

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	BA Writing and Performance (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Dip HE, Cert HE
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year?	Yes
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home Department/other teaching departments	School of 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 (3 years; 4 years with Foundation) Part-time (4 years; 6 years with Foundation) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Dance, Drama and Performance Creative Writing
UCAS code	NP39; NP40 (with Foundation Year)
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBAWRPF_C (3 years full-time) UBAWRPRF_C (4 years part-time) UUBFWRPF_C (4 years full-time with FY) UBFWRPRF_C (6 years part-time with FY)
HECoS Code	100698 100046
Start date of programme	October 2022
Date of programme approval	Autumn 2021
Date of last programme amendment approval	August 2023
Valid for academic entry year	2024-25
Date of last revision to document	19/12/2023

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

UCAS tariff: 96-128 points (48 points for Foundation Year entry)

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides a tariff calculator for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

Do you want to see your stories on stage? Are you fascinated by live performance and the written word? Study in central London, at the heart of the city's vibrant cultural scene, with BA Writing and Performance at Birkbeck. Investigate theatre as live event, as dramatic text, and in its historical contexts, while developing your skills as a writer across the fields of fiction, poetry and drama with our award-winning staff.

You will explore theatre histories and theories in depth, alongside the many ways in which it is possible to tell stories. You will get to grips with the craft of writing poetry, fiction and drama for stage and screen, and experiment with the relationship between creative and critical writing. Option modules across arts, literature and theatre-making will enhance your developing writing practice, culminating in your final dissertation project. Throughout your degree, you will visit the world's most exciting theatre institutions and analyse live and digital performances.

BA Writing and Performance brings you guidance from our world-leading academics, theatre-makers and authors, and the opportunity to create new and original work.

This programme is also available for part-time evening study over four years, or with a foundation year.

Course aims:

- Enable students to develop their knowledge and skills as critics and originators of theatrical performance, fiction, poetry, and drama with published specialists.
- Offer a curriculum that combines breadth of module provision and flexibility of choice.
- Deepen students' awareness of form and elements of the craft of theatremaking and creative writing.
- Develop students' skills of self-evaluation and constructive analysis of their own work and the work of others.
- Provide students with a broad and balanced understanding of the relation between research, interpretation and creative practice
- Offer a balanced programme of study that mixes compulsory modules and flexible option choice to enable students to engage with theatre and performance studies and creative writing in a range of contexts
- Enable students to develop independent critical judgement; and to write lucid, logical and well-structured prose while also developing their own creative work.
- Offer students the opportunity to undertake and complete a long-form project in either theatre or creative writing.

- Enable students to develop skills in editing and revising their own critical and creative writing.
- Enable students to engage imaginatively in the analysis and interpretation of writing and performance as well as develop their own creative practices.
- Enable students to attain understanding of the histories, conventions, and processes of theatrical and creative practice
- Produce well-rounded graduates capable of independently evaluating and engaging creatively and critically with contemporary theatre and performance and creative writing, equipped with subject-specific and transferable knowledge and skills relevant to a range of sectors (including but not limited to arts and culture, education, law, marketing and public relations, charitable and third sector organisations, the public sector)

Course structure

Please see *Arts Foundation Year spec for Foundation year modules.*

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling	30	Comp	1-2
4	AREN287S4	Fiction Workshop 1	30	Comp	2
4	ENHU001S4	Theatre in London Now: Histories	30	Comp	1-3
4	AREN288S4	Writing for Film and Television	30	Comp	3
4	AREN290Z4	Theatremaking	0	Comp	1-2
Year 2					
5	ENHU001S5	Our Theatrical World	30	Comp	1
5	AREN157S5	Tragedy	30	Comp	3
5	AREN199S5	The Arts of Adaptation: Creative Climates	30	Comp	2
5		Option	30	Option	3
5	ENHU001Z5	Theatre in London Now: Theories	0	Comp	1-3
Year 3					
6	AREN291S6	Performing Environments	30	Comp	1
6	ENHU103S6	Independent Research Project in Theatre and Performance	30	Core	1-2
6	ENHU001S6	Theatre in London Now: Student-Led Project	30	Core	1-3
6		Option	30	Option	2
Part-time – 4 years					
Year 1					
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling	30	Comp	1-2
4	AREN203H4	Writing for Film and Television	30	Comp	3
4	ENHU001S4	Theatre in London Now: Histories	30	Comp	1-3
4	AREN290Z4	Theatremaking	0	Comp	1-2

Year 2					
5	ENHU001S5	Our Theatrical World	30	Comp	1
4	AREN287S4	Fiction Workshop 1	30	Comp	2
5	AREN157S5	Tragedy	30	Comp	3
5	ENHU001Z5	Theatre in London Now: Theories	0	Comp	1-3
Year 3					
5 (or 6)		Option	30	Option	1
5	AREN199S5	The Arts of Adaptation: Creative Climates	30	Comp	2
6 (or 5)		Option	30	Option	3
(Note: one option must be taken at level 5 and the other at level 6)					
Year 4					
6	AREN291S6	Performing Environments	30	Comp	1
6	ENHU103S6	Independent Research Project in Theatre and Performance	30	Core	1-2
6	ENHU001S6	Theatre in London Now: Student-Led Project	30	Core	1-3

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 the activities outlined below.

Learning on BA Writing and Performance makes use of a mix of techniques and strategies, including:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Practice-based workshops and rehearsals
- Tutorial support
- Independent visits to theatrical performances^{[1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10]}
- Independent study and research
- Group-based study and research
- Access to public events hosted by Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre.

On theatre studies modules, students will learn primarily through the three key pedagogical practices central to Theatre and Performance at BA level: lectures, seminar discussions and workshops. Lectures provide students with key information regarding topics or themes. Seminars are interactive, and involve students' advance preparation of materials, often focused by a series of set questions or prompts. Workshops enable students to explore the concepts they are introduced to in seminars and lectures through practice. This enables students to take a 'laboratory' approach, whereby they test and investigate practical strategies, effects and outcomes of theatre and performance through practice. This process of learning will be supplemented by independent research (involving the use of libraries, internet resources, and archives), independent individual and group work, and theatre visits.

On creative writing modules, teaching is similarly varied and interactive, and takes the form of lecturer-led sessions on elements of craft, workshopping of students' creative work, class and home exercises, student readings, individual and group work. Other important modes of learning include: note-taking, visual and textual analysis; private study; group projects; library research; use of internet sources; use of museums and galleries; writing assignments, including essays, creative work, research essays and projects. Students also have the opportunity to submit work to The Mechanics' Institute Review, produced annually by students on the MA Creative Writing.

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. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

Assessment methods include:

- Research essays
- Research exercises
- Creative writing exercises
- Creative writing portfolios
- Group presentations
- Performance presentations
- Creative projects
- Critical reflections on practical work
- Group vivas (spoken examinations)
- Individual vivas (spoken examinations)

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 knowledge and understanding of the key traditions, conventions, contexts, histories, concepts and cultures that comprise writing and performance practice;
2. Show awareness of the range and variety of key critical and theoretical debates at the forefront of the fields of writing and performance;

3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how the key elements and processes of theatrical performance and creative writing are created and realised;
4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the interplay between practice and theory;
5. Evidence ability to describe, theorise, interpret, analyse, historicise and evaluate creative writing, performance texts and performance events from a range of critical and creative perspectives;
6. Utilise research skills, including the ability to gather, sift and organise material independently and critically and to present it in the form of an essay, report, presentation or creative piece
7. Discuss and evaluate the work of fellow students and established theatremakers and creative writers in relation to elements of the craft of theatremaking and of creative writing;
8. Work efficiently and constructively within a group and on an individual basis to realise an appropriate creative and/or scholarly piece or presentation of a specified length;
9. Present and sustain arguments and engage in debate;
10. Act as a reflective, self-directed learner, recognizing and employing a range of strategies to support independent learning, including an awareness of strengths/weaknesses;
11. Communicate in public and in working groups with expressive clarity and sophistication;
12. Apply the expressive, critical and evaluative skills acquired during the programme to varied kinds of work;
13. Communicate ideas and arguments clearly in a variety of oral, written, visual and performance media;
14. Demonstrate some IT skills; the use of libraries and electronic sources of information, online discussion groups, web-based research, e-learning, word-processing;
15. Utilise bibliographical skills appropriate to the discipline, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions in the presentation of scholarly work.

Careers and further study

Employers highly value the analytical, critical, communicative, and interpersonal skills that a Birkbeck degree in Writing and Performance can offer. Writing and Performance graduates leave with valuable attributes such as:

- High-level oral and written communication skills in English
- The ability to work efficiently and effectively as part of a team and on an individual basis
- Research skills
- Skills in analysis and argumentation
- Skills in evaluating and assessing ideas and information
- The ability to articulate yourself clearly, cogently and persuasively

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.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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