

UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION FOR:

BA (HONS) ACTING¹

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION 2019/20

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content of each unit can be found in the Unit Descriptors.

¹ Formerly known as BA (Hons) Acting & Performance

Section A – Material Course Information

Validating Body	University for the Creative Arts ²		
Final Award Title and Type	BA (Hons)		
Course Title	Acting		
Course Location and Length	Campus: Farnham/Maltings	Length: 3 years	
Mode of Study	Full-time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-time
Period of Validation	2018/19 to 2022/2023		
Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body	Not Applicable		
Type of Accreditation	Not Applicable		
Accreditation due for renewal	Not Applicable		
Entry criteria and requirements ³			
<p>The following qualifications and minimum requirements will be considered:</p> <p>As the UK's highest-ranking creative arts university, we want to attract the best and most creative minds in the country – so we take a balanced approach to candidate assessment, taking both individual portfolios and exam results into account.</p> <p>That's why your portfolio is an especially important part of your application to study with us – and we can help. Our academics can offer you expert advice on how to showcase your creative work and build a portfolio that will make your application stand out.</p> <p>More advice on how to create an exceptional portfolio is also available here, along with specific portfolio requirements for this course.</p> <p>Along with your portfolio, the standard entry requirements** for this course are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 112 UCAS tariff points from accepted qualifications*, or • Pass at Foundation Diploma in Art & Design (Level 3 or 4), or • Distinction, Merit, Merit at BTEC Extended Diploma, or • Merit at UAL Extended Diploma, or • 112 UCAS tariff points from an accredited Access to Higher Education Diploma in appropriate subject <p>And four GCSE passes at grade A*-C and/or grade 4-9 including English (or Functional Skills English/Key Skills Communication Level 2).</p> <p>Other relevant and equivalent level 3 UK and international qualifications are considered on an individual basis, and we encourage students from diverse educational backgrounds apply.</p>			

² Regulated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England

³ This should be the standard University Criteria unless otherwise approved by the Academic Board and include UCAS entry profile for undergraduate courses.

If your first language is not English, you will need an IELTS score of 6.0 or equivalent. If you require a visa to study in the UK, you will also need a minimum score of 5.5 in each individual component.

**To see the accepted QCF qualifications, visit: <http://uca.ac.uk/study/accepted-qualifications/>*

*** We occasionally make offers which are lower than the standard entry criteria, to students who have faced difficulties that have affected their performance and who were expected to achieve higher results. In these cases, a strong portfolio is especially helpful.*

Audition

You will be invited to attend an audition which comprises two activities:

1. A group workshop: this will include improvisation games and imagination exercises incorporating voice and movement, allowing you to demonstrate your collaborative working skills.
2. An individual audition piece (maximum 2 minutes), either:
 - A short piece of contemporary text (play or screenplay) OR
 - A piece of Shakespeare or classical text OR
 - An original piece you have written

This piece is then directed by a member of staff to test your ability to take direction.

UCAS entry profile:

This course builds student's knowledge and confidence as actors and performers for both stage and screen. From day one students learn to work with and for the camera as an integral tool for learning and recording, as well as traditional acting, movement and voice skills. We encourage students to be proactive as actors in devising, performing their own work. Students will have the presentational and digital skills to create and manage content whether it is in making their own live or filmed pieces or managing their on-line profiles. We want to equip students to be able to direct and manage their own careers in a fast-changing industry.

Minimum English language requirements:

If your first language is not English a certificate is required as evidence that you have an average IELTS score of 6.0 or equivalent. If you are applying as an international student from a country outside the EU and require a visa to study in the UK, you will also need a minimum of 5.5 in each individual component.

You may be offered a place on a course on the condition that you improve your English language and study skills. We offer pre-sessional English language courses which can improve your IELTS score by a maximum of 1.0 and 0.5, or equivalent

Overall methods of assessment ⁴	Written exams:	Practical exams:	Coursework:
Stage 1	0.0%	0.0%	100%
Stage 2	0.0%	0.0%	100%
Stage 3	0.0%	2.5%	97.5%
Overall Learning & Teaching hours ⁵	Scheduled:	Independent:	Placement:

⁴ As generated by the most popular unit descriptors and calculated for the overall course stage data.

⁵ As generated by the most popular unit descriptors and calculated for the overall course stage data.

Stage 1	42.5%	57.5%	0.0%
	510 hours	690 hours	0 hours
Stage 2	42.5%	57.5%	0.0%
	510 hours	690 hours	0 hours
Stage 3	32.3%	67.7%	0.0%
	388 hours	812 hours	0 hours
General level of staff delivering the course ⁶	The University's current recruitment policy for Lecturers and Senior Lecturers states that they must have either an MA or equivalent professional practice in a relevant discipline or field. All lecturing staff are encouraged to work towards a teaching qualification or professional Recognition by the Higher Education Academy and this is a requirement for Senior Lecturers. Senior Lecturers are required to be professionally active or engaged in research in their discipline. All Lecturers and Senior Lecturers undertake scholarship in their disciplines. There are also Sessional Staff to link courses with professional practice and Technicians to provide technical support.		
Language of Study	English		
Subject/Qualification Benchmark Statement: Drama, Dance and Performance			
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)			

The course structure				
<p>The structure of all of the University's awards complies with the University's Common Credit Framework. The Common Credit Framework includes information about the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rules for progression between the stages of a course; ▪ Consequences of failure for reassessment, compensation and exit awards; ▪ Calculation and classification of awards; 				
Unit codes and titles	Level	Credit value	Elective/ Core	If elective is this the most popular student choice?
Year / Stage 1				
FACT4001 Acting Skills 1	4	40	Core	
FACT4003 Stage Screen Connections	4	20	Core	

⁶ Include general information about the experience or status of the staff involved in delivering the course, for example Professor, Course Leader, Senior Lecturer

FACT4002 Approaches to Acting	4	20	Core	
FACT4004 Improvisation	4	20	Core	
FACT4005 Exploding the Play	4	20	Core	
Year / Stage 2				
FACT5001 Acting Skills 2	5	40	Core	
FACT5003 Social Realism	5	20	Core	
FACT5005 American Theatre	5	20	Core	
FACT5002 Violence and Revenge	5	20	Core	
FACT5004 Making a Festival	5	20	Core	
FACT5007 Acting Skills 2: Outgoing Study Abroad	5	40	Elective	No
FACT5006 Acting Skills 2: Incoming Study Abroad	5	20	Elective	No
Study Abroad with Host Institution	5	60	Elective	No
Year / Stage 3				
FACT6002 Dissertation	6	30	Elective	No
FACT6003 Practice as Research	6	30	Elective	Yes
FACT6001 Performance	6	60	Core	
FACT6004 Professional Development	6	30	Core	

Section B - Course Overview

Students are introduced to acting and performance techniques for working for the camera and stage from the outset of their studies. They are also taught the fundamental skills needed to record, edit, produce and upload performances. Students are working in a creative environment alongside students studying; Film Production, Animation, Games Design, Media and Television Production and Music Composition.

The course will also cover:

- Movement and vocal techniques: appropriate to each discipline.
- Practical experience: in the rehearsal room, studio and on location.
- Recorded voice skills: and their use in developing a career.
- How to get work seen: making and finding an audience for a short film and/or theatre piece
- Interrogations of artists: plays, films, performances and the people who put them together.
- Public performances and screenings: to which key industry professionals casting directors and casting agents will be invited.
- Marketing and managing: the business aspects of a career in acting.
- Partnership with The Maltings in Farnham: Enabling professional performance experience and interaction with practitioners.

Section C - Course Aims

- Equip students with a range of professional acting methods and performing practices.

- Enhance students' ability to engage with professional acting methods and performing practices in live, recorded and digital forms of performance.
- Use student's creative and imaginative skills to work in interdisciplinary ways.
- Develop students' critical engagement with the historical and theoretical development of drama.
- Explore issues, concerns, practice or theory of an acting or performance related topic through an extended piece of writing / practical research project.
- Develop students' communication and collaborative skills for effective participation in a creative community with an understanding of ethical concerns and health and safety issues that might be involved.
- Provide students with the skills needed to develop, market and manage a freelance career in the arts and entertainment industry.
- Enable students to pursue a career in the arts and entertainment industry.

Section D - Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course students are able to:

Knowledge of and Understanding through:

- LO1 Apply a range of contemporary acting methods and performing practices to stage and screen performance.
- LO2 Create original performance for live, recorded and digital forms (includes devising and writing).
- LO3 Collaborate on the creation, development, organisation and management of live and recorded performances.
- LO4 Experiment with highly developed and wide ranging acting and performance skills.
- LO5 Critical articulation of ideas and practices.
- LO6 Analyse the historical development of acting for stage and screen.
- LO7 Investigate practitioners and acting related issues.
- LO8 Research the theory and practice of acting and performance.
- LO9 Critically engage with a range of texts related to live and recorded work.

Application of technical and professional skills and working standards:

- | | |
|------|--|
| LO10 | Use a range of technology to enhance performance, marketing and communication. |
| LO11 | Reflect on and evaluate personal performance. |
| LO12 | Demonstrate a high level of professional & personal skills and industry knowledge. |

Section E - Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and Teaching Strategy

The course recognises that student learning, whilst rooted in the practical and technical skills associated with acting and performance, will also need to equip students with the technological and business skills that they will need to build and sustain a career in the future. To this end the learning and teaching strategy for the course seeks to embed these technological skills from the beginning of their studies.

Students will be required to:

- Record, edit and upload video and audio content
- Create and maintain a blog/vlog and eventually a web presence
- Stream live content

Students will be taught through a variety of methods, these include:

- Practical technique classes
- Technical workshops
- Group tutorials
- Individual tutorials
- Lectures
- Seminars
- Field/theatre trips
- Preparation for performances

Assessment Strategy

Students will be assessed through a variety of means these include:

- Student vlogs (video blogs)
- Critical reflection (via a platform for recorded material such as Acclaim)
- Performance exercises
- Group projects
- Individual projects
- Peer and self-assessment
- Dissertation or research informed practice
- Essays
- Films and filmed performances
- Presentations
- Public Performances
- Personal development/business planning
- Viva Voce

All units have formative assessments points; these enable students to receive written or verbal feedback on their progress to date and are designed to help them understand how they are performing and what they need to do to improve their performance before their final or summative assessment point.

Section F - Enhancing the Quality of Learning and Teaching

The course is subject to the University's rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and internal peer review of the course at periodic intervals, normally of 5 years. This process ensures that the course engages with the applicable national Subject Benchmarks and references the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

All courses are monitored on an annual basis where consideration is given to:

- External Examiner's Reports
- Key statistics including data on retention and achievement
- Results of the Student Satisfaction Surveys
- Feedback from Student Course Representatives