

Programme Specification

BA Acting & Performance

For students entering Part 1 in September 2026

UCAS Code: W410

UFAAXPF

UFAAXPFPE

UFAAXPFSY

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Acting & Performance with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Acting & Performance with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Dance, Drama and Performance

Programme information and content

The programme aims to develop students' critical, practical and historical understanding of modern theatre as a cultural form, alongside developing their practical acting skills and competencies. Students will become familiar with the varied achievements of theatre and acting practitioners, developing critical skills through close study of plays and theatre performances, underpinned by debates and theories which have influenced the analysis of theatre, performance and actor training. Students also undertake practical acting work, closely informed by critical issues ('critical practice'), which is designed both to extend understanding of performance possibilities and to develop appropriate practical expertise in different performance modes. Some modules across the programme will have teaching and learning delivered/supported by professional practitioners and associated theatre companies to develop the students' professional readiness and acting skills. Through the combination of theoretical understanding and developing embodied knowledge, students apply their creativity to theatre, acting and performance work that responds to global ideas and issues (including the social, historical and environmental contexts of theatre and acting).

Part 1:	Introduces you to the academic study of theatre and performance culture across a range of approaches and practices, instilling foundational terminology and key disciplinary debates. You will engage with your discipline both theoretically/critically and practically, learning the scholarly protocol of formal essay-writing and receiving an induction in the safe and appropriate use of facilities and equipment. Introduction to acting and performance skills (such as characterisation, voice and
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	movement) are developed through studio-based exercises and production contexts.
Part 2:	Provides you with an understanding of theatre and performance culture through the discovery and investigation of particular social/political/environmental issues explored via in-depth discussions across lectures, seminars and workshops. Acting and performance skills are further expanded to different mediums including screen. You will develop your professionalism and expand your career possibilities through working on applied theatre performances in collaboration with a professional theatre company. Part 2 also offers opportunities for study abroad.
Placement/Study abroad year:	Placement Year or Study Abroad Year (or Semester) is available. Students are responsible for sourcing their own Placement if they wish to undertake this option.
Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to gain specialist knowledge in Options closely informed by staff research and advanced practical expertise through the pursuit of sustained and focused acting practice with an emphasis of independent research and enquiry. Career readiness is developed through a London showcase. Capstone projects allow you to apply your learning from earlier parts of the programme to a large-scale production for a public audience.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Acting & Performance

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Explore and evaluate the relationship between theatre and social, political, cultural, historical and ecological practices. Critically assess and reflect on your own practice within these broader contexts, particularly in relation to equity, inclusion, and sustainability.
2	Analyse the relationship between historical and contemporary theatre forms and practices and reflect on how these connect to broader debates and challenges within the field, including those surrounding institutional inequality, sustainability and professional careers.
3	Devise and create critically informed practice independently, autonomously and collaboratively in groups, integrating diverse perspectives.
4	Develop and apply embodied competencies in multiple acting (and related) skills and techniques to a wide range of performance, actor training and theatre contexts.

5	Apply critical analysis and creativity by experimenting with diverse acting approaches and taking calculated creative risks. Express your critical understanding of relevant issues through practical and written forms.
6	Describe and develop key skills in taking responsibility, decision-making and working autonomously to adapt to the evolving landscape of the performance industry.
7	Integrate your practice and skills into professional industry contexts and standards by adapting to diverse performance environments (e.g. site-specific, immersive, digital immersive and verbal theatres) while applying principles of equality, diversity and inclusion.
8	Exhibit professional, ethical and flexible behaviours across diverse performance and training settings by engaging in reflective practice and articulating the significance of managing personal and professional development.
9	Design, undertake and present research, including integrating practice-based and theoretical methodologies, appropriate to the discipline of theatre and performance.
10	Deploy effective communication skills, demonstrating clarity, sensitivity and creativity in conveying information, ideas and practice across a range of contexts and formats.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes	
Study Abroad	
By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution.	
Placement	
By the end of the Placement Year Programme, students will have explored and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.	

Module information
Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.
Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FT1ATP	Analysing Theatre and Performance	20	4
FT1DP	Devising Performance: Politics and Citizenship	20	4
FT1ITA	Introduction to Acting 1: Voice & the Body	20	4
FT1ITAI	Introduction to Acting 2: Text & Performance	20	4
FT1ITS	Introduction to Scriptwriting	20	4
FT1STA	Staging Texts: Production Skills, Design and Performance	20	4

Students with English as an additional language who enter the programme with IELTS (or equivalent) below 7.0 will be required to take an additional non-credit-bearing language course provided via the Academic English Programme.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FT2AFS	Acting for Screen	20	5
FT2DIR	Directing and Dramaturgy	20	5
FT2IPC	Identity, Performance and Culture	20	5
FT2PPP	Performance Production	40	5

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Film, Theatre and Television, with up to 20 credits of modules permitted from elsewhere in the University.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FT2SAY	Study Aboard Year	120	5
OR			
FT2PPY	Professional Placement Year	120	5

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FT3FAP	Final Production (Acting)	40	6
FT3PACT	The Professional Actor: Stage and Screen	20	6

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Film, Theatre and Television, with up to 20 credits of modules permitted from elsewhere in the University.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through lectures, seminars, supervision tutorials, and practical workshops and tutorials, independent rehearsals and screenings, using our specialist equipment and facilities. Several practical modules will include group work. Field trips, theatre visits and masterclasses from visiting practitioners and guest speakers will form core elements of the T&L offer.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through coursework, including presentations, practical skills assessment including live performance, group work, essays and short written exercises. Other forms, such as video essays, creative projects, learning journals, script reports and film/tv/theatre reviews may also be used. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students are able to transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to:

- Meeting the University Threshold Standard at the end of Part 1; and
- Achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules (e.g., 2 x 20 credit modules) in the subject to which they wish to transfer; and
- Meeting any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

NB Students taking a Major/Minor programme may only transfer to a Single Honours programme in the Major subject and must meet the above requirements.

Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Students who transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
 - (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
 - (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits.
- (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree).

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including study abroad

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the Assessment Handbook under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

You will incur costs for theatre, cinema and/or gallery trips linked to Department modules and module assessments. These visits are an essential and very enjoyable part of your studies. We recommend that you budget between £100 to £120 for this per year. We secure discounted tickets in good seats through group booking, and travel costs can be significantly reduced by booking well in advance, travelling off-peak, and using Group Travel discounts and a 16-25 rail card. To help reduce costs, we also include visits to venues in Reading and Oxford as well as London where appropriate, and we invite practitioners to the department to perform/exhibit work and hold workshops and master classes for our students.

You are not required to purchase any practical equipment, as the Department provides the necessary equipment and facilities. If you require specialist materials for practical work, a technician will source this for you, following consultation with the relevant academic member of staff.

You will incur costs for the purchase of some textbooks and/or playtexts. We recommend that you budget between £40 to £70 for this per year. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library and through the Department of Film, Theatre & Television.

If you partake in Study Abroad you should expect to pay for services which you would normally expect to pay for at Reading e.g. housing, food, travel, social activities, etc.

Additional costs will vary depending on the host institution and location. Please see the Study Abroad website for further details.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2025.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Acting & Performance for students entering Part 1 in session 2026/27

4 August 2025

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