Drama, Theatre and Performance Degrees 2020

Where theatre comes to life

lancaster.ac.uk/theatre
Lancaster Arts

The campus is brimming with culture and boasts its own theatre, art gallery and concert series; there’s also a fully equipped, student-run cinema. The Nuffield Theatre is one of the largest professional studio theatres in Europe. It hosts public performances of theatre, contemporary dance and live art from some of the best-known and respected companies from the UK and abroad.

Societies

Lancaster University Theatre Group (LUTG) is one of the biggest and most active societies on campus. It stages at least three shows every term – all directed, produced, managed and performed by students, giving you the opportunity to bring your favourite shows to life. There are many student-run societies you could get involved in including a TV station (LA1:TV), cinema (Take 2 Cinema) and newspaper (Scan).

Visiting Speakers

LICA hosts a number of visiting speakers; they represent a range of professions, practices and positions in theatre theory and practice. There is an annual Alumni Panel with graduate speakers drawn from a range of professions.

The City of Lancaster

The city’s theatres and arts venues including the Dukes and the Grand Theatre provide an all-year-round calendar of cultural shows, films and performances. Venues regularly play host to major comedy and theatrical tours, too.

Degrees and entry requirements

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<th>Degree title</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Degree Length</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
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<tr>
<td>Drama, Theatre and Performance</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>W440</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theatre and Creative Writing</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theatre and English Literature</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film and Theatre</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
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<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fine Art and Theatre</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>WW14</td>
<td>ABB, plus portfolio</td>
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<td>French Studies and Theatre</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>4 years</td>
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<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
<td>German Studies and Theatre</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>WR42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish Studies and Theatre</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>WR44</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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Previous study of Theatre, Drama, Dance or Performance is desirable but not essential and we welcome applications from those who are not studying these subjects but can demonstrate experience and interest in practical theatre.

Facilities

+ Professional black box theatre, the Nuffield Theatre
+ £10m LICA building with three sprung-floor event spaces
+ Installation studio
+ Purpose built workshops and seminar rooms
+ Superb rehearsal and performance spaces

Teaching, learning and assessment

Most of the practice on the degree is group based and you will learn to become increasingly independent over the three years, culminating in your final year project which takes place as a public theatre festival. You will take part in a combination of lectures, workshops and seminars, as well as group projects and an individual dissertation.

Course assessment includes essays and reports, practical projects, creative writing, written examinations, presentations and workshops. Lancaster University has been awarded the highest possible score in the UK government’s 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) ratings. Our TEF Gold rating is based on high quality teaching, excellent teaching facilities and our students’ excellent graduate prospects.
The first year is a foundation for your studies and explores a range of theoretical and practical approaches. In years two and three you can choose to focus solely on Drama, Theatre and Performance or choose modules from other related disciplines, including those within the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (Design, Film, Fine Art). You will be introduced to a variety of genres, media and historical periods, ranging from Shakespeare to contemporary performance.

Year 1

**Introduction to Theatre Studies**

You will develop a critical and practical understanding of a variety of forms and genres of drama, theatre and performance, from Shakespearean tragedy, Naturalist theatre, Epic theatre and Artaudian theatre to contemporary physical theatre and dance, multimedia theatre, postdramatic performance and community theatre. You will explore different modes of acting/performing, uses of space, creative processes and forms of performance making and put these into practice in a major group project.

**The Arts and Culture in Modernity**

You will examine the ideas and events underlying the revolutions in the arts which began around the end of the nineteenth century and continued throughout the twentieth, including Realism, Romanticism, the Avant-Garde, Pop Culture, Networking Society and Sci-Fi Futures. Influential works and thinkers in art, design, film and theatre will be examined, with particular emphasis on ideas of crossover and integration between different art forms. This module enables a richer appreciation of the context for contemporary creative practice.

**Flexible Subject Option**

Choose from:
- Design
- Film Studies
- Fine Art
- A relevant subject offered by another department

**Single major students take:**

**Joint Major Subject**

Joint major students will take the core module in their second subject.

In years 2 and 3, joint major students take 50% of their modules in Theatre and 50% in their second subject.

Year 2

In year two you can choose to focus solely on Theatre or choose options from other disciplines in LICA including vocationally focused modules such as the Schools Placement Module.

**Theatre Techniques**

You will develop practical skills in two key areas of theatre technique: movement and voice; and lighting and sound.

**Performance Composition**

You will gain a comprehensive understanding of compositional strategies and methodologies used in making theatre and performance, whether as a performer, director, writer or designer.

**Critical Reflections (Contemporary Arts Theory)**

You will learn about critical theory in the arts and its application to aesthetics and arts practices. To support and inform your performance making, you will study: Form and Structure, Semiotics and Authorship, Phenomenology and Spectatorship, Gender and Sexuality, Race and Ethnicity, and Class and Society. Weekly plenary lectures make connections across the arts, and seminar workshops allow students to work together on ideas and examples specifically tailored to their discipline.

**Schools Placement Module**

If you are thinking of a career in teaching, this voluntary placement offers the opportunity to work for half a day a week for one term in a primary, secondary or special needs school. Working alongside a teacher, you will gain valuable classroom experience and normally this would be either through teaching a class or working with a designated group of pupils.

Select from Optional Modules:
- Schools Placement Module
- Introduction to Sound
- Theatre Practice
- British Theatre and the State of the Nation
- Performing the Avant-Garde
- Writing for Performance
- Modern Dance
- Postwar European Playwrights
- Media and Performance

You can also choose from optional modules in other LICA disciplines (Art, Design, Film) or related modules in other departments.
Year 3

Year three builds on the learning of year two, developing independent critical and creative skills. You can further specialise in Drama, Theatre and Performance and take some modules in other LICA disciplines, as well as the Creative Enterprise module.

**Creative Enterprise Module**

You will learn about innovative ways creative practitioners produce and deliver their work, alongside the challenges they face. You will develop a working understanding of the key management and enterprise skills involved in delivering creative projects. Working in groups you will put your learning into practice through the delivery of your own live creative arts project. This will enable you to understand the skills, knowledge, attributes and behaviours relevant for employment in the arts and creative industries.

We keep our degree programmes under constant review, and regularly introduce and update modules. In any academic year, the modules offered may therefore differ from those presented here. Similarly, the structure of our degrees may change, in response to curricular developments and following consultation with students. Please check our website for the latest information.

Former student Sarah says, “I had heard great things about the department’s reputation for contemporary theatre practice, and liked the mixture of analysis and making on the course.” The best part of the course was “having access to the Nuffield Theatre and the array of acclaimed contemporary artists performing and working in the building. Through my course I gained varied and integral experience for my current practice.”

Sarah offers the following advice for future students, “Use the resources that LICA has to offer, and gain as much ‘real world’ career experience as possible through the professionals connected to the organisation.”

Sarah Wilson-White
Theatre Producer
Former BA Hons Theatre student
Twitter: @se_wilson
sewtheatre.com

**A career in theatre for Sarah**

A place for you

**Joint 5th for Drama**

The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019

91%

Overall Satisfaction
National Student Survey 2018

Drama, Theatre and Performance at Lancaster focuses on innovative twentieth and twenty-first century theatre and performance through an exciting and varied mix of practical and academic approaches. You will gain critical and creative skills that open up possibilities for working in theatre, while making you highly attractive to a wide range of other employers.

You will be taught by internationally esteemed, award-winning theatre practitioners and scholars including Prof. Tim Etchells, Ibsen Award winner and director of Forced Entertainment, Prof. Andrew Quick, director of Immitating the dog, and Prof. Elaine Aston, President of the International Federation for Theatre Research. You will also benefit from the outstanding facilities and access to professional practice provided by our close relationship with the on-campus arts centre, Lancaster Arts, the Dukes repertory theatre in the city and other leading organisations in the creative and cultural industries.
Your future career

Throughout your degree we will support you in developing skills and gaining experience that will give you a head start in your chosen career.

**Placements and internships**

Placements and internships are great ways to gain work experience, make professional contacts and help you decide your career path. A wide range of opportunities is available, most are paid, and the optional Schools Placement module in Year 2 provides credit towards your degree. Places are not usually guaranteed and we will help you prepare for the competitive application process.

Our Placement Year degree includes a year-long work placement in Year 3. This will boost your employment prospects and help you decide on your future career direction. You will be fully supported by university staff throughout your placement and you will complete preparatory and reflective modules that will connect your placement to the wider degree programme. We also offer summer internships and school volunteering placements.

[lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements](lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements)

**Study abroad and vacation travel**

You can apply to spend your second year studying abroad at a partner institution; previous LICA students have studied in Australia, the United States and Canada. There are also exciting possibilities for short vacation travel; recent destinations have included China, India, Malaysia and Europe. These opportunities provide you with a chance to travel, experience new cultures, and make life-long friends.

[lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience](lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience)

**Careers**

Many of our graduates find jobs within theatre - as performers, directors, writers, dramaturgs, producers, designers, technicians or administrators - and in associated fields such as journalism, the media, publishing and advertising. You may also be interested in jobs relating to social applications of theatre and drama such as teaching, social work, community arts and drama and dance therapy. The skills you gain during your degree will also prepare you for graduate roles such as in Human Resources and the Civil Service. Throughout your degree a wealth of career guidance and support is available from the department and the University Careers Service, which has subject specific Careers Consultants. We have connections with some of the world’s top graduate recruiters and employers across every sector, and organise careers fairs, workshops, and networking opportunities throughout the year.

[lancaster.ac.uk/careers](lancaster.ac.uk/careers)

**Get in touch**

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Speak to a student: lancaster.ac.uk/chat

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