

**Royal Holloway, University of London**  
**Course specification for an undergraduate award**  
**BA Performing and Digital Arts (W450)**

**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 Performing and Digital Arts provides progressive structures in which you will be able to gain ever-wider knowledge and understanding, and appropriate skills. Your course contains a combination of mandatory modules to introduce you to each academic discipline: Media Arts, Music, and Drama. In stage two and three, you are encouraged to develop your own interests through informed choice among specialist options. In stage two, you will take an industry-focused module (MA2080) and you are encouraged to take an Optional Placement Year to develop these skills between stages two and three. In stage three, you are required to do a final year project in one department. You may specialise within one department by taking more than 50% of your modules from that department over the course of your study. Your modules aim to equip you with a range of personal attributes relevant to the world beyond higher education (HE), allowing you to engage in lifelong learning, to consider ethics and values, and to contribute to the wider community. Your course modules at Royal Holloway, University of London, will be delivered over three years, each of which normally involves modules to the value of 120 credits.

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 Performing and Digital Arts	Level of study	Undergraduate
Course code	3623	UCAS code	W450
Year of entry	2024/25		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Performing and Digital Arts	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	Drama, Music, and Media Arts
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:	<a href="https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/">https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/</a>	For queries on admissions:	<a href="https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery">https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery</a>

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 1	30	4	MC
1	MU1116	Introduction to World Music	15	4	MC
2	MA2080	Creative Industries	15	5	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 **first year** you will need to select modules as follows:

- A) One module of 30 credits from:
  - MA1804 Digital Storytelling

MA1805 Coding for the Art

B) One module of 15 credits from:

MU1111 Fundamentals of Music Theory

MU1117 Contemporary Debates in Music

C) A further 30 credits from (all modules 15 credits, unless otherwise specified):

DT1200 Theatre and Text 1 (30 credits)

MA1154 Screen Narrative: Theory and Practice

MA1051 Film, Television and Digital Histories

MA1052 Critical Theory and Textual Analysis

MA1801: Intro to Digital Media 2 (30 credits)

MA1802 Game Engines: Interactive and Immersive Environments (30 credits)

MA1804 Digital Storytelling (30 credits)

MA1805 Coding for the Arts (30 credits)

MU1115 Intro to Historical Musicology

MU1113 Practical Composition Techniques

MU1119 Creative Ensemble Performance

In your **second year** you will need to select:

A) At least 15 credits from Drama

B) At least 15 credits from Media Arts

C) At least 15 credits from Music

In your **third year** you will need to select:

A) One final year project module of 30 credits from:

DT3201 Dissertation

DT3202 Group Performance

DT3203 Creative Dissertation

MA3061 Dissertation

MA3062 Media Research Project

MU3391 Special Study: Dissertation

MU3394 Special Study: Composition

MU3390 Special Study: Composing with Technology

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.

### **Part-Time Pathway**

#### **Stage One:**

Year 1:

- A) MU1116 Intro to World Music
- B) One module of 30 credits from:
  - MA1804 Digital Storytelling
  - MA1805 Coding for the Art
- C) One module of 15 credits from:
  - MU1111 Fundamentals of Music Theory
  - MU1117 Contemporary Debates in Music

Year 2:

- A) DT1100 Theatre and Performance Making 1
- B) An additional 30 credits

#### **Stage Two:**

Year 1:

- A) MA2080 Creative Industries
- B) An additional 30 credits

Year 2: 60 optional credits

#### **Stage Three:**

Year 1: 60 optional credits

Year 2:

- A) One module of 30 credits from:
  - DT3201 Dissertation
  - DT3202 Group Performance
  - DT3203 Special Project
  - MA3061 Dissertation
  - MA3062 Media Research Project
  - MU3391 Special Study: Dissertation
  - MU3394 Special Study: Composition
  - MU3390 Special Study: Composing with Technology
- B) An additional 30 credits

**Courses including an International Year**

Students must take modules at an overseas university nominated through the Erasmus or Student Exchange Courses. The equivalent of a full academic load at the overseas university must be taken. The modules to be taken overseas are to be agreed with the Tutor for International Studies in the Department. The marks achieved are converted into equivalent College marks and count as a thirteenth unit, DT3600. This will contribute 20% to the final stage three marks.

## Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are:

- To develop skills working across disciplines in the performing and digital arts
- To engage you critically and creatively in the process of making and experiencing performing and digital arts.
- 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 practices in drama, music, and media arts from a range of historical and geographical contexts;
- To encourage an awareness of performing and digital arts in 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.

To create an awareness of and transferable skills for the creative industries

**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"> <li>1. Experience and understanding of processes by which performances are created, which may include devising, scoring, directing, acting, performing, creative writing, adaptation, choreography, digital media, coding, documentary, composing, ensemble, and community engagement <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>2. Understanding of the performance possibilities implied by a script, score and other sources <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>3. Experience of engaging in performance-making, based on an acquisition and understanding of appropriate creative vocabularies, skills, structures, and working methods <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>4. Appreciation of 'Embodied knowledge' and 'practice as research' <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>5. Awareness of relationships between past traditions and present practice <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>6. Understanding of the relationship between individual and group creative activity <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>7. Ability to describe, interpret, theorise, and evaluate performing arts texts and events from a range of critical, theoretical, and philosophical perspectives <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>8. Understanding of the function, value, and practice of performing and digital arts <b>(K)</b>;</li> <li>9. Ability to follow and engage in cross-disciplinary conversations about music, media arts, and drama <b>(K)</b>;</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. The opportunity to explore interdisciplinary aspects of the performing and digital arts <b>(K*)</b>;</li> <li>11. Ability to work independently and autonomously, showing initiative and personal motivation <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>12. Ability to work collaboratively, sharing responsibility, delegating, and where appropriate leading teams <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>13. Project management <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>14. Ability to handle multiple, diverse and competing demands on time and energy <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>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 <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>16. Skills in research, gathering appropriate evidence and ideas <b>(S)</b>;</li> <li>17. Confidence in dealing with complex ideas and experiences <b>(S)</b>;</li> <li>18. Confidence with digital and information technology <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>19. Critical reasoning <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>20. Ability to frame critical enquiry <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>21. To evaluate and express the advantages and disadvantages of different critical and interpretive techniques <b>(S*)</b>;</li> <li>22. Ability to engage creatively with the wider world <b>(S*)</b>;</li> </ol> |
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## Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning on your course is closely informed by the active research of staff, particularly in the areas of technologically enhanced/mediated performance/art, socially engaged theory and practice, and contemporary issues/debates in Music, Media Arts, and Drama. In general terms, the course provides an opportunity for you to develop and demonstrate the learning outcomes detailed herein.

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of practical workshops; seminars; ; lectures; study groups; essay consultations; oral presentations and guided independent study. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by formal coursework, practice, examined essays, presentations, practical simulations, and the dissertation or special study. In addition, students may be involved in workshops and may produce various forms of creative or editorial work.

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

There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree course.

**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	
<b>QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</b>	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.	
<b>QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)</b>	<a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements</a>
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