

## Programme Specification

### BA Theatre & Performance

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UCAS Code: W400

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**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 Theatre & Performance with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Theatre & Performance with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A

### Programme information and content

The central aim of the programme is to develop students' critical, practical and historical understanding of modern theatre as a cultural form. Students will become familiar with the varied achievements of theatre practitioners, developing critical skills through close study of plays and theatre performances, underpinned by debates and theories which have influenced the analysis of theatre and performance. Students also undertake practical work, closely informed by critical issues ('critical practice'), which is designed both to extend understanding of how theatre creates meaning, and to develop appropriate practical expertise. Students can also select optional modules which allow them to situate their study of theatre in relation to film or television forms and practices, permitting the exploration of how key concepts such as performance and genre are inflected across different mediums.

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. Students engage with their 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.
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Part 2:	Provides you with an understanding of theatre and performance culture through the discovery and investigation of particular issues explored via in-depth discussions across lectures, seminars and workshops. Students also begin their process of specialization in theatre practice, leading to an increasingly confident use of specialist theatre-making facilities and equipment. Part 2 also offers opportunities for study abroad and work-based learning.
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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 theatre-making practice with an emphasis of independent research and enquiry.
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**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
FT1ITS	Introduction to Scriptwriting	20	4
FT1RFT	Radical Forms in Theatre and Performance	20	4
FT1STA	Staging Texts: Production Skills, Design and Performance	20	4

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

Students with English as a second 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
FT2IPC	Identity, Performance and Culture	20	5

Students must select 40 credits of practical project modules. if they do not wish to continue with group practical work beyond Part 1 they should select an alternative project module.

Students must select an additional 40 credits of practical modules in theatre and performance.

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Film, Theatre and Television. Up to 20 credits may be selected from modules available elsewhere in the University, subject to the approval of the Programme Director.

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

Students on one of the 4 year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Work Experience or Study Abroad.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year

programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

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

### **Part 3 Modules:**

Students must select either a 40 credit practical project, a 40 credit dissertation or a 40 credit creative research project.

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Film, Theatre and Television. Up to 20 credits may be selected from modules available elsewhere in the University, subject to the approval of the Programme Director.

### **Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. 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.

### **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. We recommend that you budget between £70 to £100 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 Erasmus and 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.

The estimates were calculated in 2022.

### **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.

### **Teaching and learning delivery:**

You will be taught through lectures, seminars, supervision tutorials and, depending on your specialization and module choices, practical workshops and tutorials using our specialist equipment and facilities.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 492 hours, Part 2 - 396 hours, Part 3 - 324 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module 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

The programme will be predominantly assessed through coursework. Depending on your module choices and specialization, coursework may include essays and other forms of writing (such as blogs), practical work accompanied by documentation, videographic criticism, and presentations which may be accompanied by reflective reports.

### **Progression**

The University-wide rules relating to ‘threshold performance’ as follows

#### *Part 1*

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

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

- (iii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in 40 credits of compulsory modules in Film, Theatre & Television at Part 1 (FT1ATP, and either FT1STA or FT1DP or FT1ITS or FT1RFT).

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.

#### *Part 2*

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

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **3 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **4 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/work placement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

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.

### **Classification**

Bachelors’ degrees

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

Mark	Interpretation
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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 professional/work placement or study abroad:*

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

**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 Theatre & Performance for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24

10 October 2022

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