

Programme Specification

A Programme Specification provides a concise summary of the main features of a programme and its intended learning outcomes. It is intended to be used by prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers.

Programme Title:	
BA (Hons) Acting (Film, TV & Stage) / BA (Hons) Acting (Film, TV & Stage) with Foundation Year	
Programme (AOS) Code(s):	BA1ATG1 / BA1ATG4
UCAS Code:	ACT1 ACT4
Name of Final Award:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours, BA (Hons)
Level of Qualification:	Level 6
Regime of Delivery:	Attendance
Mode(s) of Delivery:	Full Time
Typical Length of Study (Years):	3 Years / 4 years with Foundation Year
Professional Body Recognition / Accreditation (including specific requirements where applicable):	N/A

Brief Description of the Programme

If you're looking to break into acting, this degree is an excellent launch pad – with an equal focus on both screen and stage, and lots of opportunity to test out different performance styles and techniques.

You'll get to fine-tune and extend your acting skills, working on live briefs and diverse projects – and build the contacts and entrepreneurial ability essential to securing work as an actor.

Through practical workshops, and looking at the relevant literature, we'll take you through different acting styles and techniques, including method acting, physical theatre, postdramatic styles and more abstract approaches.

Working with our professional experts, you'll consider a range of acting methods from the last 100 years, and try out different styles and ideas you can integrate into your own performances.

We'll support you to find a performance approach that's uniquely yours, and set you up with the real-world skills you need to put you in the best possible position to secure acting work when you graduate.

You'll create your own performances, including your own shows, films and short scenes – and take things in the direction that interests you, whether that's directing or devising, or focusing on a particular theory, piece of research or playwright.

In your final year, you'll manage your own significant screen or stage-based production, from conception, to venue booking, marketing and performance. You'll also set up your own artistic

company, and learn about all the elements involved in that, from budgeting and funding applications, to promoting yourself as a professional artist.

Unlike many acting degrees that focus primarily on the theatre, this course covers on-screen acting, too. With a lot of acting work coming from on-screen avenues, we'll get you ready to capitalise on film, TV and online opportunities as well.

By the time you graduate, you'll have the entrepreneurial flair, and strong grasp of both stage and screen work, to position yourself confidently as an inspiring and creative practitioner that people will want to work with. You'll be somebody with a clear vision of the sort of acting you want to do and how it impacts on the world around you.

This degree is for anyone interested in pursuing a career in acting, theatre or performance.

Programme Aims

1	Create mature artists with a comprehensive understanding of the UK Acting industry and the ability to apply performance practice to real-life settings.
2	Develop students' ability to select and synthesise approaches to acting in a manner that demonstrates a creative approach to the arts.
3	Encourage critical awareness and analysis of the political and ethical contexts of various examples of work in acting and performance.
4	Facilitate students' personal and professional development as actors and artists through work with professional practitioners.
5	Prepare students for employment by developing their technical and leadership skills.

Programme Learning Outcomes

The Bucks Graduate Attributes focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens. The attributes are developed through the programme.

ID	Learning Outcome
On successful completion of the programme a graduate will be able to:	
Graduate Attribute: Knowledge and its application (K)	
K1	Evaluate performance texts and events, demonstrating systematic understanding of acting practice on screen and stage through a creative and critical engagement with a range of critical and theoretical perspectives.
K2	Place a wide range of acting practitioners within the cultural, political and financial context of the UK Performing Arts field.
K3	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the skills and processes of rehearsal and production by which acting on stage and screen is created.
K4	Critically apply appropriate methodologies to a research project.
Graduate Attribute: Creativity (C)	
C1	Create a performance project for a specific context, harnessing appropriate theoretical, creative and organisational principles to the project chosen.
C2	Demonstrate the creative skills needed for the realisation of successful acting performances.

C3	Engage creatively and critically with the possibilities for performance implied by a text or other performance documentation, realising these sources in performance.
Graduate Attribute: Social and ethical awareness and responsibility (S)	
S1	Critically assess the effectiveness, significance and ethics of the artistic and working practices of a range of professional artists.
S2	Engage creatively and critically with existing orthodoxies in acting and performance, suggesting alternative approaches appropriate to current social, political and ethical concerns.
S3	Articulate clear and reasoned critical arguments, both orally and in writing, that show an understanding of contemporary social and ethical issues.
Graduate Attribute: Leadership and self-development (L)	
L1	Demonstrate a broad range of information retrieval skills to gather, assess and synthesise material and to critically evaluate its significance.
L2	Manage personal workloads efficiently and effectively through the formulation, implementation and evaluation of a creative project.
L3	Work creatively and imaginatively both individually and in group settings
L4	Propose solutions to open-ended problems on the basis of a critical evaluation of theories both within and beyond the performing arts, such as those pertaining to creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Programme Structure

Programmes are structured in stages. The number of stages will vary depending on the mode (e.g. full-time, part-time), duration and location of study which will be detailed in the Programme Handbook.

Modules are set at a specific academic level and listed as either core (compulsory) or optional. The level indicates the relative academic difficulty which will increase through the programme. Passing modules will reward you with academic credit. The amount of credits will depend on the complexity of the module and the level of effort required, which is measured in 'notional learning hours'.

Our [Academic Advice webpages](#) provide more information on the structure of taught awards offered by the University.

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to sector developments.

Foundation Level (Optional for students on degree programmes)

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
FY026	Preparing for Success: Knowledge and Creativity	N/A	C	Yes
FY027	Preparing for Success: Self Development and Responsibility	N/A	C	Yes
FY024	Introduction to Performing Arts	N/A	C	Yes
FY028	Inquiry Based Learning	N/A	C	Yes

Level Four

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
PA408	Voice Skills	15	C	Yes
PA409	Movement Skills	15	C	Yes
PA410	Introduction to Devised Production	15	C	Yes
PA411	Introduction to Scripted Production	15	C	Yes
PA412	Actor Training and Theory	15	C	Yes
PA413	Performer Training and Theory	15	C	Yes
PA414	Approaches to Acting and Performance	15	C	Yes
PA415	Approaches to Acting and Screen	15	C	Yes

Level Five

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
PA508	Recorded Voice Skills	15	C	Yes
PA509	Physical Theatre Skills	15	C	Yes
PA510	Film & Theatre Production	30	C	Yes
PA512	Practice With Research	15	C	Yes
PA513	Theoretical and Practical Perspectives	15	C	Yes
PA514	Devising and Writing	30	O	Yes
PA515	Acting and Text	30	O	Yes

Level Six

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
PA608	Strategic Professional Practice - Applied Arts	15	C	Yes
PA609	Strategic Professional Practice – Professional Portfolio	15	C	Yes
PA610	Independent Production	30	C	Yes
PA611	Transferable and Employability Skills	15	C	Yes
PA614	Viva & Research Proposal	15	C	Yes
PA612	Acting Practical Dissertation	30	O	No
PA613	Acting Written Dissertation	30	O	No

Learning and Teaching Activities

Please see the [Academic Advice pages](#) for a description of learning and teaching activities that are recognised by the University. Detailed information on this specific programme is outlined below:

Teaching methods vary enormously but will include:

- workshops, which develop practical and production skills. These are generally 3 hours long, taking place in the drama studio. They often involve physical work and deal with techniques actors need to learn and develop. Wearing comfortable, easy to move in clothes is advised.
- performances (some of which are formally assessed, but may be formative as well as summative). These may be either public (i.e. to a paying audience), private (i.e. to an invited audience), or mediated (i.e. for camera). Their style and duration will vary according to the module, and they are feature across the degree. Students will have opportunities to work in many areas of production.
- lectures and seminars, which develop analytical, critical and research skills. These generally take place in a classroom or lecture theatre, and combine tutor-led information-giving with student-centred discussions about the studied topics. They often include presentations and exercises.
- study trips and visits to performances. These trips give students an opportunity to watch professional theatre and provide invaluable material for students' development.

This is an Attendance course. Acting is inevitably centred on working in the room with the tutor and with other students.

Wherever possible reading is made available in advance and notes are placed on the VLE for students. Students will receive three one-to-one meetings with their Personal Tutor each year.

The course is structured around four strands:

Theory & Context begins in level 4 with an introduction to key thinkers and histories of acting in Actor Training and Theory 1 & 2. It then progresses to using two different content areas in Theoretical and Practical Perspectives 1 & 2 at level 5. In these modules students are introduced to key concepts underpinning independent academic study such as research methods, primary and secondary literature, and the interface between theory and practice. This strand culminates at level 6 in a detailed individual dissertation/project study which may be a full written dissertation or may focus on a film or performance project.

Performance Skills modules focus on the key skills of performing arts needed in the creative industries and are mapped out in the QAA subject benchmarking for this award. At Level 4 students are introduced to the basics of voice and movement, and apply these skills through scene studies of performance texts. At Level 5 the skills areas are expanded to include more complex skills such as recorded voice and physical theatre, and students are invited to consider such skills in non-Western contexts. In Level 6 students experience a range of advanced workshops and are asked to apply the skills learned during the course to a specific context. They are also required to create a presentation in which they place themselves as a practitioner within an employment context.

Production gives students the opportunity to develop the practical and professional skills needed for all aspects of Acting. In the first year they are introduced to small group devised and scripted performances. At Level 5 they will develop this through work with a tutor to a specific brief. In Independent Production at Level 6 they develop their own brief and appropriate skills to realise that brief, whether for stage or screen.

Other modules include:

L4: Approaches to Acting and Screen, where students explore principles and ideas around acting for camera. Approaches to Acting and Performance, where students study short scenes from playscripts.

L5: The chance to select either Devising and Writing, where students create their own work in response to a practitioner, or Acting and Text, where students use an extant text to develop an appropriate performance which engages with the text's context and style.

L6: Transferable and Employability Skills, where students are given an opportunity to run production meetings and to consider the wider ramifications of their Independent Production module, and Viva & Research Proposal, where their dissertation is supported through a research proposal at the start of the process, and a Viva at the end of it where they can reflect on their work.

Additional Course Costs

There are costs associated with all studies, additional to the tuition fee, which require consideration, when planning and budgeting for expenditure. Costs are indicative and for the total length of the course shown unless otherwise stated and will increase with inflation; depending on the programme they may include equipment, printing, project materials, study trips, placement activities, DBS and/or other security checks.

Books and other Texts:

All core texts will be in the library for students to borrow for free, and wherever possible texts on reading lists will also be purchases in the library. Students may be required to purchase texts and journals to support their study programme. The average cost of books for students studying on a degree course is assumed as £100 per year.

Printing:

We recommend a minimum budget of £100 per year for printing costs including dissertation printing and binding. This relates to the printing of written documents through the photocopiers. Where relevant, the printing of artworks (draft and finished) will incur additional costs listed below.

In year or end of year exhibitions, projects and performances:

Where a course contains exhibitions, major projects or performances additional costs will be incurred. These costs can be discussed in detail with your course teams and some will be linked to a professional skills element of the course where organised fundraising for such activities may be included. We would anticipate up to £100 per year maximum for these elements.

Graduation:

Graduation costs per student are estimated at £100 - £200 total. This is an optional cost for all students as attending graduation is not a requirement in order to have a degree conferred. Any additional costs over and above those listed above can be found listed below:

Hard Drive:

All students are required to own a 1TB hard drive.

Study Tours and Trips:

Compulsory theatre trips and study tours of up to £100 per year. Students may wish to organise additional trips to support their own research of another £100.

Contact Hours

1 unit of credit is the equivalent of 10 notional learning hours. Full time undergraduate students study 120 credits (1200 hours) and full-time postgraduate students study 180 credits (1800 hours) per year or 'stage' of the course.

Course Stage	Scheduled Activities (Hours)	Guided Independent Study (Hours)	Placement / Study Abroad (Hours)
Foundation Year	324	876	0
Year One	336	864	0
Year Two	321	879	0
Year Three	268	932	0

Assessment Methods

The [Assessment and Examination webpages](#) provide further information on how assignments are marked and moderated, including a description of assessment activities. These also include further information about how feedback on assessed work is provided to students, including our commitment to ensure this is provided to students within 15 working days (the 'three-week turnaround').

Summative feedback is provided within three weeks in a written form or potentially through a recorded downloadable oral feedback. However formative feedback will normally be provided prior to this during the assessment process, to ensure that students are given opportunities to respond to feedback prior to submission.

Inevitably acting is often a group activity. Therefore process and contribution to process is key to assessment and wherever possible (unless process is very brief, or the focus is on improvisation, for example) process and product are weighted equally in assessment. For practical assignments all students will be asked to both peer and self-assess, and to submit a record of their and others' contribution in written form to enable the tutor to accurately reflect elements of the process they do not witness.

Assessment is varied, catering for different learning styles and enabling students to develop a wide range of academic and performance skills. These include solo performance, group performance, group presentation, written project proposal, written reflection on creative work, and essay. Particularly worthy of note is the use of Artists' Manifestos and Critical Intentions, in which students outline their creative ideas in a theorised way, demonstrating their grasp of the interface between theory and practice. Throughout the course, an attempt is made to connect practical and critical work, with an understanding of the links between theory and practice evidenced in written work. These contribute to the overall aim of turning graduates into thinking practitioners. This understanding culminates in the work done in the Level 6 practical dissertation and production projects, where students engage with research through practice, or practice-as-research.

During the Foundation Year, students will be exposed to a variety of summative and formative assessments whilst developing the academic skills to be a successful student at university; course content and Learning Outcomes strongly relate to students developing their knowledge and understanding of the subjects being studied and assessed.

There are no written examinations on the course.

Classification

Calculation of final award:	Level 5 - 33% / Level 6 – 67%
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For full details of assessment regulations for all taught programmes please refer to our [Results webpages](#). These include the criteria for degree classification.

Admissions Requirements

Please see the [Application webpages](#) for more information on how to apply, including a statement on how we support students from a variety of backgrounds. Please also see our [general entry requirements](#) for taught programmes. Applicants who do not meet our published entry requirements are encouraged to contact our admissions team for further advice and guidance.

Typical applicant profile and any programme-specific entry requirements

A Grade C or 4 in GCSE English (or any equivalent listed on our website [here](#)) is usually expected to ensure that the student is able to cope with the written requirements of the course.

Applicants will be invited to interview, and to perform a short piece from a published play of around 2 minutes and discuss the subject. The interviewing tutor(s) will be looking for:

- The student's ability to articulate their views on their own work
- A commitment and enthusiasm for the subject
- A potential for sustained professional development
- An ability to form and present opinions on other performing arts work.

Students who live overseas and are unable to attend an interview/audition may submit a DVD/online clip.

Do applicants required a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check?	No
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Opportunities for students on successful completion of the programme

By the time you leave us, you'll be in a strong position to go after acting work. You could also take your skills and experience into other areas of the arts and media.

You could work in acting for theatre or films, set up your own performance company, work in education or outreach groups, or across a range of areas in the cultural industries, undertake further professional study or pursue research through a Master's degree such as Bucks' MA in Performing Arts.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules. Please refer to our [Credit Accumulation webpages](#) for further guidance.

Student Support

During the course of their studies, students will be supported in the following ways:

- At the start of their studies all students will receive a full **induction** to the programme which will include introduction to the staff responsible for delivering the course, and access to library and IT facilities
- The **Programme Handbook** will outline the exact nature of the course and how it is structured, including the availability of option modules
- Each student will be allocated a **Personal Tutor** who will support their academic development, be able to advise and guide them with their studies and, where necessary, give advice on study options
- Students will be able to access our full range of **support services**, including the Learning Development Unit for skills and study support, the Library, the Careers and Employability Team, Student Finance Team, Accommodation and Counselling Services

Appendices

Quality Assurance

Awarding Body:	Bucks New University
Language of Study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s):	Dance, Drama and Performance
Assessment Regulations:	<i>Academic Assessment Regulations</i> , accessible via the Academic Advice webpages (https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice)
Does the Fitness to Practise procedure apply to this programme?	No
Ethics Sub-committee	
Date Published / Updated:	September 2019
Date programme re-approval required:	2024-25

Other awards available on programme (Exit Qualifications)

Please refer to the *Academic Qualifications Framework* for Exit Qualifications recognised by the University and credit and module requirements.

Name of Exit Qualification:	Ordinary Degree
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	BA Acting (Film, TV & Stage)
Credits requirements:	300 Credits
Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4 ALL 120 Credits at Level 5 PLUS 60 credits at Level 6 excluding dissertation or equivalent
Learning Outcome	

Describe, interpret and evaluate performance texts and events with an understanding of acting practice on screen and stage through a creative and critical engagement with a range of critical and theoretical perspectives.

Demonstrate an awareness of the skills and processes of rehearsal and production by which acting on stage and screen is created.

Create a performance project for a specific context, harnessing appropriate creative and organisational principles to the project chosen.

Develop frameworks to engage creatively and critically with existing orthodoxies in acting and performance, and suggest alternative approaches appropriate to current social, political and ethical concerns.

Demonstrate a broad range of information retrieval skills to gather, assess and synthesise material and to critically evaluate its significance.

Name of Exit Qualification:	Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	DipHE Acting (Film, TV & Stage)
Credits requirements:	240 Credits
Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4 ALL 120 Credits at Level 5

Learning Outcome

Describe and interpret performance texts and events with an understanding of acting practice on screen and stage through an engagement with a range of critical and theoretical perspectives.

Demonstrate an awareness of the processes of rehearsal and production by which acting on stage and screen is created.

Create a performance project for a specific context, showing an ability to use appropriate creative and organisational principles for the project chosen.

Develop frameworks to engage creatively with existing orthodoxies in acting and performance, and suggest alternative approaches appropriate to current social, political and ethical concerns.

Demonstrate a range of information retrieval skills to gather, assess and synthesise material and to evaluate its significance.

Name of Exit Qualification:	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	Cert HE Acting (Film, TV & Stage)
Credits requirements:	120 Credits
Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4

Learning Outcome

Describe and interpret performance texts and events with an understanding of acting practice on screen and stage through an engagement with critical and theoretical perspectives.

Demonstrate an awareness of some of the processes of rehearsal and production by which acting on stage and screen is created.

Create a performance project, showing an ability to use appropriate creative and organisational principles for the project chosen.

Develop frameworks to engage with existing orthodoxies in acting and performance, and suggest approaches appropriate to current social, political and ethical concerns.

Demonstrate information retrieval skills to gather and assess material and to evaluate its significance.