

Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for an undergraduate award
BA Drama with Philosophy (W4V5)

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 University prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the University's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the University's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

At **first year**, you will be introduced to the discipline of Drama and Theatre (by way of the foundation modules Performance Making, Thinking Theatre, Performing Place, and Skills lab) and the discipline of Philosophy (by way of Problems of Knowledge and Philosophical Methods). You will work on fundamental departmental modules in your first year before beginning your collaborative work in second year.

In the **second year** you will take specialist second year modules in Drama: Performance Practices, Theatre Production and Staging Society. You must take a further 30 credits of optional modules in Philosophy.

As **third years**, you will have further autonomy over the modules you choose and work you create. You will choose any 90 credits from Drama and any 30 credits from Philosophy to develop your professional skills.

For joint and combined honours courses, please refer to the course specification for your secondary department's corresponding single honours course for further information on educational aims, and learning outcomes.

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	March 2026	Location of study	Egham Campus
Course award and title	BA Drama with Philosophy	Level of study	Undergraduate
Course code	2269	UCAS code	W4V5
Year of entry	2026/27		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Drama, Theatre and Dance	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	Philosophy
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	Performance Making	30	4	MC
1	DT1300	Performing Place	30	4	MC
1	DT1400	Thinking Theatre	15	4	MC
1	DT1600	Skills Lab	15	4	MC
1	PY1101	Problems of Knowledge	15	4	MNC
1	PY1202	Philosophical Methods	15	4	MC
<p>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'.</p> <p>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.</p>					
3.2 Optional modules					
<p>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</p>					

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.

Year two:

You must choose 90 credits of Drama modules:

30 credits from Theatre Production basket

30 credits from Staging Society basket

30 credits from Performance Practices basket

You must also choose 30 credits of Philosophy modules.

Year three:

You must choose 90 credits of Drama Modules:

30 credits from Research Seminar basket

15 credits from Professional Workshop 1 basket

15 credits from Professional Workshop 2 basket

30 credits from DT3331 Research Dissertation or DT3332 Creative Dissertation or DT3330 Final Year Performance

You must also choose 30 credits of Philosophy modules.

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%. 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 [Academic Taught Regulations](#) but fail to pass the Moodle-based Academic Integrity module will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study.

Part-Time Pathway

Stage One:

Year 1: Theatre & Performance Making 1 and Theatre & Text 1; PY1101

Year 2: Skills Lab and Theatre & Ideas 1; PY1202

Stage Two:

You must take 90 credits in the following combinations in either order over two years (45 credits per year):

Theatre & Text OR Theatre & Culture and Theatre & Ideas

Theatre & Performance Making and Theatre & Ideas

You must choose 15 credits of Philosophy modules each year.

Stage Three:

Students may take the following combinations in either order over two years:

- Advanced Option (practice) and Group Project

- Advanced Option (seminar) and Special Project/Research Dissertation/Taught Dissertation

You must choose 15 credits of Philosophy modules each year.

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 University 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 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 each other 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 (*)*)

Theme	Course learning outcome	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Research and Communication Skills	Research, apply, and evaluate evidence and ideas relevant to the subject area.	Compile relevant information about a topic in response to a brief.	Justify a position or rationale relevant to the subject area using suitable sources and evidence.	Formulate conclusions and insight about the subject area through research.
	Apply methodologies for understanding the subject area.	Learn and apply methodologies for understanding the subject area.	Select and apply methodologies for understanding the subject area, appropriate to the sources and aims.	Critically apply research methodologies to provide insight into the subject area.
	Present information and ideas about the subject area effectively.	Identify and present key information about the subject area.	Summarize, distil, and accurately present information and ideas about the subject area.	Tailor the content and form of communication about the subject area appropriately for a specific objective.
Theoretical and Contextual Understanding	Identify, analyse and evaluate critical theories and historical, societal, and artistic contexts.	Identify critical theories and historical, societal, and artistic contexts relevant to the subject area.	Analyse critical theories and historical, societal, and artistic contexts relevant to the subject area.	Evaluate multiple critical theories and historical, societal, and artistic contexts relevant to the subject area.

Reflective Practice and Social Context	Productively reflect upon their own skills and practice and those of their group or peers.	Understand and discuss their own critical and creative practice and that of their group or peers.	Reflect on their own critical and creative practice, and that of their group or peers.	Apply reflective skills to develop their own critical and creative practice, and that of their group or peers.
	Reflect upon how your practice relates to debates surrounding equity, inclusion, and sustainability.	Identify contemporary debates surrounding equity, inclusion, and sustainability through the context of the subject area.	Evaluate contemporary debates surrounding equity, inclusion, and sustainability through the context of the subject area.	Participate in debates surrounding equity, inclusion, and sustainability through the context of the subject area.
	Demonstrate skills relevant to professional careers cognate to the subject area.	Understand the range of specialist skills used by those with careers cognate to the subject area.	Cultivate skills used by those with careers cognate to the subject area.	Implement skills employed in careers cognate to the subject area.
Work creatively	To work creatively in a variety of theatre and performance modes and genres through the acquisition and understanding of appropriate creative vocabularies, skills, structures, and working methods.	To develop core skills and creative vocabularies; to encounter a range of models from theatre practice and deconstruct/ reconstruct them (TPM 1; SL)	To apply skills and creative vocabularies to the development of specialist knowledge in focused area of theatre practice (TPM 2)	To apply skills and creative vocabularies to work collaboratively to develop and perform a successfully realised, complex and original piece of theatre (GP; AOW)
Collaborative performance practice	To work collaboratively in performance practice and critical and creative group presentation tasks, recognising and respecting the views of others while sharing responsibility, delegating, and where appropriate, leading teams and managing projects.	To participate effectively, constructively and collaboratively in group work in class, and in preparing short group outcomes for assessment; to effectively negotiate shared projects and to delegate and/ or demonstrate leadership as appropriate to the task (SL; TT1; TPM1)	To generate nuanced and critically reflexive group presentations through projects responsive to specialist materials studied and engaged with in research-led modules. (TT2; T12; TPM2)	To produce a 'capstone' collaborative group performance based in original research demonstrating originality, and situating this in relation to professional work in the relevant field. (GP)
Describe, Theorise, Evaluate	To describe, interpret, theorise, and evaluate performance texts and events from a range of critical, theoretical, historical, intercultural and cross-disciplinary perspectives; [K]	To encounter and interpret dramatic texts, and describe and understand how texts originate, are constructed and circulate; develop research skills (Skills Lab; TT1)	To apply knowledge of the ways in which texts originate, are constructed and circulate to specialist areas of the field (TT2)	To apply knowledge of how texts originate, are constructed and circulate at an advanced level in independent and collaborative work (AOS; GP)

Independent Working	4. To work independently and autonomously , showing initiative and personal motivation in developing a strong critical voice and performance style (S)*	4:4:1 To develop skills in independent learning; prepare materials for use in class; work towards individual assignments (Skills Lab; TT1, T1; TMP1)	4:5:2 To demonstrate a developing creative and critical voice in response to materials studied; to manage time, projects and learning trajectory to the successful delivery of outcomes (Tl2; TT2; TPM2)	To produce a 'capstone' independent outcome based in original research and/ or creative practice, demonstrating originality, and situate this in relation to professional work in the relevant field (Diss/ CD)
Knowledge and Understanding	Understand the core questions, theories, and specialist terminology in the central areas of philosophy	Recall information about philosophical theories and understand the relevant terminology [PY1002, PY1101, PY1104, PY1203]	Discuss core philosophical questions and theories [PY 2001, PY2002, PY2202, all option modules]	Explain the key issues in philosophical debates and theories [all option modules]
Argumentation	Identify and analyse arguments made in a variety of contexts, both theoretical and practical	Recognize an argument and understand the difference between good and bad arguments [PY1101, PY1102, PY1103, PY1202]	Assess the quality of arguments as used in a wide range of contexts [PY2002, PY2900, all option modules]	Deploy arguments effectively and explain why poor arguments are ineffective [all option modules]
Critical Thinking	Critically evaluate philosophical ideas from both historical and contemporary sources	Begin to appreciate both the strengths and weakness of philosophical ideas [PY1002, PY1102, PY1202, PY1541]	Recognize strengths and weakness of philosophical ideas [PY 2001, PY2002, PY2202, PY2900, all option modules]	Explain fully the strengths and weakness of philosophical ideas [all option modules]
Textual Analysis	Interpret complex philosophical texts, paying attention to different modes of argumentation and the variety of literary forms that philosophical writing can take	Appreciate the variety of literary forms in which philosophy has and can be written [PY1002, PY1102, PY1202, PY1541]	Understand the different criteria used to assess the claims made in different types of philosophical text [PY 2001, PY2202, all option modules]	Critically assess a variety of different types of philosophical text and understand the strengths and weakness of different genres of writing [all option modules]
Research	Gather, organise, and deploy evidence from a variety of sources, assessing its nature and value.	Know how to identify and locate scholarly literature relevant to a given research topic [all modules]	Organize and assess sources of information relevant to a research topic [PY 2001, PY2002, PY2202, PY2900, all option modules]	Critically assess and make effective use of previous literature on a research topic in their own work [PY3001, all option modules]
Communication	Express philosophical ideas and arguments clearly and precisely, both in written work and orally.	Understand the importance of clarity and precision in philosophical discussion and writing [PY1101, PY1102, PY1103, PY1202]	Deploy well-formed arguments in discussion and written work [PY 2001, PY2002, PY2202, PY2900, all option modules]	Effectively argue for or against a view in a wide variety of contexts, both orally and in written work [PY3001, all option modules]

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](#) and Philosophy [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. Assessments designated as 'summative' will receive a mark 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.

More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Royal Holloway Curriculum 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.

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	
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