

UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION FOR:

BA (HONS) ACTING

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION [ACADEMIC YEAR 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.

Section A – Material Course Information

Validating Body	University for the Creative Arts ¹		
Teaching Body	University for the Creative Arts		
Final Award Title and Type	BA (Hons)		
Course Title	Acting		
Course Location and Length	Campus: Rochester	Length: Full time 3 Years	
Mode of Study	Full-time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-time
Period of Validation	2019/20 to 2023/24		
Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body	Not applicable		
Type of Accreditation	Not applicable		
Accreditation due for renewal	Not applicable		
Entry criteria and requirements ²			
<p>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 to apply.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>* To see the accepted QCF qualifications, visit: http://uca.ac.uk/study/accepted-qualifications/</i></p> <p><i>**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.</i></p> <p>Your portfolio</p>			

¹ Regulated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England

² This should be the standard University Criteria unless otherwise approved by the Academic Board and include UCAS entry profile for undergraduate courses.

For this course, there's an audition stage to the application process. 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 (for a maximum of two minutes); either: a short piece of contemporary text (perhaps written by you), a movement piece or a comedy.

Overall methods of assessment ³	Written exams:	Practical exams:	Coursework:
Stage 1	0%	0%	100%
Stage 2	0%	0%	100%
Stage 3	0%	2.5%	97.5%
Overall Learning & Teaching hours ⁴	Scheduled:	Independent:	Placement:
Stage 1	45.5%	54.5%	0%
	546 hours	654 hours	0 hours
Stage 2	45.5%	54.5%	0%
	546 hours	654 hours	0 hours
Stage 3	32.3%	67.7%	0%
	388 hours	812 hours	0 hours
General level of staff delivering the course ⁵	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: Dance, Drama and Performance 2015			
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)			

The course structure

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:

- Rules for progression between the stages of a course;

³ As generated by the most popular unit descriptors and calculated for the overall course stage data.

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

⁵ Include general information about the experience or status of the staff involved in delivering the course, for example Professor, Course Leader, Senior Lecturer

- Consequences of failure for reassessment, compensation and exit awards;
- Calculation and classification of awards;

Unit codes and titles	Level	Credit value	Elective/ Core	Most popular student choice of optional elective units or elective options in core units?
Year/Stage 1				
RACT4004 Performance Skills 1	4	40	Core	
RACT4005 Screen Performance	4	20	Core	
RACT4001 Approaches to Performance	4	20	Core	
RACT4002 Cracking Shakespeare	4	20	Core	
RACT4003 Devising and Physical Theatre	4	20	Core	
Year/Stage 2				
RACT5004 Performance Skills 2	5	40	Elective	Yes
RACT5001 American Classics	5	20	Core	
RACT5005 Serials and Soaps	5	20	Core	
RACT5002 Improvisation & Comedy	5	20	Core	
RACT5003 Making it "reel"	5	20	Core	
RACT5006 Performance Skills 2 (Incoming Study Abroad)	5	20	Elective	No
RACT5007 Performance Skills 2 (Outgoing Study Abroad)	5	40	Elective	No
Year/Stage 3				
RACT6004 Performance	6	60	Core	
RACT6003 Practice as Research	6	30	Elective	Yes
RACT6005 Professional Development	6	30	Core	
RACT6001 Dissertation	6	30	Elective	No
RACT6002 Combined Dissertation/ Critical Reflection	6	30	Elective	No

Section B - Course Overview

The BA (Hons) Acting course in Rochester is one of the first of its kind to give you the dexterity to work as the performer of the future, who can work on screen, in the theatre, as a presenter, a performer, at festivals, live venues and across social media. The mix of skills, both traditional and contemporary, is designed to develop an entrepreneurial and dextrous creative practitioner, with a breadth of knowledge and skills with which to negotiate a career in acting and performance.

The course will introduce you to a variety of techniques for camera and live work, with a breadth of study including screen performance, physical performance, comedy and presenting. From the start you will work with experts who will share their knowledge of the industry and help you to develop your unique skills in performing to audiences and in television studios. Alongside those skills you will learn how to use cameras to record, edit, produce and upload performance work. You will work as part of a creative community which will expand opportunities to develop ideas with students on television production courses, animation, games design, music and design for theatre, film and performance.

Rochester, with its historical connection to Dickens and Chatham with its naval history and dock yards offers a rich cultural setting for the course, with a range of local venues for putting on performances as well as good rail links to London and its theatres.

Defining features of the course:

- Emphasis on practical experience: in the rehearsal room, studio and on location.
- Recorded voice & screen performance skills: This includes “self-tapes” and screen auditions, the emphasis in Rochester is on TV rather than film.
- Presenting: as an aspect of performance, unique to Rochester
- Up to date movement and vocal techniques: appropriate to a range of performance styles.
- Focus on how to get work seen: making and finding an audience for recorded and/or live pieces
- Interrogation of contemporary practitioners: on-line, small screen, plays, films, performances and practitioners.
- Public performances and screenings: to display the work made.
- Marketing and managing: the business aspects of a career in performance.

Section C - Course Aims

The course aims to equip you with a range of professional performing practices, skills and knowledge. Graduates should leave the course as independent learners, with entrepreneurial and creative skills as well as technical ability.

The course aims to:

- Enhance your ability to embrace professional performing practices in live, recorded and digital forms including presenting
- Enable your highly developed creative and imaginative skills to work in interdisciplinary and collaborative ways
- Develop your 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.
- Develop your advanced critical engagement with the historical and theoretical development of theatre and screen performance
- Transform your ability to investigate an issue, concern, practice or theory of an acting, theatre or screen related topic through extensive and sustained research and an extended piece of writing

- Provide you with the skills needed to develop, market and manage a freelance career in the arts and entertainment industry, including presenting
- Enable you to pursue a career in the arts and entertainment industry.

Section D - Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course students are able to:

Application:

LO1 Apply a range of contemporary performance methods and 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 performance skills including presenting

Knowledge:

LO5 Use academic writing skills and apply academic conventions

LO6 Analyse the historical development of performance for stage and screen

LO7 Investigate practitioners and performance related issues

LO8 Research the theory and practice of performance, especially TV, physical theatre and comedy

Understanding:

LO9 Critically engage with a range of texts related to live and recorded work

LO10 Use a range of technology to enhance performance, marketing and communication

LO11 Reflect on and evaluate personal performance

LO12 Demonstrate a high-level professional, personal skills and industry knowledge

Section E - Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and Teaching Strategy

The course recognises that 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 to the web/a recognised platform.
- Create and maintain a Vlog (Video Blog)/and or web presence
- Understand workflows for the publishing of web content

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

- Practical classes
- Technical workshops
- Group tutorials
- Individual tutorials
- Lectures
- Seminars
- Field/theatre trips
- Rehearsals and other preparation for performances

Assessment Strategy

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

- Student Vlogs
- Critical reflection via a recognised platform
- Performances and 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 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