

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	MA Dramaturgy (Level 7)
Name and title of interim exit qualification(s)	Postgraduate Diploma Dramaturgy Postgraduate Certificate Dramaturgy
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
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMADRAGY_C
HECoS Code	100069
Start date of programme	Autumn 2020
Date of programme approval	Autumn 2019
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2022
Valid for academic entry year	2024-25
Programme Director	Seda Ilter
Date of last revision to document	25/04/2023

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 Dramaturgy is a postgraduate programme for students whose primary interest is in dramaturgy in various aspects, from the historical and theoretical to the practice-based and industry-focused. MA Dramaturgy enhances our suite of theatre programmes, and is complementary to MFA Theatre Directing. It investigates the practical, historical, theoretical and national contexts of dramaturgical work. In terms of practice-based endeavours, students work with leading artists and practitioners to develop skills in playwriting, and to explore performance composition from multiple standpoints, from collaborative theatremaking to radio drama. Students' scholarly and practice-based skills and knowledge are also enhanced with an industry-led examination of audience development, arts education and producing. It culminates in a dissertation project, which could take one of three forms: an academic study, a playwriting project, or a dramaturgical project.

MA Dramaturgy's aim is to respond to the expansion of dramaturgical practice in the industry. It prepares postgraduate students to enter the world of theatre-making with specialist theoretical and practical knowledge, and an informed overview of the creative process and its components. It also functions to prepare students for further postgraduate research. It draws on the research interests, professional practice and expertise of Birkbeck faculty and visiting artists and scholars. It takes full advantage of Birkbeck's proximity to London's West End theatre district and other performance spaces across the city for the study of theatre. Finally, it engages with the work of Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre, offering opportunities for students to pursue extra-curricular performance-making and engagement with new scholarship.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year					
7	AREN298S7	Dramaturgy: Processes and Practices	30	Comp.	T1
7	AREN022S7	Contemporary Performance Cultures: Ideas and Approaches	30	Comp.	T1
7		Options – two x 30-credit options taken from:	60	Option	T2 or 3
	ARMC102S7	Audiences: Communities, Participation and Learning	30	Option	T2
	ENHU124S7	Introduction to Playwriting	30	Option	T2
	ARMC221S7	Comparative Cultural Policies	30	Option	T3
7	AREN031D7	Dissertation	60	Core	T3

Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
7	AREN022S7	Contemporary Performance Cultures: Ideas and Approaches	30	Comp.	T1
7		Option – one 30-credit option taken from:	30	Option	T2 or 3
	ENHU124S7	Introduction to Playwriting	30	Option	T2
	ARMC221S7	Comparative Cultural Policies	30	Option	T3
Year 2					
7	AREN298S7	Dramaturgy: Processes and Practices	30	Comp	T1
7		Option – one 30-credit option taken from:	30	Option	T2
	ARMC102S7	Audiences: Communities, Participation and Learning	30	Option	T2
7	AREN031D7	Dissertation	60	Core	T3

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.

Teaching on this course is a combination of lectures, seminars and studio-based workshops. 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, dramaturgical 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. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

- Short assessment exercises
- Research essays
- Portfolios
- Visual demonstrations
- Individual creative projects
- 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. Show a creative and conceptual understanding of theatre and performance-making processes that will support the critical evaluation of current research, performance and advanced scholarship in the discipline. This will enable students to evaluate and critique rival methodologies, and, where appropriate, develop and propose new hypotheses and practices;
2. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of performance practice and a critical awareness of the current problems and new insights raised by the relationship between history, theory and practice;
3. Show an ability to develop practice-based approaches to a range of theatrical, dramatic and performative stimuli and sources.
4. Show an ability to discuss and analyse drama, theatre and performance in relation to the possibilities they offer for performance, informed by a cogent grasp of theatre history and theory;
5. Demonstrate a sound grasp of the theatrical, intellectual and institutional contexts of contemporary theatre and performance;
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the variety of approaches to the creation of performance that inform contemporary theatre practice; [Intellectual];
7. Show a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research, advanced scholarship or theatrical practice;
8. Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge and the development of practice-based projects, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research, enquiry and performance are used to create and interpret knowledge;
9. Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences; [Social/practical];
10. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level;
11. Show an ability to continue advancing their knowledge and understanding and develop new skills to a high level;
12. Possess the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: the development of own creative practice; the exercise of 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 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.

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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