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If you have any questions about courses, applications or student life at Bristol, please contact the Enquiries Team.

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Dan Rowley, Nick Smith
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Theatre and Performance



Undergraduate study



Courses

Single Honours

BA Theatre and Performance Studies

three years 2Q3W

MArts Theatre with Innovation

four years 2Q50

Joint Honours

BA Theatre and English

three years 4CC8

BA Theatre and Film

three years 4KDU

BA Theatre and French

four years W43F

BA Theatre and German

four years 21C7

BA Theatre and Italian

four years 22FF

BA Theatre and Portuguese

four years R2D8

BA Theatre and Spanish

four years 4D8C

Why study theatre and performance at Bristol?

Bristol has a long history in the innovative study of theatre and performance; our department was the first in the UK to offer a degree in theatre studies. It is a history we are proud of and many have followed our path since. We continue to innovate and you will be taught by leading scholars and practitioners. Theatre and performance at Bristol offers you the chance to study in an environment that has produced some notable alumni, including actor Tim Pigott-Smith, playwrights Sarah Kane and Mark Ravenhill, and RSC Director Gregory Doran.

Theatre and performance studies at Bristol is distinctive for blending study of historical contexts and theoretical perspectives with practice-based activities and investigations. You will be taught via a mixture of lectures, seminars and practical workshops, using our two in-house theatres for your presentations and with access to our museum-accredited theatre archive – The Theatre Collection.

The department has strong links with a wide range of theatres, arts organisations and theatre companies. In your final year you will undertake an independent practical or written research project, as well as having the opportunity to take a work placement.

Besides the core focus on theatre and performance studies, you will also have the opportunity during your time here to contextualise your studies by taking options beyond your department. You may choose to take units in related or broader subject areas or in a foreign language. You will also take part in the Bristol Futures programme, which builds knowledge and experience in the fields of innovation and enterprise, global citizenship and sustainable development.

You may also choose to spend one semester living and studying abroad, an experience which broadens horizons and which employers highly value.

‘My degree helped me to discover myself as someone who is creative and who likes to make things happen; who relishes working responsively and is interested in leadership; who is conceptual but needs to get my hands dirty. The people I met on the course have remained my closest collaborators.’

Kate (BA Drama), Co-artistic director Mayfest/co-director MAYK

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2020. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2019). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study, for the latest updates.

What will you study?

Our BA Theatre and Performance Studies is wide-ranging, allowing you to develop knowledge and skills across a range of areas as you proceed through your degree. The first year is introductory. You will learn how to analyse performance and work with play texts, as well as developing your practical skills in theatre production. What you learn provides a foundation for subsequent years.

In the second and final years you will take a series of units designed to deepen your analytical, critical, practical and historical expertise and skills. You will follow units in Performance Histories and the Politics of Performance.* Alongside these, you can choose from a range of optional units which may include Devised Performance, Early Modern Theatre Practice, Performing the Archive, Applied Theatre, Choreography for Theatre, Melodrama, Popular Performance, Translation and Adaptation, Site Specific Performance, Decolonizing the Stage, Clowning Through History, 18th-century Performance Practices, Interpreting Plays, and Production and Design for Performance.

As part of the final year you will work on realising independent projects. This can take the form of group or individual practical projects, and/or an extended essay or dissertation, and/or an industrial placement. Recent local placement partners have included the Bristol Old Vic, Tobacco Factory, In Between Time festival, Mayfest, Theatre Royal Bath, Travelling Light Theatre and Wise Children. Students have also undertaken placements in San Francisco, New York and Berlin.

Joint honours students spend half their time in the Department of Theatre and the other half in the partner department. If you study theatre and a modern language you will spend your third year abroad and return to Bristol for your fourth and final year of study.

*It is possible that units for future academic years may change, for example due to staff changes or developments in the field. Please see bristol.ac.uk/ug20-theatre for the most up-to-date information.

Founded in 1947, we were the first department in the UK to offer a degree in theatre studies, and we are home to one of the world's largest archives of British theatre history and live art.



Teaching and assessment

Teaching and learning in theatre and performance studies at Bristol provide an education at the forefront of the subject, closely integrated with the acquisition of key skills and attributes sought by employers for a wide range of careers. Our diverse range of assessments ensures that you gain a thorough training in advanced research, source analysis and sharing your findings in a number of ways.

We will ensure that you graduate with experience in formal writing, presentation skills and using digital formats and other media to present knowledge, ideas and arguments. You will be experienced working individually and in groups and in making connections with and communicating to audiences beyond the University.

We use a variety of teaching methods including lectures, seminars and practical workshops. The Wickham Theatre and our smaller, adaptable studio space, the White Theatre, provide teaching, rehearsal and performance spaces for realising the union of theory and practice. Facilities include a design studio and model-making, carpentry and costume workshops. These are facilities that service productions and are themselves specialised teaching areas.

Assessment is by a combination of essays, seminar presentations, practical work, industrial placement and critical analyses.

'This has been my dream course for years. I like the integration between the course material and the city itself, and the passion and personal care that each tutor puts into their work.'

Eleanor (BA Theatre and English)

Careers and graduate destinations

The skills that arts students traditionally bring to the workplace are now, more than ever, valued in every part of the employment market. Our students go on to succeed in careers as diverse as the subjects they study while here – commerce, tech startups, law, accountancy, theatre, museums, publishing, the charity sector, journalism, politics, education and international relations, to name just a few. Arts graduates also go on to work in sectors perhaps not immediately associated with arts disciplines, such as engineering and IT.

To ensure arts graduates stand out to employers, the Bristol Skills Framework enables students to recognise their development in areas such as academic writing, problem solving, group work, and individual and group presenting. We will equip you with the tools to market your skills, your achievement and your potential in whatever career path you choose to pursue after you graduate.

Our students develop transferable skills relevant to a wide range of sectors. Graduates have gone into theatre production, research, broadcasting, arts administration, education, and finance and related business sectors, as well as further study and research.

The department is proud of its many notable alumni, including playwrights David Greig and Laura Wade, actors and comedians Simon Pegg and David Walliams, and directors Jonathan Munby and Matthew Warchus.

Bristol is the second most targeted university by top UK employers.

High Fliers Research 2019

Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2016/17. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired.



Graduate employers
Bristol Old Vic
Elevate Education
Oxford Playhouse
Trinity Community Centre
CMC Markets



Career destinations
Production Assistant
Lighting Technician
Artistic Director
Theatre Aide
Administrator

Making your application

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-theatre for more information about our courses.

Typical offer for BA Theatre and Performance Studies

A-levels AAB (contextual BBB).

IB Diploma 34 points overall (contextual 31) with 17 at Higher Level (contextual 15).

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

Selection process UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-theatre.

Application advice for theatre courses

Our courses are suitable for those with an interest in both practice and theory across a wide range of different kinds of theatre and performance and related arts. Successful candidates will demonstrate a clear commitment to theatre and performance in both an academic context and a creative context, for instance providing evidence of reading or engaging with theatre beyond the A-level syllabus and developing a specialised area of interest.

Candidates should provide evidence of motivation and achievement in some form of theatre and performance beyond the formal syllabus, for example participation in a theatre group or summer school or regularly attending theatre. The appropriateness of the chosen course to your interests and ambitions should also be evident.

Please give close consideration to the choice between the single and joint honours courses; both offer a distinct degree and student experience. The joint honours degrees with English and a modern language offer fewer opportunities for extended practice: you will take mandatory units, but your choice of options will depend on the timetables of your partner department.

Further information

Find out more about the Department of Theatre: bristol.ac.uk/theatre.

This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: bristol.ac.uk/ug20-theatre.



Read more about how we support you when you are here:

bristol.ac.uk/students