



Programme Specification

Drama, Acting and Performance [Bower]

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Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Drama, Acting and Performance [Bower]

Highest award: BA (Hons) Drama, Acting and Performance [Bower]

Interim award: BA Drama, Acting and Performance [Bower]

Interim award: DipHE Drama, Acting and Performance [Bower]

Interim award: CertHE Drama, Acting and Performance [Bower]

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: No

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CATE School of Arts, College of Arts, Technology and Environment

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies: Not applicable

Modes of delivery: Full-time, Part-time

Entry requirements: For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website.

For implementation from: 01 September 2025

Programme code: W49F13

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: Drama, Acting and Performance offers students the opportunity to undertake creative courses covering a wide range of perspectives, principals, and contemporary practices in an environment that supports students to proactively develop personally, professionally and academically. The curriculum aims to challenge students to think critically, take creative risks and develop strategies to become lifelong learners.

Our programme is practice-based, and our teaching and assessment approaches support students to develop skills in a supportive and authentic learning environment. With us, students work to solve real world problems, learn to collaborate with each other and the wider creative community, develop confidence in their abilities and grow to understand the ways in which creative skills can be applied in a range of graduate environments.

Our assessments focus on portfolio-based submissions that support students to showcase their learning and achievement.

Students on this programme will learn about contemporary production contexts and actor training techniques, and build their confidence to communicate effectively across stage, screen, and emerging technologies. As well as performing, students will write and devise performance projects, and learn about the contexts of production, to prepare them for a range of careers in the creative industries. Students will learn through practice-based creative projects that respond to Bristol's social, historical, and geographical landscapes, as well as global contexts.

Students will collaborate on shared projects with peers from related subjects, as well as artistic, charitable, educational, and community groups. Working with a wide range of people makes students adaptable, entrepreneurial, and career-ready. Graduates will take into their careers an informed creative practice that is ethical, inclusive, and sustainable.

Features of the programme: The course uses state-of-the-art theatres for learning and public productions. Equipped with high-specification technical kit, our theatres meet the demands of contemporary performance, including multi-camera editing for livestreams. The ability to livestream performances enables students' work to be shared with an online audience as well as the live audience within the space.

Students will learn in theatres, a black box studio, classrooms, and the city campus' creative arts library. Students have access to rehearsal spaces, filmmaking kit, editing suites, and voice recording booths.

Headshots are taken in the final year of study to enable students to use them as profile photographs on professional networking sites.

The course is recognised as industry-standard actor training with eligible entry to Spotlight and Equity.

Students will collaborate with each other and with their peers from Filmmaking, Animation, and Media Production, as well as artistic, charitable, educational, and community groups, to ensure that they are adaptable, entrepreneurial, and career-ready. Students will take into their careers an informed creative practice that is ethical, inclusive, and sustainable.

UWE is in Bristol, a diverse and creative city, home to renowned theatres and production companies, offering students inspiration, and future opportunities: locally, nationally, and internationally. Students will be supported to schedule placements, volunteering, or paid work alongside timetabled learning.

Outside of classes, we encourage students to get involved in further creative activities, which might involve setting up their own theatre company and making an extracurricular production for our theatre, or joining university societies, which include drama, sports, and music.

The first year of the programme (Level 4) is Pass/Fail to ensure that greater emphasis is placed on learning; it establishes a less marks-driven approach to

assessment; it builds confidence and allows creative risk-taking; and it is a more holistic, inclusive approach to assessment and would align with the University's priorities of inclusivity and accessibility.

Educational Aims: All students are actively required by the curriculum to develop subject-specific knowledge, skills and professional behaviours alongside demonstrating an active engagement in practice-based learning. Personal development is supported through collaborative, professional, ethical and sustainable practices that are a catalyst for the development of students' mindsets across all levels of study.

Specific Aims of this Programme:

- To develop knowledge and understanding of a range of drama and performance forms, industries and processes;
- To introduce students to a range of contexts, theories and production approaches appropriate to the study of drama, acting and performance;
- To develop skills in research, critical analysis, creativity, collaboration and communication;
- To develop acting, writing and production skills for a range of live, recorded, and digital performances;
- To enable the acquisition of personal and transferable skills that will enhance students' readiness for graduate employment.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Programme Learning Outcomes

- PO1. Demonstrate practical acting and drama technical skills.
- PO2. Demonstrate industry-relevant skills in performance.
- PO3. Collaborate effectively and confidently on a range of performance-related creative projects.
- PO4. Apply knowledge of established and emerging landscapes to performance.
- PO5. Analyse how performance intersects with contemporary social, cultural, and political climates.
- PO6. Experiment with narrative devices that communicate relevant concepts and ideas across a variety of performance media.
- PO7. Establish an informed creative practice that is ethical, inclusive, and sustainable.
- PO8. Show adaptability, be entrepreneurial and digitally confident in their independent career pathway.

Assessment strategy: Students are assessed against learning outcomes (a number of which are shared across the school at Levels 4, 5 and 6) that clearly articulate progression through levels of study. Learning outcomes are assessed via school-level assessment rubrics that ensure that levels of achievement are clearly articulated and that all students are marked with parity across the student body. Our teaching facilitates the transition into, through, and beyond Higher Education via well-structured and clear curriculum and assessment design that supports risk-taking and develops a positive approach learning.

Performance is a significant contributor to the global economy, and enriches audiences with culture, entertainment, education, and information. It needs creative thinkers to become the makers of the future.

Assessments on this Programme are designed to reflect the industry and take the form of live and recorded performances and creative coursework that enables students to submit their preferred format via portfolio. Depending on module requirements, assessments may take place live in our theatre or studio, be filmed on location, or be site-specific within the community. We don't assess via written exams. Although assessed individually, students will often work towards assessment in groups, so we expect them to collaborate in a professional manner, mirroring the

creative industries' workforce.

Assessments have been designed at programmatic, as well as modular level, to ensure that students learn from their assessments as they progress through the course.

Assessments are designed to be accessible and inclusive. Depending on students' needs and preferences, assessment tasks such as portfolio can encompass written, audio, and/or video submissions. Similarly, performances or presentations can be live or pre-recorded, and may be in-person or virtual.

Students will receive constant, formative, feedback ahead of their assessments, giving them the confidence to develop their work.

Academics and technicians guide students every step of the way, with consultations and one-to-one and group facilitation of creative practice during classes.

Assessments are designed to enable students to communicate their ideas effectively as a critical thinker or creative practitioner and undertake relevant research.

Assessments enable students to plan and produce live or recorded work as part of a team of creative professionals and they are intended for students to manage their own workload successfully throughout their learning experience.

Re-sit assessments are the same as the first 'sit', ensuring parity.

Student support: Programme and Module leaders

Student support for overarching academic and professional concerns, is provided by Programme Leaders, all issues relating to the content, delivery and assessment of modules is provided by Module Leaders.

Academic Personal Tutors

The Academic Personal Tutor, is an academic member of staff who will have access to information on the performance and profile of the student, allowing them to effectively support students' personal and academic development. This embedded relational approach to student support enables wellbeing to be addressed through the curriculum, and students direct academic personal support at the individual and group level.

Careers support

Careers support is integrated throughout the programme and works to the UWE career framework with direct input from UWE careers team. The UWE Careers team work with programme teams to develop bespoke professional practice activities (Professional Practice Week) alongside offering support on developing the skills, experience and knowledge necessary for improving our student's employability prospects. The service provides high quality professional advice and guidance focusing on enabling students to take control of and responsibility for their own career planning and progression/development. Students can access support around finding vacancies for work experience, volunteering, part time work and internships, as well as events and workshops. UWE Careers provides recruiter facing services including advertising graduate job vacancies, work experience and volunteering opportunities, and running both undergraduate and graduate internship schemes. There are also part time jobs advertised by the Student Union JobShop. There is specialist support for international students including specific resources developed for a range of countries where students are recruited from. Students are introduced to the service during the induction to the course and are encouraged to use the service all through their undergraduate programme and for three years after graduation.

Study Facilities

In our specialist library and learning hub our librarians manage specialist collections to support students' research. Students can attend workshops and engage with online workshops to develop their academic skills. Students also have access to bespoke study skills sessions and Bower Ashton Campus offers spaces for silent and group study and bookable rooms they can book. Students have access to recommended books, periodicals, academic journals, special collections and industry databases.

Student Advisors

For concerns of a personal nature, students can access help from Student Advisors. Student Advisors provide timely, accurate and confidential advice where necessary on all aspects of the provision, for example coursework and examination arrangements, personal circumstance procedures, progression counselling, as well as personal issues such as problems with studying or meeting deadlines, financial

matters, ill health and so on including, when-relevant, how to access the wider support provided by the University. This service is supplemented by extensive online resources.

School Student Experience Coach

The School Student Experience Coach provides friendly, non-judgemental support to students as they progress through the course and act as a connect point to inform students about the ecosystem of support available at UWE. Staff can coach students on many areas of their life and studies, including:

Academic

- Engage further with the course
- Manage deadlines and grow confidence
- Develop goals to ensure progression on the course

Self-development

- Grow confidence and self-esteem
- Increase motivation
- Shape skills in working with others in groups or team

Wellbeing and self-care

- Develop strategies to manage feelings and thoughts whilst at university
- Feel supported in understanding gender identity
- Develop a set of skills to succeed in life as a student

Student Union and Course Representatives

An important part of the programme is the involvement of students. Student representatives are elected to serve on the Student Representatives & Staff Forum and the Programme Management Committee meetings that are held each term to discuss issues raised by students in relation to their experience of studying at UWE and on the programme. These meetings feed directly into the governance structures at the university. The school also has a number of Lead Student Representatives who represent the student voice in the School Board of Studies.

Disability Services

Support for students with learning adjustments is coordinated centrally through Disability Services. This acts as a holistic service for students and applicants to the University and also supports the academic and administrative staff.

In addition to the above The University's Student Services offers a range of services to support students during their time at university and beyond:

- University Health Centre and general advice on Staying Healthy;
- Careers and employability, advice on choosing a career, and finding student and graduate vacancies;
- UWE volunteering, opportunities for students to get involved in the local community through - the Community Volunteer Programme;
- Student Advisors & Counselling for anything from exam stress to homesickness and depression;
- The Living Centre, for support with faith and spiritual matters;
- Global student support, to help international students to make the most of living and studying in the UK;
- Managing disability and dyslexia, to get help with all disability related support needs;
- Money and Visas, for financial check-ups, or help with UK visas.

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

Full-time students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Full-time)

Full-time students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (full-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
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UA1B9P-30-1	Creative Contexts 2025-26	30
UARB8R-30-1	Introduction to Actor Training 2025-26	30
UARB8S-30-1	Performance Practice 2025-26	30
UARB8T-30-1	Performance Texts 2025-26	30

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-time)

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UA1B9P-30-1	Creative Contexts 2025-26	30
UARB8S-30-1	Performance Practice 2025-26	30

Year 2

Full-time students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Full-time)

Full-time students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full-time)

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UA1B9Q-30-2	Creative Futures 2026-27	30
UARB8U-30-2	Acting for Stage 2026-27	30
UARB8V-30-2	Acting for Screen 2026-27	30
UARB8W-30-2	Live and Digital Performance Lab 2026-27	30

Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-time)

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
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UARB8R-30-1	Introduction to Actor Training 2026-27	30
UARB8T-30-1	Performance Texts 2026-27	30

Year 3

Full-time students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 3.

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 3.

Year 3 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 3.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UARB8U-30-2	Acting for Stage 2027-28	30
UARB8V-30-2	Acting for Screen 2027-28	30

Year 3 Compulsory Modules (Full-time)

Full-time students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full-time)

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UA1B9R-30-3	Creative Research Project 2027-28	30
UARB8X-30-3	Production Company 2027-28	30
UARB8Y-30-3	Performing the Self 2027-28	30
UARB93-30-3	Professional Project 2027-28	30

Year 4

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 4.

Year 4 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 4:

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UA1B9Q-30-2	Creative Futures 2028-29	30

UARB8W-30-2	Live and Digital Performance Lab 2028-29	30
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Year 5

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 5.

Year 5 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 5:

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UARB8Y-30-3	Performing the Self 2029-30	30
UARB8X-30-3	Production Company 2029-30	30

Year 6

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 6.

Year 6 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 6:

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UA1B9R-30-3	Creative Research Project 2030-31	30
UARB93-30-3	Professional Project 2030-31	30

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Students learn about contemporary production contexts, actor training techniques, and build their confidence to communicate effectively across stage, screen, and emerging technologies. As well as performing, students write and devise performance projects, and learn about the contexts of production, to prepare them for a range of careers in the creative industries.

Students collaborate on shared projects with peers from related subjects, as well as artistic, charitable, educational, and community groups. Working with a wide range of people makes students adaptable, entrepreneurial, and career ready. Graduates will

take into their careers an informed creative practice that is ethical, inclusive, and sustainable.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education Framework for higher education qualifications (2018) (2024)

QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Dance, Drama and Performance (2024)

UWE 2030 Strategy

UWE Programme Principles

Feedback from alumni, and industry.

Student Feedback via module feedback, SRSF meetings, PMC meetings.

Membership of Drama HE.

Staff Feedback via programme reports, module reports, formal and informal meetings.

Staff knowledge of sector, including activity as External Examiners at other institutions.

Feedback from School of Arts Director for Teaching and Learning, lead on shared School of Arts modules.

External Examiner comments/reports.

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures