# Programme Specification

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Awarding body</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Teaching Institution</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Programme Title(s)</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **4** | **Programme Code(s)** | UBATS_EN_C 4 year part time  
UUBATSEN_C 3 year full time |
| **5** | **UCAS code** | 4T77 |
| **6** | **Home Department** | English, Theatre and Creative Writing |
| **7** | **Exit Award(s)** | Dip HE; Cert HE |
| **8** | **Duration of Study (number of years)** | 4 years part-time; 3 years full-time |
| **9** | **Mode of Study** | FT X PT X DL |
| **10** | **Level of Award (FHEQ)** | 6 |
| **11** | **Other teaching depts or institution** | N/A |
| **12** | **Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB) details** | N/A |
| **13** | **QAA Benchmark Group** |   |

## Programme Rationale & Aims

BA Theatre Studies and English at Birkbeck is highly distinctive: it is the only part-time and evening joint honours course in theatre and English at undergraduate level in central London. In its embrace of theatre and literature, it makes use of the rich context of Birkbeck’s position in Bloomsbury, in London’s West End. The programme enables students to study theatre and English in their fullest contexts and aspects, examining histories, cultural and national contexts, aesthetics, politics and traditions. The programme’s close interrogation of theatre, drama, performance and literatures from the medieval period to the contemporary enables students to access rich intellectual and cultural histories, and to make fruitful connections across both disciplines. It explores the research and conceptual thinking that underlies the making of theatre, and it engages with the broad spectrum of theatre languages, histories and contexts, encompassing questions of space, the body, technology, scenography, documentation, devising, politics and identity. It gives the analysis of live performance a central place in the curriculum, and draws on theatre artists, critics and funders as guest speakers for the programme.

## Entry Criteria

**UCAS tariff:** 112-128 points, A-levels: BBC-ABB  
The UCAS tariff score applies where applicants have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.  
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.
### Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to demonstrate:

**Subject Specific**
1. awareness of the range and variety of key critical and theoretical debates at the forefront of the field of Theatre and English Studies;
2. knowledge and understanding of the central role of the spectator in the creation of meaning in theatre practice;
3. knowledge and understanding of the key traditions, conventions, contexts, histories, concepts and cultures that comprise theatre practice;
4. knowledge and understanding of how the key elements and processes of performance are created and realised;
5. knowledge and understanding of a range of key practitioners and theorists and their cultural and historical contexts;
6. knowledge and understanding of how to read performance texts and how transitions from page to stage may be effected;
7. knowledge and understanding of the interplay between practice and theory in the discipline;
8. responsiveness to the key contexts and conditions in which contemporary theatre in London takes place;
9. awareness and understanding of the key critical skills needed in the notation and analysis of live performance;

**Intellectual**
10. the ability to research, describe, theorise, interpret and evaluate performance texts and performance events from a range of critical perspectives;
11. an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity, limits and ethical dimensions of knowledge in the field;
12. the capacity to interrogate concepts and theories through practice;
13. the capacity for independent approaches to considering and solving problems orally, verbally, and in practice;

**Practical**
14. bibliographical skills appropriate to the discipline, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions in the presentation of scholarly work;
15. the ability to communicate clearly in a variety of oral, written, visual and performance media;
16. the ability to work efficiently and constructively within a group to realise an appropriate practice piece or presentation;
17. the ability to manage time in the production of written, group or practice work to a specific length.
18. some IT skills; the use of libraries and electronic sources of information, online discussion groups, web-based research, e-learning, word-processing;
19. the ability to apply the expressive, critical and evaluative skills acquired during the programme to varied kinds of work;

**Personal and Social**
20. the ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility;
21. the ability to present and sustain arguments and engage in debate;
22. the capacity for independent thought and judgment;
23. an understanding of group dynamics and an ability to implement them in practical contexts;
24. the ability to reflect on personal development and the skills acquired across the degree programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning and teaching on BA Theatre Studies and English makes use of a mix of techniques and strategies, including:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lectures</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Seminars</td>
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<td>- Practice-based workshops and rehearsals</td>
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<td>- Tutorial support and theory and practice-based supervision for the final year project</td>
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<td>- Independent visits to theatrical performances</td>
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<td>- Independent study and research</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Group-based study and research</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Access to public events hosted by the Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students will be taught primarily through the three key pedagogical practices central to Theatre Studies at BA level: lectures, seminar discussions and group workshops. Workshops will function to enable students to explore the concepts they are introduced to in seminars and lectures through practice. Practical approaches function to illuminate concepts, theories and modalities of performance. Students are assessed on their reflective and analytical engagement with the concepts they have explored. This process of learning is supplemented by independent research, independent group work and theatre visits.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment methods include:</td>
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<td>- Research essays</td>
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<td>- Research exercises</td>
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<td>- Group presentations</td>
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<td>- Performance presentations</td>
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<td>- Group vivas</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Individual vivas</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Written portfolios</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Exams (take-away and unseen)</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BA Theatre and English Studies is structured around a 'spine' of core modules which combine teaching, elements of practice, and independent research. All students take Theatre Languages (level 4), Theories of Theatricality and Performance (level 5) and Theatre in London Now (levels 4-6), a series of modules offering essential training in performance analysis, theatre and performance history, cultural theory, and research methods. Attention to London’s theatre culture and visits to performance works are an intrinsic part of the curriculum. These aspects are examined year-on-year in reference to three themes: 'history', 'space' and 'communities'. In the final year, students are invited to identify their own research interest, to be pursued through the realisation of a written dissertation and final Theatre in London Now project, supported by a personal tutor. In English, compulsory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year of entry: 2020/21

modules – for example, Writing London (level 4) and the Novel (level 5) or Aspects of Medieval and Renaissance Literature (level 5) – extend and enhance this work, and, as the course progresses, students are invited to choose modules from a range of options within Theatre Studies and English. The programme thus offers close and careful investigation of theatre and English in all its aspects - characteristic of Birkbeck’s emphasis on interdisciplinary enquiry at all levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>ENHU002S4</td>
<td>Theatre Languages</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>ENHU007S4</td>
<td>Writing London</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>ENHU001S4</td>
<td>Theatre in London Now: Histories of London</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Level 4 option module</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>ENHU001S5</td>
<td>Theories of Theatricality and Performance</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Comp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>ENHU009S5 or ENHU003S5</td>
<td>The Novel or Aspects of Medieval and Renaissance Literature</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Comp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>ENHU001Z5</td>
<td>Theatre in London Now: London Spaces</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Comp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Level 5 option module: English</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Level 5 option module: Theatre Studies</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>ENHU001Z6</td>
<td>Theatre in London Now: London Policies and Communities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Comp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>ENHU103S6</td>
<td>Independent Research Project in Theatre and Performance</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>ENHU001S5</td>
<td>Theatre in London Now: Student-Led Project</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Level 6 option module: English</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Level 6 option module: English</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Part Time programme – 4 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>ENHU002S4</td>
<td>Theatre Languages</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>ENHU007S4</td>
<td>Writing London</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>ENHU001S4</td>
<td>Theatre in London Now: Histories of London</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Year 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ENHU001S5</td>
<td>Theories of Theatricality and Performance</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Comp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ENHU009S5</td>
<td>The Novel or Aspects of Medieval and Renaissance Literature</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Comp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ENHU001Z5</td>
<td>Theatre in London Now: London Spaces</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Comp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Option module in Theatre</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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</table>

### Year 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Level 5 option module: English</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Level 6 option module: English</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Level 6 option module: Theatre Studies</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ENHU001Z6</td>
<td>Theatre in London Now: London Policies and Communities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Comp</td>
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</table>

### Year 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ENHU103S6</td>
<td>Independent Research Project in Theatre and Performance</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ENHU001S6</td>
<td>Theatre in London Now: Student-Led Project</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Level 6 option module: English</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Status***
- **CORE** – Module must be taken and passed by student; **COMPULSORY** – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; **OPTIONAL** – Student can choose to take this module

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### Regulations

- **Admissions**
  This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy: [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf)

- **Credit Transfer**
  Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf)

- **Programme Regulations**
  This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations)

- **Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)** N/A

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### Student Support and Guidance

All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities)
**Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards**

The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner’s reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.

For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td><strong>Programme Director</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td><strong>Start Date (term/year)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td><strong>Date approved by TQEC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td><strong>Date approved by Academic Board</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td><strong>Date(s) updated/amended</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Fintan Walsh</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 2006</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Spring 2006</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Summer 2006</td>
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<td></td>
<td>March 2015</td>
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