

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes **Honours Degree programmes in Drama and Theatre**. For Joint and Combined Honours Degree programmes, please also refer to the equivalent document(s) for the other subject(s). This specification is valid for new entrants and repeating students from **September 2015**.

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

- To engage students critically and creatively in the process of making and experiencing drama, theatre and performance.
- To enable students to develop independent critical thinking and judgement;
- To develop and enhance students' expression of their ideas in a variety of modes and contexts;
- To foster the appreciation of diverse theatre and performance practices from a range of historical and geographical contexts;
- To encourage an awareness of theatre's relationship with a wide range of different intellectual and cultural practices;
- To foster understanding of the complementary value of critical and creative exploration;
- To encourage students to take progressive responsibility for their own study through negotiating subject areas of specialism with each other in seminars, through the informed choice of options and an extended piece of independent work in the final year.

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).

At stage one, students are introduced to four key themes through four **pathways**, denoting areas of theatrical activity and ways that theatre and performance engage with the world: theatre and performance making, theatre and text, theatre and culture and theatre's relationship to other disciplines. Stage one offers a broad-based grounding in the subject, suitable for students with different levels of experience and understanding, giving everyone a shared basis of critical and creative skills that will prepare them for stages two and three. All courses are compulsory. At stage two, students extend their exploration of the **pathways** at a higher level, taking specialist courses grouped under these themes. At stage three, students have greater choice and responsibility, drawing on their work at stages one and two to choose their own final projects, follow a research-intensive seminar course, and engage directly with debates and practices in the contemporary creative industries. Students contribute to a substantial **Finalists Festival** towards the end of stage three, in which work is publicly performed, presented and discussed.

Further information

[Learning outcomes](#)

[Teaching, learning and assessment](#)

[Details of the programme structure\(s\)](#)

[Progression and award requirements](#)

[Student support and guidance](#)

[Admission requirements](#)

[Further learning and career opportunities](#)

[Indicators of quality and standards](#)

[List of programmes, with details of awards, degree titles, accreditation and teaching arrangements](#)

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 are closely informed by the active research of staff, particularly in the areas of contemporary theatre, international theatre, performance-making, applied drama, theatre and its relation to other disciplines, and theatre history. The programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Key themes

- Ability to appreciate, engage critically, and develop work creatively, in a variety of theatre and performance modes, forms, and genres;
- Appreciation of the various ways theatre and performance utilise – and can be represented and engaged through – texts, both critical and creative;
- Understanding of a variety of ways – historical, social, geographical – in which theatre and performance engage with, and are shaped by, the culture around them;
- Understanding of theatre and performance's relations to various other disciplines and forms of knowledge;

Discipline-specific knowledge

- Experience and understanding of processes by which performances are created, which may include devising, improvisation, scoring, training, directing, acting, performing, playwriting, adaptation, set, costume and lighting design, choreography, digital media, and community engagement;
- Understanding of the performance possibilities implied by a script, score and other sources;
- Experience of engaging in performance-making, based on an acquisition and understanding of appropriate creative vocabularies, skills, structures, and working methods;
- Appreciation of 'Embodied knowledge' and 'practice as research';
- Awareness of relationships between past traditions and present practice;
- Understanding of the relationship between individual and group creative activity;
- Knowledge and understanding of various ways in which 'performance' originates, is constructed, circulated and received;
- Ability to describe, interpret, theorise, and evaluate performance texts and events from a range of critical, theoretical, and philosophical perspectives;
- Understanding of the function, value, and practice of theatre and performance;
- Ability to follow and engage in cross-disciplinary conversations about theatre, theory and philosophy.

Graduate Skills

- Ability to work independently and autonomously, showing initiative and personal motivation
- Ability to work collaboratively, sharing responsibility, delegating, and where appropriate leading teams
- Project management
- Ability to handle multiple, diverse and competing demands on time and energy
- Ability to coherently develop and express ideas in various media including, but not limited to, essays and reports, creative writing, presentation, meetings, digital and social media, performance
- Skills in research, gathering appropriate evidence and ideas
- Confidence in dealing with complex ideas and experiences
- Confidence with digital and information technology
- Critical reasoning
- Ability to frame critical enquiry
- Ability to engage creatively with the wider world*

Personal attributes

Students will be given support to strengthen these qualities:

- Openness;
- Curiosity;
- Responsibility;

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Version 2

Dated: 19/08/2015

- Awareness of the wider world;
- Sensitivity and responsiveness to the diverse needs of others;
- Confidence;
- Creativity.

[Back to top](#)

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of workshops, seminars, lectures, tutorials, performance, essay supervision, guided independent study and research, electronic communications and written and oral feedback. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by essays, class presentations, performances, and other creative projects. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

[Back to top](#)

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.

Single Honours Degree programmes

Stage one:

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

DT1100 Theatre & Performance Making (1 unit) [**Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**]

DT1200 Theatre & Text (1 unit)

DT1300 Theatre & Culture (1 unit)

DT1400 Theatre & Ideas (1 unit)

DT1100 must be passed in order to progress to the second stage.

Stage two:

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

DT2100 Theatre & Performance Making 2 (1 unit)

DT2200 Theatre & Text 2 (1 unit)

DT2300 Theatre & Culture 2 (1 unit)

DT2400 Theatre & Ideas 2 (1 unit)

Stage three:

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

DT3100 Methods & Processes (1 unit)

DT3201/DT3202/DT3203 Final Year Project (1 unit)

DT3301/DT3302/DT3303 Research Seminar (1 unit)

DT3400 Culture & Creativity (1 unit)

Joint Honours Degree programme with English as an equal component

Please see the Progression and Awards Requirements section below and the College's Undergraduate Regulations with respect to the number of courses which need to be passed in order to qualify for the joint degree title.

Stage one:

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

DT1100 Theatre & Performance Making (1 unit) [**Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**]

DT1400 Theatre & Ideas (1 unit)

For students registered in or after September 2015

Version 2

Dated: 19/08/2015

and specified courses in English

DT1100 must be passed in order to progress to the second stage.

Stage two:

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

EN2500 Shakespeare from Page to Stage (1 unit)

DT2450 Theatre & Ideas 2: Interdisciplinary Encounters (0.5 unit)

DT2100 Theatre & Performance-Making 2 (1 unit)

and courses to the value of 1.5 units in English

Students may choose to take courses to the value of 0.5 units from another department in place of 0.5 units on the programme with agreement of both Heads of Department.

Stage three:

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

DT3500 English/Drama Research Seminar (1 unit)

Students must choose one of the following English courses:

Special Author/Special Topic/Dissertation in English (1 unit)

And one of the following combinations of courses:

- DT3100 Methods & Processes (1 unit) and DT320x Final Year Project (1 unit)
- DT330x Research Seminar (1 unit) and DT3400 Culture & Creativity (1 unit)
- Either: DT3301/DT3302/DT3303 Research Seminar (1 unit) or DT3400 Culture & Creativity (1 unit) and courses to the value of one unit in English

Joint Honours Degree programmes (other than English) with Drama as an equal component:

Please see the Progression and Awards Requirements section below and the College's Undergraduate Regulations with respect to the number of courses which need to be passed in order to qualify for the joint degree title.

Stage one:

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

DT1100 Theatre & Performance making (1 unit) [**Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**]

DT1300 Theatre & Culture (1 unit)

and specified courses in the other subject.

DT1100 must be passed in order to progress to the second stage.

Stage two:

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

DT2100 Theatre & Performance Making 2 (1 Unit)

DT2300 Theatre & Culture 2 (1 unit)

and stage-two courses to the value of 2 units, from a specified range, in the other subject.

Stage three:

Students must take:

Either

DT3100 Methods & Processes (1 unit)

DT3201/DT3202/DT3203 Final Year Project (1 unit)

or

DT3301/DT3302/DT3303 Research Seminar (1 unit)

DT3400 Culture & Creativity (1 unit)

and specified and/or elective stage-three courses to the value of 2 units in the other subject

Minor Degree programmes with Drama as a Major component:

Stage one:

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

DT1100 Theatre & Performance Making (1 unit) [**Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**]

DT1200 Theatre & Text (1 unit)

DT1300 Theatre & Culture (1 unit)

and specified courses to the value of 1 unit in the other subject

DT1100 must be passed in order to progress to the second stage.

Stage two:

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

DT2100 Theatre & Performance Making 2 (1 unit)

DT2200 Theatre & Text 2 (1 unit)

DT2300 Theatre & Culture 2 (1 unit)

and specified courses to the value of 1 unit in the other subject

Stage three:

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

DT3100 Methods & Processes (1 unit)

DT3201/DT3202/DT3203 Final Year Project (1 unit)

DT3301/DT3302/DT3303 Research Seminar (1 unit)

and specified courses to the value of 1 unit in the other subject

[Back to top](#)

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.

[Back to top](#)

Student support and guidance

- Personal Advisers: All students are allocated a personal adviser who meets with them through the programme.

The adviser's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. Students meet with their personal advisers regularly during the first year in groups of 10-16. In subsequent years, 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 Co-ordinators, course leaders, seminar leaders and departmental administrators provide a back-up system of academic, pastoral and welfare advice.
- All staff are available and accessible by email and a dedicated office hours system
- Representation on the Student-Staff Committee.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and Computer Centre.
- Course materials made available via the Moodle online learning support environment.
- 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.

[Back to top](#)

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](#).

[Back to top](#)

Further learning and career opportunities

Graduates from the Drama and Theatre degree programmes have successfully progressed into a wide range of professions, while some have continued onto Postgraduate studies. For further details please refer to the [Careers & Employability Service](#).

[Back to top](#)

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.

[Back to top](#)

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 are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statement in Drama 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).

Single Honours Degree programmes in Drama and Theatre Studies

BA Drama and Theatre Studies (W440)

Joint Honours Degree programmes with Drama and Theatre Studies as an equal component

BA Classical Studies and Drama (QW84)

BA Comparative Literature and Culture and Drama (Q2W4)

BA Drama and Creative Writing (WW48)

BA Drama and German (WR42)

BA Drama and Italian (WR43)

BA Drama and Music (WW43)

BA Drama and Spanish (WR41)

BA English and Drama (QW34)

BA French and Drama (RW14)

BA Drama and Philosophy (WV45)

Combined Honours Degree programme with Drama and Theatre Studies as a major component

BA Drama with Philosophy (W4V5)

[Back to top](#)