S); 12. Ability to work collaboratively, sharing responsibility, delegating, and where appropriate leading teams (S); 13. Project management (S); 14. Ability to handle multiple, diverse and competing demands on time and energy (S); 15. Ability to coherently develop and express ideas in various media including, but not limited to, essays and reports, creative writing, presentation, meetings, digital and social media, performance (S); 16. Skills in research, gathering appropriate evidence and ideas (S); 17. Confidence in dealing with complex ideas and experiences (S); 18. Confidence with digital and information technology (S); 19. Critical reasoning (S); 20. Ability to frame critical enquiry (S); 21. Ability to engage creatively with the wider world (S*); |
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Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of workshops, seminars, lectures, tutorials, performance, essay supervision, guided independent study and research, electronic communications and written and oral feedback. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by essays, class presentations, performances, and other creative projects. Full details of the assessments for individual modules can be obtained from the Drama [Department](#).

Contact hours come in various forms and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff.

The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary, however, for the assessments listed as 'summative', you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular module.

More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Module Catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Section 8 – Additional costs

Drama and Theatre - There are no single associated costs with studying Drama and Theatre Studies greater than £50 per item. It is a requirement to purchase a pair of safety boots in the first year, for which a range of cost options are available. Ticket costs for mandatory theatre trips are capped at £10.

These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	4-6
Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent courses of study.	
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	

Section 10– Intermediate exit awards (where available)		
You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.		
Award	Criteria	Awarding body
Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)	Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE)	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College