

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes **Honours Degree Programme in Drama and Dance**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2016**.

The aims of all Honours Degree programmes in Drama and Dance are:

- To engage students critically and creatively in the process of making, experiencing and working within and across the disciplines of drama, theatre, dance, physical theatre, dance theatre and choreography.
- To enable students to develop independent critical thinking and judgement;
- To develop and enhance students' development, embodiment and expression of their ideas in a variety of modes and contexts;
- To foster the appreciation of diverse drama and dance practices from a range of historical and geographical contexts;
- To encourage an awareness of drama and dance's interrelationship and their interconnected intellectual and cultural practices;
- To foster understanding of a variety of embodied practices in drama and dance through critical, creative and embodied exploration;
- To encourage students to take progressive responsibility for their own academic progress through self-reflection performance portfolios, embodied practice and self-directed learning;
- To work collaboratively with established theatre and dance professionals and foster management, communication and other related employability skills
- To develop multi-trained individuals who can work and move between drama, dance and contemporary performance practices

Programmes are delivered in three stages, each of which normally comprises one year of full-time study, during which the student must follow courses to the value of four units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits). Two units will be specific to dance studies, and two units will be drawn from the broader Drama curriculum (from the Theatre and Performance Making and Theatre and Text pathways).

At stage one in the Dance pathway, students take a technique course that demonstrates how to gain embodied awareness and practice through somatic exercises and technical practice. Interspersed within the technique class will be basic introduction to choreographic practice so that students can think about how technique informs dance making and the embodied choices available. A dance history class introduces them to a broad based grounding in the subject so that they can interrogate the historical development in stages two and three. The goal of stage one is to introduce students to the ways that drama and dance work alongside each other as disciplines and depend on one another for performance practices. First year students will also receive tutorials especially designed to prepare students for the academic demands of the next stages of the course. Stage two allows students to extend their exploration of the two pathways (theatre and text, theatre and performance making) at a higher level, taking specialist courses grouped under these themes. Technical and choreographic training continues with an intensive technique module that extends their practical and choreographic skills: students must devise two pieces of choreography by the end of stage two. A further course unit offers a cultural studies approach to dance, contextualising embodied practice with scholarly opportunities to describe, interpret, theorise, reflect, engage and evaluate current debates in dance studies. At stage three, students will work with a choreographer (and/or company) on repertory and dance repertoire in order to gain first-hand professional experience in technique, performance, devising and management. They choose their own final projects, receive tutelage in research methodologies, and have the option to follow a research intensive seminar course or a curatorial module that exposes them to the types of performances programmed in and around London. Students can choose to have their final projects performed, presented and discussed at a Finalist Festival. By the third year, students will have a

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complex understanding of how drama and dance function as integrated art forms. This final year will also prepare students to emerge as multi-trained individuals with curating, technical, project management and other employability skills for careers in arts management, facilitation, performance or further academic and/or vocational study.

Further information

This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programme is closely informed by the active research of staff, particularly in the areas of dance historiography, contemporary (intercultural) dance technique and composition, physical theatre and performance making, international dance forms, critical dance studies, intercultural performance studies, somatic practices such as Feldenkreis or Pilates, dance ethnography, popular dance, dance on screen. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Key Themes

- Ability to engage critically and corporeally with different approaches to embodied practices;
- Appreciation of the ways drama and dance can be represented, developed, analysed and applied in order to make meaning in the world;
- Understanding of a variety of ways –historical, political, social and geographical—in which drama and dance engage with and shape identity, bodies and culture;
- To understand some of drama and dance's relations to other disciplines and forms of knowledge.

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Understanding

- To examine embodied histories/practices embedded in an international approach to drama and dance studies;
- To acquire embodied and conceptual understanding of drama and dance as both a discipline and a practice;
- To recognize relevant concepts, issues, theories and debates centred around drama and dance study and practice;
- To interpret how global bodies make and shape history, culture and politics through embodied drama and dance forms;
- To develop and integrate critical and analytical skills in reading, writing and verbal discussion;
- To develop a range of skills associated to search, retrieval, synthesis and management of bibliographical information in order to complete a choreographic, performance or text based project;
- To develop (and reflect upon) creative techniques for exploring, representing, and critiquing through reconstruction and/or performance;
- To develop competent level of dance composition and devising skills;
- To evaluate in creative and critical written form various performance texts;
- To develop embodied knowledge through the principles of alignment, flexibility, strength and stamina, co-ordination, core awareness, dynamics, spatial awareness, musicality and rhythm;
- To effectively lead a creative process from inception to performance context;
- Ability to describe, interpret, theorise and evaluate dance performances and moving bodies on and off stage;
- Knowledge of a range of contemporary critical, practical and theoretical approaches to drama and dance;

- To identify a range of relevant practical, cultural and socio-historical contexts that shape bodies in drama and dance practices globally
- Identify key issues and aspects of the performing arts industry from relevant and wide-ranging sources ☐
Recognise the roles and interconnections of institutions and professionals involved in the management of the arts
- Develop credible arts projects/curated projects that show awareness of key debate and issues in the industry
- Integrate drama and dance as modes of practice in performance contexts

Skills and other attributes

- critical skills in close reading, the analysis and critical interpretation of texts, performances, and data;
- somatic and embodied awareness and sensitivity to a variety of global drama and dance practices;
- intellectual and embodied curiosity of the world around them
- the ability to conduct embodied and textual research independently using traditional and electronic resources, and develop habits of reflection on study, reading, learning and research;*
- command of a wider performance studies vocabulary and appropriate critical and theoretical terminology;
- planning and execution of essays, choreographic work and other embodied performance work, bibliographical skills, developing a reasoned argument;*
- advanced written and oral communication skills, including the ability to present logical and coherent written and oral arguments of varying lengths;*
- the ability to organise and interpret complex information in a structured, embodied and systematic way, and to comprehend and develop sophisticated concepts;*
- the capacity for independent thought and judgement, along with skills in critical reasoning and critical performance evaluation;*
- information technology skills (including basic website building, e-portfolio, blog and wiki creation, word processing, email, WWW, information handling and retrieval), and the ability to engage with the textual use of new media, video, TV, DVD and electronic;*
- interpersonal skills, involving recognising and respecting the viewpoints of others;*
- time management and organisational skills including working to deadlines, prioritising tasks, organising work-time;*
- in addition, this programme fosters the development of a range of personal attributes that are important in the world of work, and that strengthen the graduates' abilities to engage in lifelong learning and contribute to the wider community. These include personal motivation; the ability to work autonomously and with others; self-awareness and self-management; empathy and insight; intellectual integrity; awareness of responsibility as a local, national and international citizen; interest in lifelong learning; flexibility and adaptability; creativity.

* Transferable skills

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of studio classes, lectures, seminars, essay consultations, oral presentations and guided independent study. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by workshop facilitation, self-reflection portfolios, movement exercises, oral presentations and the dissertation or long research essay. In addition, students may be involved in workshops and may produce various forms of creative work. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

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Details of the programme structure(s)

Please note that not all courses run each year. A full list of courses including optional courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the Department.

Joint Honours Degree programmes in Drama and Dance

Stage one:

Students must take the following **mandatory** courses:

DT1100 Theatre & Performance Making (1 unit)

DT1200 Theatre and Text 1 (1 unit)

DT1910 Moving Bodies 1 (1 unit)

DT1920 World Dance Histories (1 unit) **[Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage]**

SS1000: Academic Writing Skills Quiz (no credit progression requirement) First Year tutorials (no credit skills-building requirement)

DT1920 (World Dance Histories) must be passed in order to progress to the second stage.

Stage two:

Students must choose **two units** from the following courses:

DT2100 Theatre & Performance Making 2 (1 Unit) or DT2200 Theatre & Text 2 (1 unit)

DT2300 Theatre & Culture 2 (1 unit) or DT2400 Theatre & Ideas 2 (1 unit)

Students must also take the following **mandatory** courses:

DT2910 Dance Technique and Composition 2 (1 Unit)

DT2930 Dancing Bodies, Global Culture (1 Unit)

Stage three:

Students must choose **two units** in any combination from the following:

DT3500 Drama Research Seminar (1 unit)

DT3XXX Advanced Options (1 unit each)

DT3201/DT3202/DT32XX Research Dissertation/Special Project/Taught Dissertation (1 unit)

DT3203 Group Project (1 unit)

Students must take the following **mandatory** course:

DT3960 Dance Repertory and Repertoires (1 Unit)

and choose **one unit** from the following:

DT3980 Special Topics in Dance Studies **or** (1 Unit)

DT3301/DT3302/DT3303 Theatre Research Seminar (1 Unit)

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Progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway as outlined in the College's Undergraduate Regulations. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. Failing marks of 30 – 39% can normally be condoned in up to 30 credits across stages 1 and 2. In the final stage failing marks in up to 30 credits can normally be condoned. However, on some programmes there may be a requirement to pass specific courses in order to progress to the next stage or to qualify for a particular degree title and this will put restrictions on courses in which failing marks can be condoned (see programme structure above for details). Additionally there are requirements on the number of courses that must be passed in order to qualify for particular joint or combined Honours degrees.

All first year students on single joint or combined honours programmes offered all or in part by departments or schools in the Faculty of Arts & Social Science are required to pass a Moodle-based writing skills quiz in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Certificates of Distinction are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the [College's Undergraduate Regulations](#) (Section: Conditions for progression to the next stage) but fail to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stages two and three, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stage three. The College's Undergraduate Regulations include full details on progression and award requirements for all undergraduate programmes offered by the College.

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Student support and guidance

- The degree programme has a single Programme Director, responsible for the co-ordination and delivery of the programme.
- Personal Advisers: All students are allocated a personal adviser who meets with them regularly through the programme. The adviser's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. Students meet with their personal advisers according to the First Year Tutorial Handbook guidelines set up by the Drama and Theatre department. Meetings with advisers are two or three times during the semester in groups of 3-5. Subsequently, responsibility for meetings is placed on the student.
- The Year Tutor is at the centre of the Department's student support systems. Year Tutors, Programme Coordinators, course leaders, seminar leaders, student representatives and departmental administrators provide a back-up system of academic, pastoral and welfare advice.
- All staff available and accessible through a dedicated office hour system.
- A Dance specific first year tutorial system will be set up and timetabled in order for students to have fortnightly student support tutorials that will focus on digital learning, library research, emotional and physical well-being and reading/writing practice. These tutorials will be compulsory to ensure student skill parity and preparedness throughout the programme.
- Representation on the Staff-Student Committee.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources.
- Departmental rehearsal studios for practical, group and solo performance work.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and Computer Centre.
- College Careers and Employability Service and Departmental Careers and Employability Tutor.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Disability and Dyslexia Services for students with disabilities and Specific Learning Difficulties.

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Admission requirements

Details of the Department's typical offer for each programme of study is available on the [Course Finder](#) web page. However, the Department also has flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages applications from non-standard applicants. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. For further guidance it may be helpful to contact the [Recruitment and Partnerships Office](#).

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Further learning and career opportunities

Choosing Drama & Dance at Royal Holloway means you will gain considerable experience of the combination of technical, intellectual, imaginative, and practical skills valued by a wide range of employers. You will develop skills in research, project management, written and oral communication, critical reasoning and leadership. We offer a range of activities and opportunities to help enhance your employability and prepare for the choices ahead.

The Department's recent graduates have successfully entered a wide range of careers including acting, writing, broadcasting (including at the BBC), literary agency, arts management, sound design, marketing/PR, teaching and community theatre work, as well as gone onto postgraduate study in a variety of fields. Many of our graduates also start their own theatre companies. For further details please refer to the [Careers & Employability Service](#).

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Indicators of quality and standards

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The scoring system for the REF 2014 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour and 3* indicating research that is internationally excellent. 81% of the College's research profile was deemed to be within the 4* or 3* categories, an increase of over 20% since 2008. This result placed Royal Holloway 31st overall in the UK for 4* and 3* research and 33rd based on an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) score.

The Department of Drama and Theatre is ranked 16th in the UK for research of 4* standard and 10th for 3* and 4* research, and is ranked within the top 10 departments for its subject in the UK.

List of programmes

All the programmes are taught by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and lead to awards of the University of London. Programmes in Drama and Dance are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statement in Drama and Dance describes the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the subject, and can therefore be used as a point of reference when reading this document (see www.qaa.ac.uk). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see www.ucas.ac.uk).

Joint Honours Degree Programmes in Drama and Dance

BA Drama and Dance (WW45)

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