

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Master of Arts, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate programmes in Applied and Participatory Theatre**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2014**.

The aims of the programme are:

- to develop and deepen students' understanding of the nature of drama and performance through the close study of plays and other forms of 'texts' for staging;
- to teach students to appreciate and practice a specialist professional discipline;
- to explore theatrical conventions of different cultures and periods and to allow students to draw critically upon their experiences of theatre-going;
- to explore how a range of theoretical approaches may be applied to the study of performance texts both on the page and on the stage;
- to allow students to shape what is a relatively flexible syllabus to realise a variety of personal objectives.

The programme is delivered in a single stage, equating to one year of full-time study (52 weeks), or five years of part-time study (260 weeks). On successful completion of the programme a student should have an understanding of the area of the MA at a level appropriate for a postgraduate qualification. Whilst being a self-contained degree in its own right, the programme provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to PhD study in the same or a closely related field.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme, 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. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- a broad and detailed understanding of contemporary theatre and performance;
- the application of contextual and theoretical modes of inquiry;
- a familiarity with a wide range of spatial forms used in modern performance;
- an awareness of the scope of theatre studies and its methodologies of research;
- understanding, both theoretical and practical, of how drama and theatre might be applied to specific community, educational and therapeutic contexts;

- an awareness of the impact and effectiveness of applied drama and theatre to participants;
- an understanding of the ways in which participation in theatre and performance is used as a means of building community and place-based identities;
- a critical awareness of how the experience of migration, diaspora and displacement are articulated in theatre and performance;
- a clear awareness of the role of the practitioner in participatory theatre practices.

#### *Skills and other attributes*

Students following the programme will gain the ability to:

- critically deconstruct theatrical performances from a variety of theoretical positions;
- devise exercises that engage with the issues surrounding the ways in which theory influences practice and performance;
- use space creatively, with an enhanced understanding of how space conditions meaning, and of the possibilities open to a maker of theatre;
- experiment with, and question, ideas and practices which aim for cultural and social intervention;
- analyse the theories and practices inherent in applied drama and theatre;
- undertake and critique bibliographic inquiry including considering the usefulness of a range of research resources;\*
- use web-based research resources;\*
- work collaboratively within a group;\*
- present seminar material through a range of media;\*
- undertake research and write critically about a variety of topics;\*
- write an extended dissertation on a specialist topic (either historical, practical or theoretical), treating it critically and analytically.

\* transferable skills

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#### **Teaching, learning and assessment**

Teaching and learning are mainly by means of sessions lasting anywhere between one and a half and four hours. These would typically combine periods of seminar discussion and practical exploration or workshops. Where possible, these are student-led, with participants being encouraged to devise exercises engaging with the relevant issues and to direct their fellow-students in these experiments. Opportunities to visit theatrical presentations are also an important part of the programme, and students are encouraged to use these as a basis for discussion and to deconstruct the performances they have seen from a variety of critical positions.

Assessment is by a variety of means including essays (both theoretical and critical) and performance analyses, practical projects as well as a final dissertation which may combine practical and written elements. Practical projects are sometimes carried out in a group and may include an element of assessment for an individual's contribution to group working and direction. All students undertake a summer term practical project that can take a variety of forms including, but not restricted to, a performance. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the Programme Handbook or from the [Department](#).

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#### **Details of the programme structure(s)**

The full-time programme lasts 52 weeks, beginning in September. The brief outline of the programme is shown below; however students can obtain further details from the Programme Handbook.

**Credits are indicated in brackets, and indicate proportional weighting towards the MA, PGDip and PGCert classification grade.** The programme structure for the PgDip is as below, with the exception that students will not undertake the dissertation.

Students must take:

DT5009 Theatre Contexts, Histories & Practices (40 credits) *(Please note that this course will be replaced in 2015/16 by course DTXXXX entitled "Making Performance")*

DT5006 Applied Drama Workshop (40 credits)

DT5210 Dissertation (60 credits)

DT5119 Independent Practical Project (40 credits).

#### Part-time programme structure

The programme can be taken part-time over two to five years beginning in September of year one. Part-time students studying over two years normally take DT5119 Independent Practical Project and DT5006 Applied Drama Workshop in the first year of the programme, and DT5009 Theatre Contexts, Histories & Practices (40 credits) *(Please note that this course will be replaced in 2015/16 by course DTXXXX entitled "Making Performance")* and DT5210 Dissertation in their second year. Tutorials in respect of the dissertation would begin in the summer term of the first year.

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#### **Progression and Award requirements**

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in oral presentations, contributions to seminar discussion and coursework. Please note that if you hold a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

To pass the **Masters** programme a student must achieve an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. Failure marks between 40-49% can be condoned in courses which constitute up to a maximum of 40 credits, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50.00%, but a failure mark (i.e. below 50%) in the dissertation cannot be condoned.

The **Masters** degree with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

The **Masters** degree with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any element of the programme. In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

The **Postgraduate Diploma** may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any taught element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50% and has either chosen not to proceed to the dissertation, or has failed the dissertation on either the first or second attempt. Failure marks in the region 40-49% are not usually condoned for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, but if they are, such condoned fails would be in courses which do not constitute more than 40 credits.

The **Postgraduate Diploma** with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

The **Postgraduate Diploma** with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any element of the programme. In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

The **Postgraduate Certificate** may be awarded if a student achieves a mark of at least 50% in at least 80 credits and has either chosen not to continue with the programme, or has failed the remaining credits.

The Postgraduate Certificate may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any taught course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. Failure marks in the region 40-49% are not usually condoned for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate.

The Postgraduate Certificate with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above, with no mark in any course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

The Postgraduate Certificate with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any course. In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

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### **Student support and guidance**

- Personal Tutors: The programme leader serves as personal tutor. The tutor's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. Advisers are available for consultations within office hours. The MA Co-ordinator is also available for pastoral support.
- All staff are available via their e-mail addresses, which are published in the programme handbook.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources.
- The department's postgraduate Induction sessions for incoming students (including a compulsory weekend of practical workshop activity to meet all new MA students within the department) in the first week of the Autumn term, aligned with the College's induction procedures.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and computer centre.
- College Careers Service and Departmental Employability Lead. The department also arranges careers evenings, usually once a term, bringing in external speakers to advise on careers of particular interest to Drama graduates. A document directing students to members of staff with particular career advice expertise is available in the departmental office.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Royal Holloway International, Students' Union, Health Centre and the Disability and Dyslexia Services for students with special needs.
- A Staff-Student Committee is held each term with representatives from each degree pathway. Minutes of these meetings are posted in the Department.
- Students are able to gain entrepreneurial training through the Young Enterprise's (YES) Graduate Programme run by the Research and Enterprise Office.
- Use of performance spaces (including The Noh Theatre, Studio Theatre and the Boilerhouse).

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### **Admission requirements**

For details of admissions requirements please refer to the [Course Finder](#).

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### **Further learning and career opportunities**

Drama graduates do not follow any kind of typical pattern, but embark on a wide variety of careers and postgraduate training programmes (for example, teacher training, arts management, PhDs and other research). Some start their own theatre companies, or serve as educational officers at places like Shakespeare's Globe, while others leave the theatre behind to become chartered accountants, librarians, and web-page designers: the options are limitless. The usefulness of a drama degree is not at all surprising, as students obtain the sort of transferable skills that graduate employers most demand, according to the Employment Satisfaction Survey. For more details on further learning and career opportunities please refer to the [Careers 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 Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the RAE 2008 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. 60% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 16th in the UK for research of 4\* standard and 18<sup>th</sup> for 3\* and 4\* research. The Department of Drama and Theatre was ranked joint 9<sup>th</sup> in the top 10 universities in the country in terms of proportion of 3\* and 4\* research.

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### **List of programmes with details of awards, teaching arrangements and accreditation**

All the programmes are taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and the Masters lead to awards of the University of London. The Postgraduate Diplomas lead to an award of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. Programmes in Theatre Studies are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The Banner programme codes are given in parentheses.

#### **Master of Arts Programme in Applied and Participatory Theatre**

MA in Applied and Participatory Theatre (2595)

#### **Postgraduate Diploma in Applied and Participatory Theatre**

PG Diploma in Applied and Participatory Theatre (2596)

#### **Postgraduate Certificate in Applied and Participatory Theatre**

PG Certificate in Applied and Participatory Theatre (2645)

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