PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**MA Text and Performance** (Level 7)
Name and title of interim exit qualification(s)	Postgraduate Diploma Text and Performance Postgraduate Certificate Text and Performance
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	Creative Arts, Culture and Communication
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years September, January (part-time only)
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMATEXPR_C TMATEXPJ_C (January start, part-time)
HECoS Code	100698 100069
Start date of programme	Autumn 2010
Date of programme approval	Summer 2010
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2022
Valid for academic entry year	2023-24
Date of last revision to document	25/10/2022

Admissions requirements

Undergraduate degree at 2nd class honours or above, and/or relevant practical experience in the creative industries. All suitable applicants will be interviewed either personally or by telephone.

International entry requirements: If English is not your first language or you have not previously studied in English, the requirement for this programme is the equivalent of an International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic Test) score of 7.0, with not less than 6.5 in each of the sub-tests.

Course aims

MA Text and Performance explores the dynamic relationship between text and performance, through a combination of theatre practice and academic study. In the studio and workshop, the programme uses voice, movement, playwriting, directing and dramaturgy techniques to create new work. In lectures and seminars, the programme examines historical, philosophical and theoretical materials and ideas to understand contemporary theatre and performance, and the ways in which they are shaped by current concerns and older traditions and legacies.

The programme aims to:

- Explore the relationship between text and performance in theatre and performance based practices, across different historical periods, cultural contexts and sites;
- Examine how text functions in performance and how performance shapes the meaning of text;
- Explore the uses of text to inspire, generate and understand collaborative performance;
- Analyse the relationships among the practices of writing for performance, performing text, collaboratively making performance, and writing about performance;
- Explore the connection between writing and performing, and forms of critical, theoretical and cultural analysis;
- Investigate practice-based approaches to research and more conventional scholarly methods of study, and the ways in which they enrich one another.

The degree's offering is supported by the creative and critical interests of Birkbeck staff in drama, theatre, performance and creative writing, and the theatre-making expertise of associate artists. It is additionally enriched by the activities of Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre and its Fellows, that include industry-leading performers, writers, dancers, directors and producers. The programme takes full advantage of Birkbeck's central London location, surrounded by libraries, museums and arts venues, to introduce students to the most exciting resources and practices taking place across the city. Learning from theatre professionals, students will develop skills that enable them to generate innovative theatre and performance and to work in the creative industries. Students will additionally develop research skills, supported by Graduate Research in Theatre (GRiT) seminar series, that will support them in pursuing further research, including PhD study.

Course structure – October Start

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp/ Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-Time – 1 year					
7	AREN022S7	Contemporary Performance Cultures: Ideas and Approaches	30	Compulsory	T1
7	AREN276S7	Performing Texts	30	Compulsory	T2
7	AREN277S7	Collaborative Theatre Making	30	Compulsory	T1
7	ARMC102S7 or ENHU124S7	1 option module: Audiences: Communities, Participation and Learning or Introduction to Playwriting or school-wide option	30	Option	T2 or 3
7	AREN031D7	Dissertation: Theatre and Performance Research	60	Core	T3
Part-Time – 2 years					
Year 1					
7	AREN022S7	Contemporary Performance Cultures: Ideas and Approaches	30	Compulsory	T1
7	ARMC102S7 or ENHU124S7	1 option module: Audiences: Communities, Participation and Learning or Introduction to Playwriting or school-wide option	30	Option	T2 or 3
Year 2					
7	AREN277S7	Collaborative Theatre Making	30	Compulsory	T1
7	AREN276S7	Performing Texts	30	Compulsory	T2
7	AREN031D7	Dissertation: Theatre and Performance Research	60	Core	T3

Course structure – January Start (part-time only)

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp/ Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Part-Time – 2 years					
Year 1					
7	AREN277S7	Collaborative Theatre Making	30	Compulsory	Spring (T2)
7	ARMC221S7	Comparative Cultural Policies or school-wide option	30	Option	Summer (T3)
7	AREN022S7	Contemporary Performance Cultures: Ideas and Approaches	30	Compulsory	Autumn (T1)

Year 2					
7	AREN276S7	Performing Texts	30	Compulsory	Spring (T2)
7	AREN031D7	Dissertation: Theatre and Performance Research Summer classes Autumn supervision	60	Core	Summer (T3) and Autumn (T1)

Core: Module must be taken and passed by student

Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)

Option: Student can choose to take this module

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you. Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around: individual and collaborative project work; independent and in-class activities; critical engagement with a variety of dramatic, performative and theoretical texts and performances; written and performed tasks; academic inquiry and performance-making.

Teaching on this course is a combination of lectures, seminars and studio-based practices. Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare. Studio-based workshops provide you with the opportunity to explore practices and ideas in embodied ways, and to refine your performance-making and presentation skills.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. We use a variety of assessment methods that reflect the skills of the discipline, including

- Short assessment exercises
- Research essays
- Portfolios
- Group performance projects
- In-class performance exercises
- Dissertations (practice-led or academic pathways)

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a critical and creative understanding of the relationship between text and performance that will support the analysis and production of new writing and performance-based artworks;
2. Evidence an understanding of text and performance as artistic outputs and research methodologies;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of practice-based/led research in theatre and performance, including collaborative theatre making;
4. Develop, critically analyse and contextualise texts for/in performance;
5. Identify, engage and analyse a variety of approaches to the creation of text and performance that inform contemporary theatre practice;
6. Demonstrate historical understanding, theoretical knowledge and a critical vocabulary for understanding the making and production of text and performance;
7. Evidence an ability to work collectively and collaboratively in the production of research and artistic outputs;
8. Show a comprehensive understanding of different research techniques and methodologies appropriate to taught postgraduate study;
9. Demonstrate original and rigorous approaches to artistic practice and research;
10. Refine skills in argumentation and analysis;
11. Evidence an ability to work through complex ideas intellectually and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
12. Manage workloads and meet deadlines;
13. Develop practice-based skills in communication in and through performance including movement, writing, speech etc.
14. Demonstrate self-direction and creativity in problem-solving;
15. Evidence a capacity to work collaboratively in a small group to achieve shared goals;
16. Develop transferable skills of value within and beyond the subject including: interpersonal and communication skills; creative thinking and problem solving; initiative and personal responsibility; decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations; and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Careers and further study

You will find text and performance graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- academia and education
- theatre and performance practice
- film, media, and the creative arts
- arts leadership, administration and outreach
- journalism
- advertising and marketing
- public relations
- policy and strategy for political organisations, charities or NGOs
- publishing.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.