



Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	Univer	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbe	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MA Dr	MA Dramaturgy				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMAD	TMADRAGY_C				
5	UCAS code	N/A	N/A				
6	Home Department	English	English, Theatre and Creative Writing				
7	Exit Award(s)	PG Dip	PG Dip, PG Cert				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1 year	1 year full time; 2 years part time				
9	Mode of Study	FT	Х	PT	Х	DL	
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	Film, N	Film, Media and Cultural Studies				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A	N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Statement	N/A	N/A				

14 | Programme Rationale & Aims

MA Dramaturgy is a postgraduate programme for students whose primary interest is in dramaturgy in various aspects, from the historical and theoretical to the practice-based and industry-focused. MA Dramaturgy enhances our suite of theatre programmes, and is complementary to MFA Theatre Directing. It investigates the practical, historical, theoretical and national contexts of dramaturgical work. In terms of practice-based endeavours, students work with leading artists and practitioners to develop skills in playwriting, and to explore performance composition from multiple standpoints, from collaborative theatremaking to radio drama. Students' scholarly and practice-based skills and knowledge are also enhanced with an industry-led examination of audience development, arts education and producing. It culminates in a dissertation project, which could take one of three forms: an academic study, a playwriting project, or a dramaturgical project.

MA Dramaturgy's aim is to respond to the expansion of dramaturgical practice in the industry. It prepares postgraduate students to enter the world of theatre-making with specialist theoretical and practical knowledge, and an informed overview of the creative process and its components. It also functions to prepare students for further postgraduate research. It draws on the research interests, professional practice and expertise of Birkbeck faculty and visiting artists and scholars. It takes full advantage of Birkbeck's proximity to London's West End theatre district and other performance spaces across the city for the study of theatre. Finally, it engages with the work of Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre, offering opportunities for students to pursue extra-curricular performance-making and engagement with new scholarship.

Year of entry: 2022/23



¹⁵ Entry Criteria

Undergraduate degree at 2nd class honours or above, and/or relevant practical experience in the creative industries. All suitable applicants will be interviewed either personally or by telephone.

International entry requirements: If English is not your first language or you have not previously studied in English, the requirement for this programme is the equivalent of an International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic Test) score of 7.0, with not less than 6.5 in each of the sub-tests.

16 Learning Outcomes

[Subject-specific]:

- 1. Show a creative and conceptual understanding of theatre and performance-making processes that will support the critical evaluation of current research, performance and advanced scholarship in the discipline. This will enable students to evaluate and critique rival methodologies, and, where appropriate, develop and propose new hypotheses and practices;
- 2. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of performance practice and a critical awareness of the current problems and new insights raised by the relationship between history, theory and practice;
- 3. Show an ability to develop practice-based approaches to a range of theatrical, dramatic and performative stimuli and sources.
- 4. Show an ability to discuss and analyse drama, theatre and performance in relation to the possibilities they offer for performance, informed by a cogent grasp of theatre history and theory;
- 5. Demonstrate a sound grasp of the theatrical, intellectual and institutional contexts of contemporary theatre and performance;
- 6. Demonstrate an understanding of the variety of approaches to the creation of performance that inform contemporary theatre practice; [Intellectual]:
- 7. Show a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research, advanced scholarship or theatrical practice;
- 8. Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge and the development of practice-based projects, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research, enquiry and performance are used to create and interpret knowledge;
- 9. Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;

[Social/practical]:

- 10. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level;
- 11. Show an ability to continue advancing their knowledge and understanding and develop new skills to a high level;

Year of entry: 2022/23



12. Possess the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: the development of own creative practice; the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility; decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations; and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Learning and teaching methods:

- Seminars
- Practice-based workshops
- Tutorial support
- Theory and practice-based dissertation supervision
- Independent visits to theatrical performances
- Independent study
- Access to talks, performances and other public events staged by the Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre and other research centres across the College

Assessment methods:

- Short assessment exercises
- Research essays
- Visual demonstrations
- Critical reflections
- Individual creative projects
- Logbooks
- Academic dissertations

18 | Programme Description

MA Dramaturgy enables you to explore practices, histories and theories regarding the development of theatre projects inside and outside the rehearsal room. Working with Birkbeck's experts in theatre and performance, you will investigate the practical, historical, theoretical and national contexts of dramaturgical work. At the same time, you will work with a host of leading artists and practitioners to develop skills in playwriting, and to explore performance composition from multiple standpoints, from collaborative theatremaking to radio drama. Finally, your scholarly and practice-based skills and knowledge will be enhanced with an industry-led examination of audience development, arts education and producing. If you love to make, facilitate, think and write about theatre, but do not wish to be in the spotlight yourself, this course is ideal. The programme culminates in a dissertation project, which could take one of three forms: an academic study, a playwriting project, or a dramaturgical project.

Year of entry: 2022/23



19	Programme Struc	rogramme Structure							
Full	Full Time programme – 1 year								
Year	Year 1								
Leve	el Module Code Module Title		Credits	Status*					
7	AREN255D7	Dramaturgy: Processes and Practices	60	Core					
7	ENHU124S7	Introduction to Playwriting	30	Core					
7	ARMC102S7	Audiences: Communities, Participation and Learning		Core					
7	AREN031D7	Dissertation: Theatre and Performance Research	60	Core					
Part Time programme – 2 years									
Yea	Year 1								
Leve	Module Code	de Module Title		Status*					
7	AREN255D7	Dramaturgy: Processes and Practices 60 Core		Core					
7	ENHU124S7 Introduction to Playwriting		30	Core					
Year 2									
Leve	Module Code	Module Title Credits Status		Status*					
7	ARMC102S7 Audiences: Communities, Participation and Learning		30	Core					
7	AREN031D7	D7 Dissertation: Theatre and Performance Research 60 Core							

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	Programme Director	Dr Molly Flynn/Dr Louise Owen	
21	Start Date (term/year)	Autumn 2020	
22	Date approved by Education Committee	Autumn 2020	
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Autumn 2019	
24	Date(s) updated/amended	November 2019	