



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information	
Awarding Institution	UWE
Teaching Institution	Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
Delivery Location	Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
Study abroad / Exchange / Credit recognition	N/A
Faculty responsible for programme	Arts, Creative Industries and Education
Department responsible for programme	Acting
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	N/A
Highest Award Title	MA Drama Writing
Default Award Title	N/A
Interim Award Titles	N/A
UWE Progression Route	
Mode of Delivery	FT
ISIS code/s	W8112
For implementation from	September 2018

Part 2: Description

Drama Writing MA

The MA programme fuses critical, creative and practical skills, enabling students to thoroughly understand the context within which drama writing happens, develop an analytical approach to their own drama writing, enhance their creative assurance and develop a thorough understanding of the industry.

This programme has been designed in line with the guiding principles of UWE's Education for Sustainable Development and Quality Management and Enhancement Framework. The MA programme contributes to the school's sustainability agenda through realizing the full potential of students and equipping them to contribute to the debate around global issues and the knowledge economy. It promotes lifelong learning and entrepreneurship and is discipline and practice oriented.

The Broad aims of the course are to:

- Develop students' systematic understanding of dramatic writing as art, craft and business.
- Nurture the distinctive voices of each writer, allowing them to enhance their assurance in their own creative artistic practice.
- Enhance the students' core competencies in dramatic writing; understanding and confidently using key elements of structure, story, plot, character and dialogue.
- Enhance students' understanding of the relationship of artistic expression to the historic moment and the relationship of style to cultural context.
- Enable students to explore the different demands of the various dramatic media (specifically stage, screen and radio/audio drama) and to practice using those skills with originality.
- Develop students' professional practice, enhancing their practical and critical understanding of commissioning processes, and of the range of professional production practices involved.
- Understand the role of the writer within a range of models of work e.g. single-author signature script; catalyst and shaper in devising processes; team writer in serial drama (radio & TV); collaborator in teams creating musical theatre or animation.
- Enable and promote future-facing entrepreneurial skills to a sophisticated level.

The integration of the course into BOVTS activities will allow for the development of several specific features that will enhance students experience and learning:

- Students will benefit from working within the context of an already meshed resource of expert tutors, visiting professionals, and students-in-training on different courses. These are in the related fields of acting, directing, design, stage-management, costume, lighting & sound design, audio drama and film making.
- BOVTS benefits from a very close relationship with the drama industry and this modus operandi will be extended to Drama Writing MA students. On graduation, students will have a sophisticated practical understanding of the industry and have had the opportunity to create contacts within it.
- In-house workshops are wheelchair accessible, with lift to the dedicated Writers' Hub, and to the student common room, library and computer room.

Programme requirements for the purpose of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

On successful completion of the MA graduates will have generated a substantial original piece of written drama to a professional standard. This work will have been underpinned with the assured use of key drama writing competencies. Graduates will be able to work autonomously as well as critically and reflectively to write and re-write their work.

Graduates will demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the cultural context of drama, of how it arises from and speaks to the historical moment (the political, philosophical, economic and technical landscape of the time).

They will use advanced knowledge of the contemporary drama industry and have the capacity to engage with it in a proactive fashion.

STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

Part 2: Description
Regulations
A: Approved to University Regulations and Procedures
B: Approved variant to University Academic Regulations and Procedures:- That all programmes delivered by Bristol Old Vic Theatre School (BOVTS) that lead to a UWE award are limited to pass. Academic Board 4 th July 2018

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

The Programmes Learning Outcomes and laid out in the table below. All modules are compulsory.

There are three terms. Module 1: *Dramatic Medium 1* will be focused into the first term, and Module 2: *Dramatic Medium 2* will be largely focused into the second term. Module 3: *The Writing Industry* will run across the three terms but have most focus in term three; it focusses on the practical demands of carving and sustaining a career within the industry.

The Programme Learning Outcomes are cumulative and inter-related. Skills acquired and enhanced in early modules will be used in a developed and sophisticated manner in the final module (Module 4: *Signature Script*) and critiqued in the self-reflection embedded within this module.

Module 4: *Signature Script* is a major piece of work that will be developed over all three terms, with development opportunities across the year in the form of individual tutorials (usually two per term), workshops with actors and directors each term and structured peer reflection. There will be a staged final performance of a 30 min excerpt of each script open to industry professionals.

	Dramatic Medium 1	Dramatic Medium 2	The Writing Industry	Signature Script
Learning Outcomes:				
(A) Knowledge and understanding of:				
1 Dramatic writing as a craft: a systematic knowledge of the key elements of structure, story, plot, dialogue and character.	X	X		X
2 A capacity to artistically innovate and risk-take in the creative process. (ESD)				X
3 A detailed and sophisticated understanding of the impact of historical and cultural contexts on dramatic writing. (ESD)	X	X		
4 Writing in a variety of media & genres: using various historical styles in module 1, and in different media in module 2.	X	X		
4 A sophisticated detailed and critical understanding of the artistic opportunities of each medium. (ESD)	X	X	X	X
5 A sophisticated detailed and critical understanding of the professional protocols of each dramatic medium.		X	X	X
6 The writing industry – a sophisticated understanding of the commissioning processes of each dramatic medium.		X	X	

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme
(B) Intellectual Skills

1 Critical engagement with the craft of drama writing and enhanced dramaturgical skills in relation to work from different eras and new writing of other members of the cohort.	X	X		X
2. Critical self-reflection leading to a capacity to re-write in the light of this analysis. (ESD)	X	X		X
3 Ability to identify and respond to emerging practice in the drama writing industry. (ESD)			X	X
4 Synthesizing and applying skills acquired across the programme into a sustained piece of creative work.				X
5 Ability to articulate and communicate cogent analysis and argument. (ESD)		X	X	X
6 Contribute to debates of political, social and global significance through creative dramatic writing. (ESD)	X	X		X

(C) Subject/Professional/Practical Skills

1 High level ability to autonomously plan, create, edit and improve drama writing to a professional standard. (ESD)	X	X		X
2 Ability to work within established professional protocols in the drama industry. (This to include script layouts, pitching, working practices, fees and funding etc)		X		X
3 Collaborate effectively and to professional standards with directors, designers, actors and others in the creative process. (ESD)	X	X		X
4 Respond to editorial and dramaturgical input.			X	X

(D) Transferable skills and other attributes

1 Ability to plan, refine and deliver projects on schedule both autonomously and in collaboration. (ESD)	X	X		X
2 Capacity to write in a persuasive, sophisticated and assured coherent manner.	X	X	X	X
3 Capacity to present effectively in public and pitch ideas			X	X
4 Collaborate in practical workshop settings	X	X		X
5 Capacity to evaluate, critique and self-reflect to a high standard.	X	X	X	X
6 Strong networking skills and a systematic capacity to keep abreast of industry developments (ESD)		X	X	X
7 Give voice to innovative ideas and untold experiences, that articulate positive contributions to society's dialogue with itself, and/or facilitate voices/stories from unheard communities or life experiences (ESD)		X		X

Part 4: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a typical **full time student** including:

- level and credit requirements
- interim award requirements
- module diet, including compulsory and optional modules

ENTRY		Compulsory Modules	Awards
Year 1		The Dramatic Medium part 1: Theatre UATAWS-45-M	MA Drama Writing
		The Dramatic Medium part 2: Writing for the Recorded Media and Contemporary Developments in Creative Practice UATAWT-45-M	
		The Drama Writing Industry UATAWU-30-M	
		Writing a Signature Script UATAWV-60-M	

Part 5: Entry Requirements

The University's Standard Entry Requirements apply with the following additions/exceptions*:

Normally, successful candidates will have a first degree. It is expected that all candidates will have some demonstrated experience of dramatic writing. Candidates would be expected to have either substantial writing experience in a non-drama medium or have been working in the drama industry and now wish to develop their writing skills.

An example of drama writing will be required as part of the selection process. Applicants will be interviewed by two members of staff, including the Head of Course or Artistic Director. There may be two rounds of interviews.

Part 6: Reference Points and Benchmarks

[QAA UK Quality Code for HE](#)

-Framework for higher education qualifications (FHEQ)

-Subject benchmark statement:

QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Dance, Drama and Performance (July 2015) – recognizing that this is for undergraduate studies and so applying benchmarks at an enhanced standard.

[Strategy 2020](#)

[University policies](#)

UWE's Education for Sustainable Development and the Quality Management and Enhancement Framework

Staff research projects

STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

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First SUVP Approval Date	17 April 2018			
Revision ASQC Approval Date		Version	1	See APT Extension Form January 2018
Next Periodic Curriculum Review due date				
Date of last Periodic Curriculum Review				