

Programme Specification

Programme Title: FdA Performing Arts

Awarding Institution:	The University of Bolton		
Teaching Institution:	Bradford College		
Division and/or School/Institute:	Art and Creative Industries		
Professional accreditation	Professional body	Professional body URL	Status of graduates
None associated with this programme			
Final award(s):	Foundation Degree (FdA)		
Exit or Fallback award(s)	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)		
Programme title(s)	Performing Arts		
HECoS Code	100071		
University Course Code(s)	PFFB002 - Full time PFFB002 - Part time		
QAA Benchmark Statement(s)	<p>The following benchmark statements apply to this programme:</p> <p>The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, Subject Benchmark Statement: Dance, Drama and Performance</p>		
Other internal and external reference points	<p>The Quality Assurance Agency - The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies</p> <p>The Quality Assurance Agency - Characteristics Statement Foundation Degree</p>		
Language of study	English		
Mode of study and normal period of study	Full time - two years Part time - four years		
Admissions criteria			
<p>80 UCAS points or equivalent from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A BTEC or UAL Level 3 qualification in Performing Arts • A GCE Advanced Level profile that demonstrates strong performance in a relevant subject or adequate performance in more than one GCE subject. This profile is likely to be supported by GCSE grades at A* to C (9-4) (or equivalent) 			

- Other related Level 3 qualifications
- An Access to Higher Education Diploma awarded by an approved institution or provider
- Related work experience
- An international equivalent of the above.

Additional Criteria

Non-standard applicants will be required to produce evidence of their ability to study at the Higher Education level. Short-course and relevant work experience may be taken into account. Non-standard applicants will be interviewed and may be required to complete a piece of written work as part of their application. Claims for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) are welcomed by the College. Students should consult the admissions tutor if they wish to claim such recognition.

Additional admissions matters

Applicants will be invited to an audition and will be expected to perform a prepared piece, such as a classical or contemporary monologue, to ensure their performance work is at an appropriate level.

A DBS check and certificate will be required in order to complete the mandatory module Teaching in the Creative Arts. This will allow students to work in a number of learning environments with both children and vulnerable adults.

International students are additionally required to achieve an overall score of 5.5 (with each subset no lower than 5.5) in IELTS. Please consult the admissions department for further details.

Fitness to practise declaration

N/A

Aims of the programme

The principal aims of the programme are to:

- provide an educational foundation for a range of creative careers in the Performing Arts, such as performing, teaching, writing, directing, producing and promotion.
- provide you with work-based experience that explores the performing arts
- develop your knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with your area(s) of study, and an ability for you to evaluate and engender a professional approach to performance
- enable you to present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of your subject(s) of study
- develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attributes essential for successful performance in your professional working life
- provide specialised studies directly relevant to pathways in which you intend to seek employment (Acting, Musical Theatre)

Distinctive features of the programme

- The programme is delivered by experienced practicing Performing Arts professionals and academics, all of whom have a wide range of skills and relevant industry experience in Theatre. They are working professionals in the local industry with experience of styles from Shakespeare to live art and have created work which has been performed internationally.
- The programme encompasses a broad range of learning and teaching opportunities in Performing Arts, including conceptual, technical and commercial areas.
- The programme builds on your previous learning and experience, giving you the opportunity to produce work of a professional standard within your Performing Arts specialism.
- The programme prepares you for the reality of a challenging and competitive industry. It gives you a range of experiences and roles to fully prepare you for a portfolio career in the Performing Arts, such as workshop leading, writing, accounting, directing, producing, media production and promotion.
- The department has significant partnerships with local venues, companies and organisations to ensure that professional experience is embedded within your programme.
- The programme provides the opportunity to work collaboratively across different disciplines, creating a professional and vocational experience.
- Students in their final year will perform in an individual project which they plan and organise and invite industry professionals. This potentially gives students the opportunity to meet and perform in front of agents and casting directors as well as other industry contacts, possibly in an external venue.
- The College was the first FE/HE provider to be a Lead Associate School of The Royal Shakespeare Company which gives students the opportunity to work directly with the RSC and be involved in their projects and workshops and even deliver their content.
- The department is fully equipped with industry standard equipment and facilities including two performance spaces. Both the Lister drama studio and The Spinning Shed Theatre space are equipped with a full lighting rig, sprung dance floor and PA.
- The programme offers a range of opportunities to enhance your learning. For example, overseas trips, visiting guest lecturers, live performance opportunities and professional commissions.
- The department offers you a high level of pastoral and academic support with accessible and helpful tutors.
- The College is committed to working in partnership with students - recognising the importance of the student voice and providing regular and timely informal and formal feedback to all students to support their learning experience and development as a practitioner.

Programme learning outcomes
<p>K. Knowledge and understanding On completion of the programme successful students will be able to demonstrate systematic knowledge and understanding of:</p>
K1. the theoretical and cultural frameworks that surround and have surrounded the performing arts
K2. the interplay between practice and theory of performance.
K3. the creative process when effecting the transition from stimulus to performance
K4. the differing demands of live and recorded performance
K5. gathering, organising, synthesising and assimilating information from a variety of sources to fully inform the processes of research, self-evaluation and critical analysis.
<p>C. Cognitive, intellectual or thinking skills On completion of the programme successful students will be able to demonstrate the ability to:</p>
C1. differentiate between complex issues and arguments and communicate this understanding in a range of different forms of presentation.
C2. apply innovative approaches within their work and be willing to take creative risks.
C3. employ research skills and an understanding of issues surrounding validity and reliability of sources.
C4. exemplify independence of thought with regards to both practical and theoretical approaches.
C5. justify and appraise own creative processes.
<p>P. Practical, professional or subject-specific skills On completion of the programme successful students will be able to demonstrate the ability to</p>
P1. understand core skills when realising a performance.
P2. select and engage with appropriate techniques to ensure that rehearsals and performances function safely, creatively and professionally.
P3. produce work confidently to a wide range of audiences, be it in live or recorded media or in electronic or written forms.
P4. apply highly effective interpersonal and social skills to ensure excellent communication and maintain professional working relationships.
P5. employ the entrepreneurial and self-motivational skills required of a professional freelance career in the theatre and its allied industries.
<p>T. Transferable, key or personal skills On completion of the programme successful students will be able to demonstrate the ability to:</p>
T1. employ time-management skills and reliability, making the most of every opportunity and ensuring consistency of achievement.
T2. apply organisational skills, such as initiating opportunities and ensuring their smooth running.

T3. apply problem-solving skills (reacting to new situations; decoding information and ideas; dealing with complex situations; finding ways of working with others under pressure).

T4. produce a creative project from conception through to delivery.

T5. construct and sustain logical arguments on a variety of performing arts topics, and to write and present them in clear and accurate English.

T6. appraise self-management, self-promotion, interpersonal and other employability skills necessary for successful employment and self-employment in the performing arts profession.

Programme structure

Students choose one of two optional Specialist Units in semester one, Acting or Musical Theatre; this determines the route they are taking on the programme.

The optional units are assessed against a Musical Theatre Production and an Acting Performance, depending on the route chosen.

Full-Time route

Year 1

Semester 1	Semester 2
Performance Project 1	Screen Acting
Specialist Skill 1 (Acting) OR Specialist Skill 1 (Musical Theatre)	
Teaching in the Creative Arts	
Creative Industries Context	

Year 2

Semester 1	Semester 2
Performance Project 2	Content Creation
Creative Industries Professional Practice and Entrepreneurship	
Specialist Skill 2 (Acting) OR Specialist Skill 2 (Musical Theatre)	
Work-based Experience	

Part Time Route - 4 years

Year 1

Semester 1	Semester 2
Specialist Skill 1 (Acting) OR Specialist Skill 1 (Musical Theatre)	
Creative Industries Context	

Year 2	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Performance Project 1	Screen Acting
Teaching in The Creative Arts	

Year 3	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Creative Industries Professional Practice and Entrepreneurship	
Specialist Skill 2 (Acting) OR Specialist Skill 2 (Musical Theatre)	

Year 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Performance Project 2	Content Creation
Work-based Experience	

Module Code	Module title	Core/ Option (C/O)	Credits	Length (1, 2 or 3 periods)
MUB40013	Creative Industries Context	C	20	Sem 1+2
MUB40033	Teaching in the Creative Arts	C	20	Sem 1+2
MUB40031	Specialist Skill 1 (Acting)	O	30	Sem 1+2
MUB40032	Specialist Skill 1 (Musical Theatre)	O	30	Sem 1+2
MUB40029	Performance Project 1	C	30	Sem 1
TBC	Screen Acting	C	20	Sem 2
MUB50014	Creative Industries Professional Practice and Entrepreneurship	C	20	Sem 1+2
MUB50036	Work-based Experience	C	20	Sem 1+2
MUB50032	Content Creation	C	20	Sem 2
MUB50033	Performance Project 2	C	30	Sem 1
MUB50034	Specialist Skill 2 (Acting)	O	30	Sem 1+2
MUB50035	Specialist Skill 2 (Musical Theatre)	O	30	Sem 1+2

Learning and teaching strategies

The course encourages your learning through participation in a wide variety of activities including lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, rehearsals, blogs and journals, group discussion, collaborative learning and peer assessment.

The course is vocational and as a result practical work will be intensive. However, there is also a need to prepare for these classes with research, text analysis, practice and preparation for rehearsal. This will be done both in theory classes and by students in their own time in-between sessions.

Much of the learning in class is supported by considerable research, reflection and evaluation away from class. The course requires considerable stamina and continued application.

The Work-Based experience unit will see you work with an external employer or with our graduate production company to produce a commission. This gives students a vital grounding in the reality of working in the performing arts industry. There will be a work placement (40 hours minimum) and this could be over a number of weeks, as part of day release, or in a block. Examples of placement opportunities include a runner on a TV set, an actor with the Graduate Company, an assistant director with at a theatre or a writer with a production company.

As part of the Teaching in the Creative Arts module you will be required to undertake some teaching practice. The minimum requirement is 30 hours and this could be over a number of weeks, partial day release or in a block.

The course emphasises the synthesis between theory and practice, therefore private study (research, reading, essay writing, etc.) is critical to your learning. However there is also practical work, some of which will be tutor led and some of which will be undertaken in your own time.

Learning activities (KIS entry)

Course Year	HE4	HE5
Scheduled learning and teaching activities	34%	34%
Guided independent study	63%	62%
Placement	3%	4%

Assessment strategy

Within each module handbook there is an assessment plan giving you information about when each assignment is handed out and submitted. This also allows you to plan your time and manage your workload effectively.

The format of the work submitted for assessment should reflect what is stated in the module handbook. This could be in the form of an essay, presentation, performance, vlog, blog, viva voce or portfolio. Across the programme a range of assessment formats will be utilised that will reflect the nature of the unit (theory or practical) and to account for different learning styles.

There will be collaborative work with students from your programme and from other areas of the School. The assessment methods for these projects will be in the form of a finished piece of work that is of a professional standard. This could be in the form of a collaborative performance with an accompanying vlog, a recorded performance or live show.

Critical reflection forms a major part of the assessment for all the modules, with the development of portfolios, viva voces, blogs and vlogs providing much of the evidence for your reflection of learning and development.

This project based work allows for formative assessment to be ongoing throughout a module. Your tutors will maintain close contact with you throughout these projects, giving evidence for both formative and summative assessment whilst the module progresses.

Assessment methods (KIS entry)

Course Year	HE4	HE5
Written exams	0%	0%
Coursework	35.0%	41.7%

Practical	65.0%	58.3%
-----------	-------	-------

Assessment regulations

Assessment Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes apply to this programme.

Regulations can be found at: <https://www.bolton.ac.uk/assets/Uploads/student-policy-zone-24-25/Assessment-Regulations-for-Undergraduate-Programmes-2024-25-V10.pdf>

Grade bands and classifications

Foundation Degree

Grade	Mark
Distinction	70%-100%
Merit	60%-69%
Pass	40%-59%

Role of external examiners

External examiners are appointed for all programmes of study. They oversee the assessment process and their duties include: approving assessment tasks, reviewing assessment marks, attending assessment boards and reporting to the University on the assessment process.

Support for student learning

There are many support networks in place across the college and the students are introduced to these during the induction process. This includes access to student support services which ensure that help is available for students with any learning difficulties or disabilities. The College is committed to promoting equality and diversity in all aspects of student life, ensuring that everyone is treated in a fair and consistent manner throughout their time on the programme. Further information is included in the Programme and Student handbooks which list the support available in more detail.

Programme Level:

Students are given an induction in which they are introduced to the programme, facilities and the tutors on the programme. They are presented with a programme handbook which outlines specific information including module specifications and broader subjects including email addresses and contact numbers for the various services that the college provides. There will be an introduction to the programme identifying Level 4 and 5 expectations and any impact this has on the completion of work and assessment.

Students will receive one individual tutorial per semester to track their progress on the programme and discuss any issues regarding their studies. Further tutorials are available upon request. There are systems in place to account for any difficulties that students might encounter on the programme, including the option to apply for mitigating circumstances and extensions to deadlines.

Methods for evaluating and enhancing the quality of learning opportunities

- Student Staff programme committees
- Focus groups
- Module reviews by staff and students
- Student Experience Surveys
- Annual quality monitoring and action planning through the Annual Monitoring Reports and Panels
- Student Councils
- Peer review/observation of teaching
- Professional development programme for staff – REBEL
- External Examiner reports
- Quality Improvement Plan

Other sources of information

- Student Handbook - <https://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/HE-Student-Handbook-2024-2025-Final.pdf>
- VLE - Moodle - <https://moodle.bradfordcollege.ac.uk>
- Student Portal - <https://learnerportal.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/>
- Library Services - <https://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/student-services/library-services>
- Student Services - <https://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/support/students/student-services/>
- Careers Advice - <https://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/about-us/careers-advice/>
- Disability Support - <https://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/support/parents-carers-schools/send-als/>
- Finance Support - <https://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/support/financial-support/>
- Study Skills Support - <https://library.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/c.php?q=663616>
- IT Support - <https://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/support/students/it-support/>
- Student Carer Support - <https://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/support/students/support-for-student-carers/>
- Students' Union - <https://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/support/students/students-union/>

Document control

Author(s)	
Approved by:	
Date approved:	

Effective from:	Academic Year 2024/25
Document History:	

Learning Outcomes Map (*D – Developed; T – Taught; A – Assessed*)

Module title	Module Code	Status C/O	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6
Creative Industries Context	MUB40013	C	TDA			T	T	TDA	T	TDA							TDA		TDA	T		TDA	
Teaching in the Creative Arts	MUB40033	C	TDA				T	TDA	TD	TDA		TD				TDA	TDA	TDA	TDA	T		TDA	TDA
Specialist Skill 1 (Acting)	MUB40031	O		DT	T	TDA	TDA		TDA		T	T	T	TDA	T	T		TDA		T	T	T	TDA
Specialist Skill 1 (Musical Theatre)	MUB40032	O		DT	T	TDA	TDA		TDA		T	T	T	TDA	T	T		TDA		T	T	T	TDA
Performance Project 1	MUB40029	C		TDA	TDA	TD	TD	TD	TD		TA	TDA	TDA	TDA	TDA	TD	TD	TD	TD	TDA	TDA		D
Screen Acting	TBC	C		TDA	TDA	TDA	TDA		TDA	TDA	TA	D	TDA		TDA	TD		TD	TD	TDA	TDA		D

Module title	Module Code	Status C/O	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6
Creative Industries Professional Practice and Entrepreneurship	MUB50014	C	DA			T	DA	TD	TD	DA							D	DA		DA		DA	DA
Work-based Experience	MUB50036	C	DA				DA		TD	TD						DA	DA	DA	DA	A		DA	DA
Content Creation	MUB50032	C		DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	TD	TDA	DA		TD		TD	DA		
Performance Project 2	MUB50033	C		DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA		DA	DA	DA	DA	TDA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA		DA
Specialist Skill 2 (Acting)	MUB50034	O		DA	DA	TD	TD		TD		TD	DA	TD	DA	TD	TD		TD		TD	TD	TD	TD
Specialist Skill 2 (Musical Theatre)	MUB50035	O		DA	DA	TD	TD		TD		TD	DA	TD	DA	TD	TD		TD		TD	TD	TD	TD

K. Knowledge and understanding P. Practical, professional and subject specific skills C. Cognitive, Intellectual and thinking skills T. Transferable, key or personal skills

Module Listing and Assessments Map

Module title	Module Code	New? ✓	Level	Credits	Type	Core/Option /Elective C/O/E	Pre-requisite Module	Assessment 1			Assessment 2		
								Assessment type	Assessment %	Add Y if final item	Assessment type	Assessment %	Add Y if final item
Creative Industries Context	MUB40013	N	4	20	Standard	C	N	Practical (Presentation)	30	N	Coursework (Essay)	70	Y
Teaching in the Creative Arts	MUB40033	✓	4	20	Placement	C	N	Coursework (Essay)	40	N	Practical (Delivery)	60	Y
Specialist Skill 1 (Acting)	MUB40031	✓	4	30	Practical	O	N	Coursework (Reflection)	20	N	Practical (Recording)	80	Y
Specialist Skill 1 (Musical Theatre)	MUB40032	✓	4	30	Practical	O	N	Coursework (Reflection)	20	N	Practical (Recording)	80	Y
Performance Project 1	MUB40029	✓	4	30	Practical	C	N	Practical (Performance)	60	N	Coursework (Evaluation)	40	Y
Screen Acting	TBC	✓	4	20	Practical	C	N	Practical (Recording)	80	N	Coursework (Viva/reflection)	20	Y

Module title	Module Code	New? ✓	Level	Credits	Type	Core/Option /Elective C/O/E	Pre-requisite Module	Assessment 1			Assessment 2		
Creative Industries Professional Practice and Entrepreneurship	MUB50014	N	5	20	Standard	C	N	Coursework (Portfolio)	100	Y			
Work-based Experience	MUB50036	✓	5	20	Placement	C	N	Coursework (Research)	40	N	Practical (Portfolio)	60	N
Content Creation	MUB50032	✓	5	20	Practical	C	N	Coursework (Essay)	40	N	Practical (Script)	60	Y
Performance Project 2	MUB50033	✓	5	30	Practical	C	N	Practical (Performance)	70	N	Coursework (Evaluation)	30	Y
Specialist Skill 2 (Acting)	MUB50034	✓	5	30	Practical	O	Y	Coursework (Reflection)	20	N	Practical (Recording)	80	Y
Specialist Skill 2 (Musical Theatre)	MUB50035	✓	5	30	Practical	O	Y	Coursework (Reflection)	20	N	Practical (Recording)	80	Y