

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	BA Theatre Studies and Creative Writing BA Theatre Studies and Creative Writing with Foundation Year				
4	Programme Code(s)	UUBATSCW_C (full-time 3 years) UBATSCWR_C (part-time 4 years) UUBFTSCW_C (full-time with FY 4 years) UBFTSCWR_C (full-time with FY 6 years)				
5	UCAS code	NP27, NP28 (with FY)				
6	Home Department	English, Theatre and Creative Writing				
7	Exit Award(s)	Dip HE, Cert HE				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	3 years FT, 4 years PT 4 years FT with FY, 6 years PT with FY				
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 Statement	Dance, Drama and Performance Creative Writing				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>BA Theatre Studies and Creative Writing at Birkbeck is highly distinctive: it is the only evening joint honours course in theatre and creative writing at undergraduate level in central London. The programme offers students a comprehensive experience in the study of theatre and creative writing, examining histories, cultural contexts, aesthetics, politics and traditions across these areas. Enabling students to engage with theatre and creative writing as techniques and practices in depth, it does not require them to perform on stage themselves, thereby complementing and supplementing existing theatre and drama studies provision at Birkbeck. The programme's close interrogation of theatre, drama, performance and the craft of writing in multiple modes allows students to access rich intellectual and cultural histories, and to make fruitful connections across both disciplines, the better to explore the conditions of the contemporary in their own creative work. It explores the research and conceptual thinking that underlies the making of theatre by engaging with the broad spectrum of theatre languages, histories and contexts, encompassing questions of space, the body, technology, scenography, documentation, devising, politics, and questions of race, gender and sexuality. In the domain of creative writing, it grapples with the formal and aesthetic strategies associated with drama, poetry, screenwriting and the short story, and explores crucial questions of narrativity and the intersection between creative and</p>

critical modes of writing. Questions of representation are therefore at the centre of the programme. Via the programme's inclusive pedagogical practice, priority is accorded to the realisation of the students' creative voices, and exposure to histories and knowledges that enable those voices to be heard and for the students' creative intelligence to flourish. It gives the analysis of live performance a central place in the curriculum, making the most of Birkbeck's Bloomsbury location in London's West End, and maintaining a clear focus on cutting edge developments in live performance and its cultural politics. Likewise, it draws on theatre artists, critics and funders as guest speakers for the programme, ensuring that specialist industry knowledge is on offer. Throughout, the programme offers students multiple opportunities to originate creative work, culminating in a longer-form project in the final year.

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 degree programme enabling students to engage imaginatively with theatre 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 theatre and creative writing 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 students capable of independently evaluating and engaging creatively and critically with contemporary theatre and performance and creative writing.

(For Foundation Year aims, see school of Arts Foundation Year programme specification)

15	Entry Criteria
	<p>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.</p> <p>UCAS tariff: 96-128 points</p> <p>A-levels: CCC-ABB</p> <p>If English is not your first language or you have not previously studied in English, our usual requirement is the equivalent of an International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic Test) score of 6.5, with not less than 6.0 in each of the sub-tests.</p> <p>(For Foundation Year entry criteria, see school of Arts Foundation Year programme specification)</p>
16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to demonstrate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. knowledge and understanding of the key traditions, conventions, contexts, histories, concepts and cultures that comprise theatre and creative writing practice; 2. awareness of the range and variety of key critical and theoretical debates at the forefront of the fields of theatre and creative writing; 3. knowledge and understanding of how the key elements and processes of theatrical performance and creative writing are created and realised; 4. knowledge and understanding of the interplay between practice and theory; 5. 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. 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. ability to 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. the ability to 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. the ability to present and sustain arguments and engage in debate; 10. the ability to 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. the ability to communicate in public and in working groups with expressive clarity and sophistication; 12. the ability to apply the expressive, critical and evaluative skills acquired during the programme to varied kinds of work; 13. the ability to communicate ideas and arguments clearly in a variety of oral, written, visual and performance media;

	<p>14. some IT skills; the use of libraries and electronic sources of information, online discussion groups, web-based research, e-learning, word-processing;</p> <p>15. bibliographical skills appropriate to the discipline, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions in the presentation of scholarly work.</p> <p>(For Foundation Year learning outcomes, see School of Arts Foundation Year programme specification)</p>
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17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>Learning and teaching on BA Theatre Studies and Creative Writing makes use of a mix of techniques and strategies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lectures ▪ Seminars ▪ Practice-based workshops ▪ One-to-one tutorials by arrangement ▪ Tutorial support and theory and practice-based supervision for the final year project ▪ Independent visits to theatrical performances ▪ Independent study and research ▪ Group-based study and research ▪ Access to public events hosted by the Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre. <p>On theatre studies modules, students will be taught primarily through the three key pedagogical practices central to the subject 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. This enables students to take a ‘laboratory’ approach, where they hypothesise on an aspect of theatre, and test this hypothesis through practice. They are then assessed, not on their practical skills, but rather on their reflective and analytical engagement with the concepts they have explored. This process of learning will be supplemented by independent research, independent group work and theatre visits.</p> <p>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 <i>The Mechanics’ Institute Review</i>, produced annually by students on the MA Creative Writing.</p> <p>Assessment methods include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research essays ▪ Research exercises ▪ Creative writing exercises ▪ Creative writing portfolios ▪ Group presentations ▪ Performance presentations ▪ Group vivas ▪ Individual vivas ▪ Written portfolios
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18	Programme Description
	<p>BA Theatre Studies and Creative Writing builds students' skills and knowledges in theatre and creative writing incrementally through a programme which offers training in key skills of interpretation, critical analysis, and creative practice. At level 4, students engage in theatre history, performance analysis, and introductions to the basic elements of craft in the writing of prose fiction, poetry, screenwriting and drama. At level 5, students develop more advanced knowledge in theatre theory and also take the module Tragedy and apply this knowledge in practice via a compulsory cross-disciplinary module focusing on adaptation, and an option module in either theatre or creative writing. At level 6, students develop their own creative projects and self-led critical projects engaging with live performance, in tandem with a compulsory cross-disciplinary module addressing intersections between creative and critical praxis, and an option module drawn from the selection on offer in the School of Arts.</p> <p>(For Foundation Year description, see school of Arts Foundation Year programme specification)</p>

19	Programme Structure			
Full-Time programme - 3 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREN219H4	Introduction to Poetry	15	Compulsory
4	AREN220H4	Introduction to Drama	15	Compulsory
4	AREN203H4	Introduction to Screenwriting	15	Compulsory
4	AREN004H4	Independent Reading Portfolio: The Short Story	15	Compulsory
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling: Narrative Archetypes, Forms and Techniques	30	Compulsory
4	ENHU001S4	Theatre in London Now: Histories	30	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREN157S5	Tragedy	30	Compulsory
5	ENHU001S5	Theories of Theatricality and Performance	30	Compulsory
5	AREN199S5	Adaptations: Theories and Practices in Contemporary Performance	30	Compulsory
5	ENHU001Z5	Theatre in London Now: Theories	0	Compulsory
5	N/A	Level 5 option module: Theatre Studies or Creative Writing	30	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	ENHU103S6	Independent Research Project in Theatre and Performance	30	Core
6	ENHU001S6	Theatre in London Now: Student-Led Project	30	Core
6	N/A	Level 6 option module: School of Arts	30	Option
6	AREN221S6	The Creative Critical Seam	30	Compulsory

Part Time programme – 4 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREN203H4	Introduction to Screenwriting	15	Compulsory
4	AREN004H4	Independent Reading Portfolio: The Short Story	15	Compulsory
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling: Narrative Archetypes, Forms and Techniques	30	Compulsory
4	ENHU001S4	Theatre in London Now: Histories	30	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREN157S5	Tragedy	30	Compulsory
5	ENHU001S5	Theories of Theatricality and Performance	30	Compulsory
4	AREN219H4	Introduction to Poetry	15	Compulsory
4	AREN220H4	Introduction to Drama	15	Compulsory
5	ENHU001Z5	Theatre in London Now: Theories	0	Compulsory
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREN199S5	Adaptations: Theories and Practices in Contemporary Performance	30	Compulsory
6	AREN221S6	The Creative Critical Seam	30	Compulsory
5	N/A	Level 5 option module: Theatre Studies or Creative Writing	30	Option
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	ENHU103S6	Independent Research Project in Theatre and Performance	30	Core
6	ENHU001S6	Theatre in London Now: Student-Led Project	30	Core
6	N/A	Level 6 option module: School of Arts	30	Option
Full-Time with Foundation Year programme - 4 years				
Foundation year (0)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core
3	ARAR008S3	The Arts: Perspectives and Possibilities	30	Core
		One Option from:		
3	ARAR09S3	The Arts: Questioning the Contemporary World	30	Option
4	AREL062S4	French 1	30	Option
4	AREL067S4	French 2	30	Option
4	ARCL105S4	French 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL106S4	French 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	AREL065S4	German 1	30	Option
4	AREL074S4	German 2	30	Option
4	ARCL107S4	German 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL108S4	German 4 (Level 4)	30	Option

Year of entry: 2022/23



4	ARCL039S4	Italian 1	30	Option
4	ARCL040S4	Italian 2	30	Option
4	ARCL103S4	Italian 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL104S4	Italian 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARMC161S4	Japanese 1	30	Option
4	ARMC164S4	Japanese 2	30	Option
4	ARCL101S4	Japanese 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL102S4	Japanese 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARIB106S4	Spanish 1	30	Option
4	ARIB115S4	Spanish 2	30	Option
4	ARCL112S4	Spanish 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL113S4	Spanish 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREN219H4	Introduction to Poetry	15	Compulsory
4	AREN220H4	Introduction to Drama	15	Compulsory
4	AREN203H4	Introduction to Screenwriting	15	Compulsory
4	AREN004H4	Independent Reading Portfolio: The Short Story	15	Compulsory
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling: Narrative Archetypes, Forms and Techniques	30	Compulsory
4	ENHU001S4	Theatre in London Now: Histories	30	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREN157S5	Tragedy	30	Compulsory
5	ENHU001S5	Theories of Theatricality and Performance	30	Compulsory
5	AREN199S5	Adaptations: Theories and Practices in Contemporary Performance	30	Compulsory
5	ENHU001Z5	Theatre in London Now: Theories	0	Compulsory
5	N/A	Level 5 option module: Theatre Studies or Creative Writing	30	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	ENHU103S6	Independent Research Project in Theatre and Performance	30	Core
6	ENHU001S6	Theatre in London Now: Student-Led Project	30	Core
6	N/A	Level 6 option module: School of Arts	30	Option
6	AREN221S6	The Creative Critical Seam	30	Compulsory
Part-Time with Foundation Year programme - 6 years				
Foundation year (year 0A)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core

Foundation year (year 0B)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
3	ARAR008S3	The Arts: Perspectives and Possibilities	30	Core
		One Option from:		
3	ARAR09S3	The Arts: Questioning the Contemporary World	30	Option
4	AREL062S4	French 1	30	Option
4	AREL067S4	French 2	30	Option
4	ARCL105S4	French 3 (Level 4)	30	
4	ARCL106S4	French 4 (Level 4)		
4	AREL065S4	German 1	30	Option
4	AREL074S4	German 2	30	Option
4	ARCL107S4	German 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL108S4	German 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL039S4	Italian 1	30	Option
4	ARCL040S4	Italian 2	30	Option
4	ARCL103S4	Italian 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL104S4	Italian 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARMC161S4	Japanese 1	30	Option
4	ARMC164S4	Japanese 2	30	Option
4	ARCL101S4	Japanese 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL102S4	Japanese 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARIB106S4	Spanish 1	30	Option
4	ARIB115S4	Spanish 2	30	Option
4	ARCL112S4	Spanish 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL113S4	Spanish 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREN203H4	Introduction to Screenwriting	15	Compulsory
4	AREN004H4	Independent Reading Portfolio: The Short Story	15	Compulsory
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling: Narrative Archetypes, Forms and Techniques	30	Compulsory
4	ENHU001S4	Theatre in London Now: Histories	30	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREN157S5	Tragedy	30	Compulsory
5	ENHU001S5	Theories of Theatricality and Performance	30	Compulsory
4	AREN219H4	Introduction to Poetry	15	Compulsory
4	AREN220H4	Introduction to Drama	15	Compulsory
5	ENHU001Z5	Theatre in London Now: Theories	0	Compulsory
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREN199S5	Adaptations: Theories and Practices in Contemporary Performance	30	Compulsory
6	AREN221S6	The Creative Critical Seam	30	Compulsory
5	N/A	Level 5 option module: Theatre Studies or Creative Writing	30	Option

Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	ENHU103S6	Independent Research Project in Theatre and Performance	30	Core
6	ENHU001S6	Theatre in London Now: Student-Led Project	30	Core
6	N/A	Level 6 option module: School of Arts	30	Option
Indicative option modules				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREN198S5	Communities in Theatre and Performance (Critical Practice III)	30	Optional
5	AREN157S5	Tragedy	30	Optional
5	AREN163S5	Telling the Self	30	Optional
5	AREN247S5	European Drama and Theatre: Gods, Ideas and Adaptations	30	Optional
5	AREN204S5	Scriptwriting Workshop 1: Essentials of Stage and Screen (30 min script)	30	Optional
6	AREN136S6	Fiction Workshop: The Contemporary Novel	30	Optional
	AREN169S6	Poetry Workshop 1	30	Optional
6	AREN143S6	Poetry Workshop 2: The Open Page	30	Optional
6	AREN205S6	Scriptwriting Workshop 4: The Television Drama	30	Optional

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

²⁰	Programme Director	Dr Louise Owen
²¹	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 2022
²²	Date approved by Education Committee	Autumn 2021
²³	Date approved by Academic Board	Autumn 2021
²⁴	Date(s) updated/amended	14 Aug 2023

take