

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) Top-up	
Programme (AOS) Code(s):	BA6ATG1
UCAS Code:	
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):	1
Professional Body Recognition / Accreditation (including specific requirements where applicable):	N/A

Brief Description of the Programme

This programme is designed to develop professional skills and techniques across a range of Acting forms focusing on Film, TV & Stage. We enhance students' previous acting training by providing a blend of critical analysis of dramatic texts and screenplays, alongside skills acquisition and development and performance, both for stage and screen.

The course aims to encourage critical thinking through a study of playwrights, performance skills and theatre and film practitioners. Tutors are research active and engage in research through practice, which informs all teaching with theoretical content.

This dynamic top-up degree programme will also give students the opportunity to engage with practitioners in the fields of theatre and film, to stage their own independently produced work and to study an area of interest they wish to research.

This top up degree, currently one of the only courses offered in this field in the South East, is aimed at students who have completed a level 5 foundation degree/diploma but who now wish to progress their qualification into a full honour's degree.

We support students to find a performance approach that's uniquely theirs, and set them up with the real-world skills required to put them in the best possible position to secure acting work when they graduate.

Whether this choice is made directly after graduation or following a professional career in the performance industry, this course offers them the chance to consolidate and develop their knowledge and understanding through a balance of practical and theoretical content.

The course offers students the ability to stage an independent production, working in small groups to produce either a stage performance or short feature film, which can then tour. Practical work is supplemented by acquiring insight to the theatre and film industries, in modules informed by a mix of academic and industry practitioner lectures. The programme places a strong emphasis on self- and career-management and market placement and equips students with business and employability skills to support either an employed or self-employed career path.

Students also develop a critically informed approach to a specialist area of study, either by undertaking a practical dissertation that includes an element of performance on stage or on screen, or via a written dissertation.

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 an 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.
C4	Develop an appropriate research question or inquiry and conduct research as appropriate in attempt to answer/explore
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.
S4	Critically analyse roles and accepted norms within the acting profession / industry
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.

Level Six

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
PA608	Strategic Professional Practice –Applied Arts	15	Core	Yes
PA609	Strategic Professional Practice Professional Portfolio	15	Core	Yes
PA610	Independent Production	30	Core	Yes

PA611	Transferable and Employability Skills	15	Core	Yes
PA614	Viva and Research Proposal	15	Core	Yes
PA612	Acting Practical Dissertation	30	Option	No
PA613	Acting Written Dissertation	30	Option	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 and learning on the programme will help facilitate students' creative development, enabling them to integrate practice and theory with experiential learning as a key principle. A variety of teaching and learning methods will be employed during the programme and will include:

Lectures and Seminars

These 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.

Workshops

Students will have the opportunity to apply knowledge gained in the lectures into a practical setting through the use of specially designed activities during seminars and practical sessions in the studio. These 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 practitioners need. Wearing comfortable, easy to move in clothes is advised.

Performances

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.

Industry Panel and Visiting Lectures

There is an annual Industry Panel with guests presenting experiences from the performing arts / acting industry. This affords students access to a professional network. Visiting lectures will be scheduled throughout the year where performing arts / acting professionals will be invited to deliver workshops. These will help expand students' knowledge of the variety of dance forms and equip them with additional skills.

Personal Tutorials

These are major teaching tools, which underpin the student learning experience particularly within their dissertation research project.

Virtual Learning Environment

'Blackboard' is the University's choice of computer software for our virtual learning environment (VLE). It supports online teaching and learning and can be accessed by registered students and staff via the University's intranet system or by the internet from any location. Blackboard has become a key learning support tool whereby staff and student can communicate through text and image. Resources available within the 'environment' include, course information, module materials that can comprise of anything from lecture notes to video clips, discussion forums for communication between

staff and students, administrative information such as calendars, and the setting and marking of online assessment. Blackboard will be used to support all modules on the programme.

Study Trips / Performances

Sometimes these will be associated with assessment, but often they will not. These trips give you an opportunity to watch professional theatre and provide invaluable source material for lively classroom, Virtual Learning Environment and café/bar discussions

Guided Independent Study

This is an important aspect of this level 6 course to help prepare students for future employment. Activities will include pre and post session readings, wider reading to inform critical understanding, completing a performance journal documenting learning and setting personal goals, personal practise time in the dance studios to work on technique and performance aspects of practice.

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 / Journals**
£50-£100 for any additional books or journal articles that may be needed for the research project.
- **Printing**
Up to £50 per year for printing costs.
- **Performances/Practical Classes**
Up to £100 for costumes/ performance wear / hard drive (useful for video storage)
- **Graduation**
Graduation costs of £100 - £200. This is an optional cost as attending graduation is not a requirement in order to have a degree conferred.

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 / Work Based Learning (Hours)
Year One L6	360	1080	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').

The following assessment activities are used on this programme:

- **Practical Skills Assessment**
- **Group Performances**
- **Reflective written assignments**
- **Reports**
- **Dissertation research project**
- **Ongoing attendance and engagement**

The overall aim is to use innovative teaching and learning methods to guide students towards becoming more independent learners by the end of the programme, and to allow them to explore issues fully in the context of their work. Formative assessment creates a point from which students and lecturers can appraise development, consolidate learning and plan ahead. Summative assessment allows recognition for progression to further study, informs those involved of the level of achievement, and validates the learning process.

Classification

Calculation of final award: Level 6 – 100%

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.
- All students who wish to enrol on the Top-Up programme will need to complete a Bridging Project, typically comprising a series of set tasks that will provide context, academic insights and basic skills activities to be completed prior to beginning the Top-Up programme at Buckinghamshire New University.

Typical applicant profile and any programme-specific entry requirements

This top-up qualification is for students who have completed an HND, FdA or other equivalent qualification in a relevant performing arts / acting-related subject and who wish to progress further to achieve an Honours degree. Applications are welcomed from candidates with any performing arts / acting background, but the programme focuses primarily acting across a range of platforms including screen, stage and radio / podcast formats.

Applicants will be assessed through a recruitment process that includes an acting audition (on campus or via video submission if a campus visit is not possible), review of a piece of academic written work and an interview to assess their practical performing skills, academic writing skills and ability to benefit from the course. All students applying to the programme will be expected to

demonstrate a specific interest in this area of study and should have a commitment to engaging with the subject.

Do applicants required a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check?

No

Opportunities for students on successful completion of the programme

The programme places emphasis on self- and career-management and market placement and equips students with business and employability skills to support either an employed or self-employed career path.

We would envision graduates to go into roles such as teachers, performers (if they have not already entered the course from this career route), entertainers, exercise instructors, managers, performing artists, arts administration and onto further postgraduate study (PGCEs to enable dance teaching in schools/ Masters degrees for example).

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, performance and IT facilities
- The **Programme Handbook** outlines 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
- Students matriculating via HND will receive additional support with academic writing and supervision on request
- All Top-Up students will receive additional support for their dissertation research project from academic supervisors to ensure that they are aware of practical and theoretical research methods

Appendices

Quality Assurance

Awarding Body:	Buckinghamshire 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	Performance / Dance
Date Published / Updated:	September 2022

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:	60 Credits
Module requirements:	<p>Three of the following Level 6 modules: (excluding the Dissertation – PA612 or PA613)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA610 (30 credits) • PA608 (15 credits) • PA609 (15 credits)
Learning Outcome	
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 an understanding of the skills and processes of rehearsal and production by which acting on stage and screen is created.	
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.	
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.