

# **University of Plymouth**

Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
School of Humanities and Performing Arts

## **Programme Specification**

BA (Hons) Drama and Theatre Practice

**This award incorporates a Foundation Year**

Definitive Document Approved: 9.4.19

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. C. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Implementation Date: September 2019

## 1. Final Award title

**BA (Hons) Drama and Contemporary Theatre Practice**

### **Integrated Foundation Year**

The Foundation year is an integral part of the final award route and is not therefore reflected in the final award title.

**Level 4 Intermediate award:** Certificate of Higher Education in Drama and Theatre Practice

**Level 5 Intermediate award:** Diploma of Higher Education in Drama and Theatre Practice

**UCAS code (s):** W400

**HECOS code:** 100069

2. **Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth

**Teaching institution:** University of Plymouth

3. **Accrediting body(ies):** N/A

Summary of specific conditions/requirements: N/A

Date of last reaccreditation:

## 4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

### **Level 3**

At Level 3, we offer an experiential learning environment with a focus on active exploration, experimentation and discovery across a wide range of techniques, methods and approaches. It offers higher levels of academic and pastoral support to the new students, while simultaneously developing a sense of being part of a wider student community. It offers Level 3 students the benefits of a Higher Education environment through a range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. We aim to provide opportunities for non-standard entry students to embark upon a degree programme.

## **Level 4-6**

- The programme fosters a spirit of curiosity about the role and function of performance from its formal expression in theatre to its occurrence in everyday life.
- A programme that supports diverse learners and enables students to evidence skills and understanding in a variety of different assessment modes
- The programme encourages innovation and produces skilled theatre makers of contemporary live performance and students who have developed their own artistic voice over the three year period of study
- Provides opportunities to study abroad as an exchange student to Universities in Sweden, Canada, America and Lithuania
- Promotes new ways of thinking about performance and offers an approach which is cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary.
- The theatre and performance subject co-ordinates and platforms a rich and diverse performance programme in association with Peninsula Arts , the University's cultural umbrella organisation and also links closely with the regional theatres and arts organisations in Plymouth to create exciting learning and work experience opportunities
- Students on core modules engage in peer mentoring , leading workshops, master classes, practitioner talks and are encouraged to engage with external theatre events and activities to develop their career portfolio
- The programme hosts an employers forum for students to network with employers and artists and showcase their performance work in Plymouth and at other city venues

## **5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)**

Dance, Drama & Performance (2015):

[https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-dance-drama-performance-15.pdf?sfvrsn=8ae2f781\\_10](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-dance-drama-performance-15.pdf?sfvrsn=8ae2f781_10)

## 6. Programme Structure

### LEVEL 3

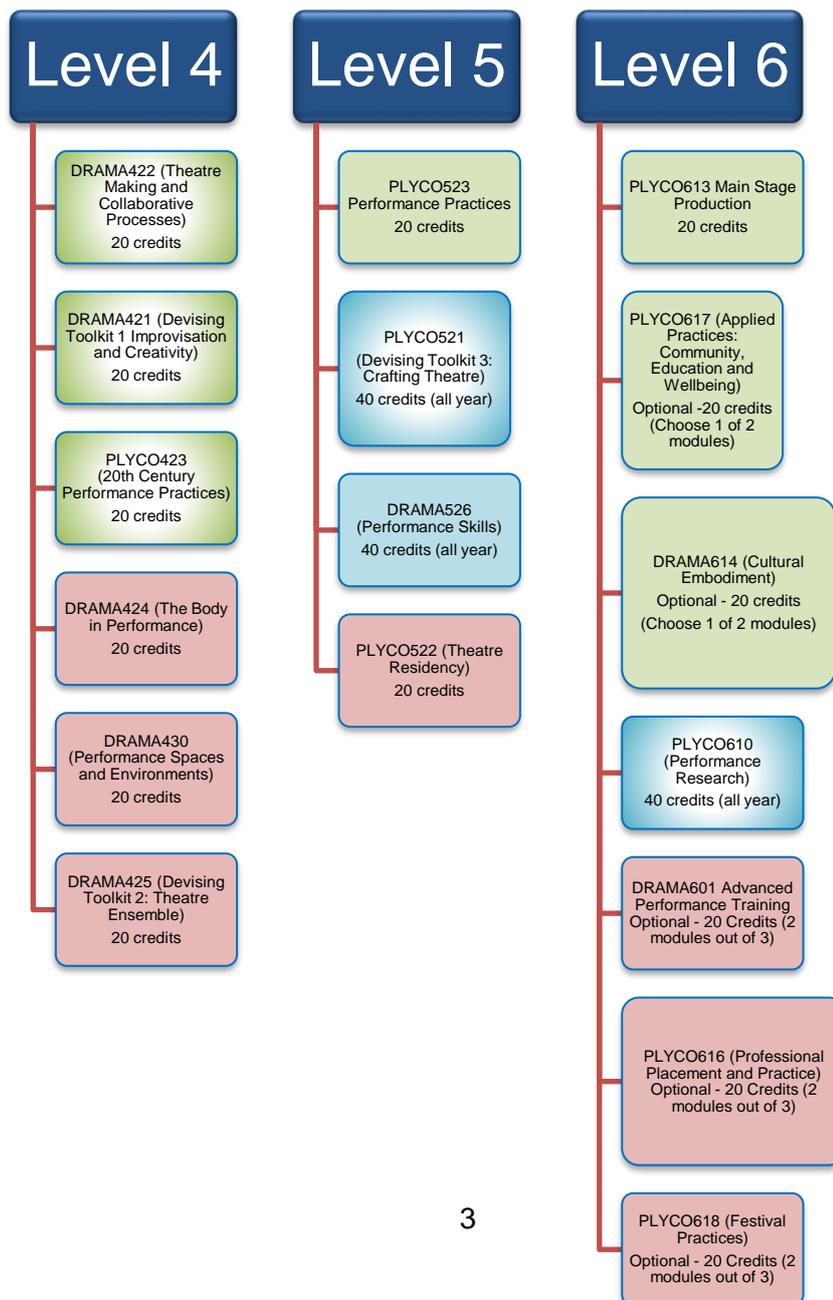
Semester 1	Semester 2
<b>PLYCO001</b> <b>INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF PERFORMANCE</b> (20 credits)	<b>PLYCO005</b> <b>INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b> (20 Credits)
<b>PLYCO003</b> <b>PERFORMANCE MAKING PROCESSES 1</b> (20 credits)	<b>PLYCO004</b> <b>PERFORMANCE MAKING PROCESSES 2</b> (20 credits)
<b>PLYCO002 (40 credits) INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMANCE TRAINING</b>	

KEY:

Green = Semester 1

Red = Semester 2

Blue = All-year modules



## **7. Programme Aims**

### **7.1. Level 3, Foundation Year**

On successful completion of the Foundation year of the programme students should have developed:

1. To provide a supportive and stimulating learning environment to prepare students for the specialist study of drama, theatre and performance.
2. Enable students to develop key learning skills and to build an awareness of practice, context and theory.
3. Provide students with opportunities to experiment and explore a range of methods, techniques and approaches in preparation for further studies.

### **7.2. Level 4-6**

1. To engage students, historically, aesthetically and culturally with the key figures, movements and cross-disciplinary developments of contemporary Western Theatre and Performance
2. To enable students to realise a dynamic relationship between theory and practice and articulate embodied understanding
3. To enable students to consistently reflect upon their academic and professional development
4. To create opportunities for students to engage with models of professional practice and learning outside of the formal curriculum
5. To familiarise students with aspects of the practical experimentation and theoretical arguments occurring within the major strands of World Theatre
6. To develop in students a practical awareness and understanding of the skills, techniques, forms and styles necessary to create effective and innovative theatre and performance
7. To develop students' skills in communication, analysis and research to articulate a critical understanding of key aspects of theatre and performance disciplines
8. To promote the intellectual, creative and personal growth of each student and develop confident and autonomous learners

## **8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes**

### **8.1 Level 3, Foundation Year**

The intended learning outcomes of the Foundation year should be read in conjunction with those of the Level 4-6 award to demonstrate the full scope of the intended study programme.

On successful completion of the Foundation year of the programme students should have developed:

1. A range of critical and analytical study skills to support learning.
2. A knowledge and experience working with a range of methods, techniques, strategies and approaches.
3. An understanding of a range of theoretical, historical and contemporary contexts.
4. An ability to take responsibility for learning and develop the ability to self-manage a programme of study.

## **8.2 Levels 4-6**

### **Knowledge and understanding**

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. (KU 1) Knowledge of the key terminologies, discourses, and theories of 20th and 21st century Western theatre which help to develop a critical practice and develop an understanding of the complex relationship between culture, theatre, politics and ideology.
2. (KU 2) A practical and conceptual awareness of contemporary approaches to making performance and ability to engage with theatre and performance theory and discourses, leading to insight and knowledge gained through the symbiotic relationship between theory and practice
3. (KU 3) A theoretical and practical understanding of the relationship between the major elements of performer, space and spectator and its centrality in all performance and an understanding of the requirement to construct meaning and aesthetic coherence in performance structures and forms

### **Cognitive and intellectual skills**

On successful completion graduates should be able to:

1. (CI 1) the ability to analyse complex concepts and theories and to use this understanding to develop new insight and independent, critical thinking
2. (CI 2) the ability to structure and organise materials effectively and develop intelligent, convincing arguments supported by theoretical and practical knowledge
3. (CI 3) the ability to document and communicate a research process and findings fluently and coherently in appropriate modes.

### **Key transferable skills**

On successful completion graduates should be able to demonstrate:

1. (KT1) evidence a competency in the application of creative, imaginative, practical, critical and analytical skills.
2. (KT2) communicate effectively in writing and orally and adhere to scholarly conventions and utilise reflexive, critical and independent thinking and ability to undertake independent research.
3. (KT3) evidence strong interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively in the group context while still pursuing individual goals

## Employment Related Skills

On successful completion graduates should be able to:

1. (E 1) Skills in self-promotion, networking, flexibility and adaptability, team work and leadership
2. (E 2) The ability to plan, time manage and organise projects with external partners where appropriate to the study
3. (E 3) The confidence and ability to liaise effectively with outside professional arts practitioners and organisations

## Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should be able to:

1. (P 1) their performance skills and individual artistic voice and expression
2. (P 2) utilising practical awareness and application of the inter-relationships between performer, space and elements of design which produce a unified meaning and performance aesthetic
3. (P 3) the ability to devise, structure and refine their own performance materials outcomes and to engage creatively and critically with the skills and processes required in rehearsals and productions

## 9. Admissions Criteria

All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) English at Grade C or above.

International applicants must also satisfy the University's English language requirements as specified at

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/international-students-entry-requirements>

Entry Requirements	
	Foundation Year
A-level/AS-level	For Level 3 entry the Tariff points entry level will normally be 32-48 points from A level or equivalent. Non-standard applicants will normally be interviewed.
BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma	All applications to be referred to the Admissions Tutor
Access to Higher Education at level 3	
Welsh Baccalaureate	Refer to Admissions Tutor
Scottish Qualifications Authority	32-48 points at Advanced Highers – refer to admissions tutor
Irish Leaving Certificate	Irish Highers, H5 in five subjects equivalent to 32-48 points

International Baccalaureate	24 overall – refer to Admissions tutor
Proficiency in English	Students for whom English is an additional language will need to demonstrate ability in spoken and written English equivalent to an IELTS score of 6.0 and/or successfully complete the university's special test before entering the Foundation Year.

## **10. Progression**

### **10.1 Progression criteria for Foundation Year**

Students are required to pass all modules of Level 3 (Foundation Year) to progress to Level 4 of the degree. Requests to change programmes at the end of the Foundation Year will be considered only within the normal University regulations.

Students must achieve 120 credits at level 3 to progress to 4. There is no exit award for those leaving after the Foundation Year.

### **10.2 Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards**

N/A

## **11. Non-standard Regulations**

N/A

## **12. Transitional Arrangements**

N/A

## Appendices

### Programme Specification Mapping (UG) – core/elective modules

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes Map BA (Hons) Drama and Contemporary Theatre Practice		Foundation (Level 3)	
Graduate Attributes and Skills	2	3	4
Core Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (as worded in the Programme Specification) <i>The FHEQ requirements are already given here in italics</i>	Aim	Subject Benchmark (specific reference)	Related Core Modules
<p><i>The student will be able to demonstrate:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of critical and analytical study skills to support learning.</li> <li>• A knowledge and experience working with a range of methods, techniques, strategies and approaches.</li> <li>• An understanding of a range of theoretical, historical and contemporary contexts.</li> <li>• An ability to take responsibility for learning and develop the ability to self-manage a programme of study.</li> </ul>	<p>At level 3 the programme will foster a suitable learning environment to facilitate the success of students from a range of non-standard background, offering bespoke support and skills training.</p>	<p>QAA benchmark describes Honours level (QAA, 2007, ii)</p>	<p>PLYCO001 PLYCO002 PLYCO003 PLYCO004 PLYCO005</p>

**Appendix 1: Programme Specification Mapping (UG): module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes**  
**CORE MODULES: tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes.**

Core Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)															Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1- exam E2 – clinical exam T1- test C1- coursework A1 – generic assessment P1 - practical
		Knowledge & understanding			Cognitive & intellectual skills			Key & transferable skills			Employment related skills			Practical skills				
		1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3		
Level 4	THPF422		X							X				X	X		Y	C1 40%; P1 60%
	PLYCO423	X	X			X			X	X				X	X	X	Y	C1 100%
	THPF421	X								X				X			Y	P1 100%
	THPF424			X	X				X						X		Y	C1 100%
	THPF430		X								X				X		Y	C1 100%
	THPF425	X								X				X			Y	C1 40%; P1 60%
Level 4 LOs		X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X		X	X	X		
Level 5	PLYCO523						X	X							X		Y	C1: 100%
	THPF521					X		X		X				X			N	C1: 100%
	THPF526					X				X				X			N	P1 100%
	PLYCO522		X							X	X		X	X	X	X	Y	P1 100%
Level 5 LOs			X			X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X		
Level 6	PLYCO613		X							X				X	X	X	Y	P1: 100%
	PLYCO610				X	X	X		X								N	C1: 100%
Level 6 LOs			X		X	X	X		X	X				X	X	X		
Confirmed Award LOs		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

**ELECTIVE MODULES: tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes.**

Elective Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)															Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1 - exam E2 - clinical exam T1 - test C1 - coursework A1 - generic assessment P1 - practical					
		Knowledge & understanding				Cognitive & intellectual skills				Key & transferable skills				Employment related skills					Practical skills				
		1	2	3		1	2	3		1	2	3		1	2	3				1	2	3	
Level 6	PLYCO617	X				X		X		X				X	X	X				X		Y	P1: 100%
	THPF614	X						X		X												Y	C1: 100%
	THPF601		X				X			X	X									X		Y	C1 40%; P1 60%
	PLYCO616							X		X				X	X	X						Y	C1: 100%
	PLYCO618			X						X		X		X				X		X		Y	P1 100%
<b>Level 6 LOs</b>		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X			
<b>Confirmed Award LOs</b>		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X			