

Programme Specification

BA Theatre & Performance

For students entering Part 1 in September 2025

UCAS Code: W400

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Theatre & Performance with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Theatre & Performance with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Dance, Drama & Performance

Programme information and content

The central aim of the programme is to develop students' critical, practical and historical understanding of modern theatre as a cultural form. Students will become familiar with the varied achievements of theatre practitioners, developing critical skills through close study of plays and theatre performances, underpinned by debates and theories which have influenced the analysis of theatre and performance. Students also undertake practical work, closely informed by critical issues ('critical practice'), which is designed both to extend understanding of how theatre creates meaning, and to develop appropriate practical expertise. Students can also select optional modules which allow them to situate their study of theatre in relation to film or television forms and practices, permitting the exploration of how key concepts such as performance and genre are inflected across different mediums.

Part 1:	Introduces you to the academic study of theatre and performance culture across a range of approaches and practices, instilling foundational terminology and key disciplinary debates. Students engage with their discipline both theoretically/critically and practically, learning the scholarly protocol of formal essay-writing and receiving an induction in the safe and appropriate use of facilities and equipment.
Part 2:	Provides you with an understanding of theatre and performance culture through the discovery and investigation of particular issues explored via in-depth discussions across lectures, seminars and workshops. Students also begin their process of specialization in theatre practice, leading to an increasingly confident

	use of specialist theatre-making facilities and equipment. Part 2 also offers opportunities for study abroad and work-based learning.
Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to gain specialist knowledge in Options closely informed by staff research and advanced practical expertise through the pursuit of sustained and focused theatre-making practice with an emphasis of independent research and enquiry.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Theatre & Performance	
During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:	
Learning outcomes	
1	Apply a critical awareness of theatre's relationship with wider social, political, cultural and ecological practices and contexts.
2	Analyse the relationship between historical and contemporary theatre forms and practices.
3	Devise and create critically informed practice independently, autonomously and in groups.
4	Develop and apply competencies in multiple production skills and roles such as directing, design, sound, lighting, writing and dramaturgy via practical or written forms.
5	Express critical understanding through experimenting with a range of practical modes and risk-taking.
6	Recognise and critically appraise their own practice within a wider landscape of relevant cultural contexts.
7	Relate how their practice and skills are relevant to industry and professional contexts.
8	Practice and apply skills needed for effective execution of a project including collaboration, planning, problem-solving, managing and delivering.
9	Design, undertake and present research appropriate to the discipline of theatre and performance.
10	Deploy effective communication skills across a range of contexts.
You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.	
To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.	

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes

Study Abroad

By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution.

Placement

N/A

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FT1ATP	Analysing Theatre and Performance	20	4
FT1DP	Devising Performance: Politics and Citizenship	20	4
FT1ITS	Introduction to Scriptwriting	20	4
FT1RFT	Radical Forms in Theatre and Performance	20	4
FT1STA	Staging Texts: Production Skills, Design and Performance	20	4

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Film, Theatre and Television, with 20 credits of modules permitted from an approved list of modules.

Students with English as a second language who enter the programme with IELTS (or equivalent) below 7.0 will be required to take an additional non-credit-bearing language course provided via the Academic English Programme.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FT2IPC	Identity, Performance and Culture	20	5

Students must select 40 credits of practical project modules in theatre. If students do not wish to continue with group practical work beyond Part 1, they should select an alternative project module.

Students must select an additional 40 credits of practical modules in theatre and performance.

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Film, Theatre and Television, with 20 credits of modules permitted from an approved list of modules.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on one of the 4 year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Professional Placement or Study Abroad.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Students must select either a 40 credit practical project, a 40 credit dissertation or a 40 credit creative research project.

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Film, Theatre and Television, with 20 credits of modules permitted from an approved list of modules.

Placement opportunities**Placements:**

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as

completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through lectures, seminars, supervision tutorials and, depending on your specialization and module choices, practical workshops and tutorials using our specialist equipment and facilities.

Learning on the degree will be a mix of lectures, interactive seminars, practical workshops, supervision tutorials, rehearsals and screenings. Field trips and masterclasses from visiting practitioners and guest speakers will form core elements of the T&L offer.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 492 hours, Part 2 - 396 hours, Part 3 - 324 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through coursework, including presentations, practical group work, essays and short written exercises. Other forms, such as video essays, creative projects, learning journals, script reports and film/tv/theatre review may also be used. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Transferring from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme

Students are able to transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to fulfilling the Part 1 University Threshold Standard, achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules in the subject to which they wish to transfer, and fulfilling any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

Students who transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including study abroad

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

The classification method is given in detail in Section 17 of the Assessment Handbook.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

You will incur costs for theatre, cinema and/or gallery trips linked to Department modules and module assessments. These visits are an essential and very enjoyable part of your studies. We recommend that you budget between £100 to £120 for this per year. We secure discounted tickets in good seats through group booking, and travel costs can be significantly reduced by booking well in advance, travelling off-peak, and using Group Travel discounts and a 16-25 rail card. To help reduce costs, we also include visits to venues in Reading and Oxford as well as London where appropriate, and we invite practitioners to the department to perform/exhibit work and hold workshops and master classes for our students.

You are not required to purchase any practical equipment, as the Department provides the necessary equipment and facilities. If you require specialist materials for practical work, a technician will source this for you, following consultation with the relevant academic member of staff.

You will incur costs for the purchase of some textbooks. We recommend that you budget between £40 to £70 for this per year. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library and through the Department of Film, Theatre & Television.

If you partake in Study Abroad you should expect to pay for services which you would normally expect to pay for at Reading e.g. housing, food, travel, social activities, etc.

Additional costs will vary depending on the host institution and location. Please see the Erasmus and Study Abroad website for further details.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2024.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Theatre & Performance for students entering Part 1 in session 2025/26

21 May 2024

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