

Lancaster
University



Theatre and Performing
Undergraduate Degrees 2026

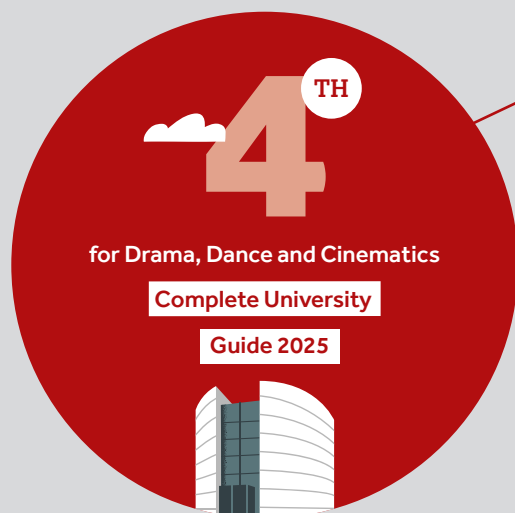
Theatre, *made well*, changes us.

On this course you will combine practice and theory to support your creative risk-taking and develop an original voice through your own innovative practical work. You will engage in collaborative group performances, allowing you to specialise in what you enjoy the most. You might choose to specialise in acting, building your confidence on stage, perfecting your characterisation and portraying that character through performance. You could opt to work in scenography, designing sets, lighting and sound that create the theatrical world. You may see yourself behind the scenes, directing those on stage and managing production from start to finish, or being a playwright, whose words are brought to life on stage. You can make this course your own.

As you progress through the course, you will be able to choose thematic areas of focus, for example, theatre for social change, intermedial theatre, text-based performance, and environmental performance. You will also be trained on topics such as sustainability, inclusivity, and creative entrepreneurship – equipping you with vital skills that will help you to shape the theatre industry of the future.



You will often work in professional theatre venues, including the Nuffield Theatre on the University campus. At other times you might be creating work in the natural environment surrounding campus, or within the urban landscapes of the city of Lancaster. You will also have opportunities to participate in applied and community-based projects, working with socially and economically disadvantaged groups in the Lancaster region.

The creative, practical and critical skills you'll develop will open up possibilities for working in theatre, while making you highly attractive to a wide range of other employers.





Whether you want to focus on performing, directing, playwriting, or applied theatre, join us to shape the theatre industry of the future.

Degree title		Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
Theatre and Performing		BA	P300	3	BBB
Theatre and Performing (Placement Year)		BA	P301	4	BBB
Theatre and Performing (Study Abroad)		BA	P302	4	BBB

Previous study of theatre, drama 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.

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements lancaster.ac.uk



Made for *learning*

Teaching, learning and assessment

Most of your learning will be practical, collaborating with others to create projects such as performance pieces, practical presentations, creative portfolios, and contemporary writing and communication projects such as blogs and podcasts. At other times, you will learn through lectures and seminars given by our expert team.

Course assessment includes essays and reports, practical projects, creative writing, written examinations, presentations and workshops. You will also complete an individual dissertation, which can be written or practice based.

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

Student work

Every year our final year students showcase their performances as part of the Lancaster University Degree Show, which is open to the public. lancaster.ac.uk/lica/degreeshow

Lancaster Arts

Our campus has a vibrant arts community and boasts its own theatre, art gallery and concert series. The Nuffield Theatre is among 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. It is also where you will present your major performance projects, including your degree showpiece.

Societies

Lancaster University Theatre Group (LUTG) is one of the biggest and most active societies on campus. It is dedicated to performing high quality shows – 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 dance society and a film society. The Students' Union has its own TV Station (LA1:TV), newspaper (Scan) and cinema (Take 2 Cinema).



Visiting speakers and trips

We host a number of visiting speakers; who 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.

In each year of your course, there will be opportunities to go on organised theatre trips with your cohort to places such as Manchester, London, and beyond. The annual cost for this will be no more than £35.

The City of Lancaster

The city's theatre and art venues, including the Grand Theatre and The Dukes, offer a programme of theatre productions, dance, cinema, comedy and live music throughout the year. Through its partnership with the university, The Dukes offers regular training, volunteering and placement opportunities for emerging theatre makers.

In addition, we have strong partnerships with community arts organisations throughout the region where we offer community based learning opportunities.

“
We are
encouraged
to be
ambitious
and
experimental.
”



Millie, final year

Theatre student

What I value the most about studying theatre at Lancaster is how much it has helped me develop personally, professionally and as a performer. I came to Lancaster with minimal experience of theatre - I didn't take it as a subject in school, I came with only amateur dramatics experience. I found myself nervous about whether I was academic enough for the course, however, what I found was a course rich with theory that was engaging, and practical teaching that was fun and exciting.

The course has allowed me to explore and create theatre beyond what I was accustomed to - which was quite commercial, mainstream theatre. At Lancaster I delved into more experimental methods of theatre creation that are very much outside of my comfort zone.

With it being quite a hands-on, practical course, I found that my course mates and I were placed in an environment where we were encouraged to collaborate with one another, leading me to meet some of my best friends at the university through practical sessions and projects. With such a wealth of personalities, I have engaged with people I wouldn't likely meet outside of the course, and have therefore gained an abundance of transferable skills, including confidence, for life outside of university.

Gain *real-world* experience

We know you want to graduate confident and ready to step into your career. That's why we make it easy to incorporate work and life experience into your time at Lancaster.

Your ambitions are important to us, and we will help you build the skills you need to succeed by offering a range of placement and internship opportunities as well as the chance to study abroad and see the world.

Placement year

You can opt to study your degree with a placement year (also known as a year in industry). On this degree you spend your third year working in a graduate-level, professional job in a sector of your choice before returning to complete your final year at Lancaster University. Securing a placement is a competitive process and we support you with personalised coaching and professional guidance.

Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme

You'll gain sector-relevant work experience and get paid for it with these internships. Apply in all years of study for opportunities such as publishing assistant, content delivery manager or assistant events producer. The scheme is delivered by our faculty employability team who are here to support your access to direct work experience while you study.

The Lancaster Award

The Lancaster Award is a non-academic certificate developed in partnership with employers to help you make the most of your time at Lancaster and to demonstrate the skills you have developed along the way. It is designed to reward the wide range of volunteering activities and placements undertaken by many of our undergraduates. Potential employers increasingly value a profile that includes more than just strong academic results, and the Lancaster Award recognises and validates this.

Study abroad

You can choose to study your degree with a study abroad year. On these four-year degrees, you spend your third year studying at one of our partner universities abroad. Our current partners are in Australia, Canada and the USA, although availability of destinations varies each year.

Living in another country and studying theatre and performing from a different perspective enhances your subject knowledge and develops resourcefulness for life after university.

Vacation travel and overseas summer schools

You can also discover the world during your vacations. We run short trips to destinations such as China, Germany, Ghana, Malaysia and Switzerland. These trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery.

In addition, you can attend summer schools at one of our many overseas partners.

Find out more at lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience



“
*My choice
to study
abroad
was one
of the best
decisions
of my life.*
”



Abigail, final year

Theatre student

I had always wanted to move outside of my comfort zone during university and really push myself in every area of life. So, when this opportunity came up with Lancaster, I knew I had to take it.

It gave me so many ways to learn about myself and the world and to grow within my relationships, both with myself and other people. I think the most important thing that I learnt was who I was away from the comforts of home and familiarity.

Spending a year studying in another country forces a self-reliance and self-knowledge like nothing else can. But once you realise everything you have accomplished just in going abroad in itself, the rest of it doesn't seem so scary. When you look around at the friends you've made, your integration in a culture far from your own and the familiarity you have within yourself, it quickly becomes clear that you've done a pretty amazing job already. There are so many experiences I could talk about. I look back on everything through my camera roll and the film that plays in my memories, from hiking the Blue Mountains to skydiving over Mount Cook because I was able to do things I hadn't even considered before.

Theatre and Performing

BA (Hons)

We believe that theatre is more than an art form – it drives change, influences society and inspires. We equip students to be practitioners who thrive in creative and cultural industries.

In this course, we look to the future. Theatre can take place in front of large audiences in dedicated performance venues, but it can also happen all around us – on the street, in community centres, in prisons and schools. Theatre can have a transformative impact on individuals, communities and society - and you can be part of that.

Focussing on the emerging trends and innovations of 21st-century theatre and performance, we will teach you the building blocks of performance-making, whilst supporting your ability to develop highly creative, challenging and impactful work.

Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future. Information within this publication with respect to courses and modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in new modules or some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research.

Year 1

Core Modules

Making Theatre 1: Acting, Directing and Collaborating

Equips you with the foundational skills of a professional theatre practitioner. Through workshops and group projects, you will explore professional roles such as actor, director, scenographer, playwright or dramaturg. You will develop short productions following models of practice established by influential 21st century theatre makers, such as intermedial, postdramatic, and/or applied theatre, environmental performance, and beyond.

Raw Materials of Performance

Examine the formal building blocks of performance, such as the body, space, time, text and media. You will learn how a variety of performance forms are constructed, including traditional stage plays, live and performance art, physical theatre, site-specific or immersive theatre. Examples will be chosen based on the expertise of teaching staff, and will complement the projects undertaken in Making Theatre 1.

Living Theory

Discover theoretical perspectives that will help you to create impactful theatre. This module takes 'theory' and moves it into the context of lived experience. Practically engage with theories through creative activities and explore theory relating to the politics of representation, cultural traditions and norms, and the social construction of spaces, places and identities.

Accessibility and Inclusion in Creative Industries

Engage with techniques to create welcoming and adaptable event spaces. Develop an understanding of sensory enhancement techniques including subtitling, closed captioning and audio description. Address challenging questions about equity and representation within the creative sectors, and examine examples from multiple disciplines to better understand the possibilities of accessible practice.

The Arts and Identity

This module explores the role of the arts in building community, identity and confidence. You will engage with a variety of different art forms (such as painting, theatre, fiction and film) and develop your own voice via collaborative projects such as a podcast, video essay, or presentation.

Year 2

Core Modules

Making Theatre 2: Beyond the Stage

Advance your skills and explore the ways in which theatre inspires audiences and wider society. Undertake workshops on socially-engaged theatre, and develop a group 'pitch' for a performance project. Collaborate with peers based on shared interests, engaging with local demographic groups. This will culminate in a piece showcasing the experiences of an under-represented community.

Sustainable Practice

Beyond using creative work to raise awareness, practitioners and producers from all disciplines are increasingly focused on finding practical ways to reduce the environmental impact of their work. In this module you will explore a range of projects that showcase how different disciplines are tackling the challenges of the climate crisis.

Theatre in Society 1 and 2

Explore theatre practically and theoretically, through specialist topics like text-based acting, playwriting, political theatre and underrepresented theatre histories. Options vary yearly based on staff expertise. Each semester offers two thematic strands, beginning with workshops and small group projects, concluding with practical work presentations and critical reflection through lectures and seminar discussions.

Plus one from:

Employability, Purpose and Social Impact

Global Challenges and Collaborative Solutions

Cultural Diversity and Professional Contexts

Taking an Idea and Making it Happen

Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

Placement year degrees

In your third year you will undertake as core the 'Placement Year Work Based Learning Module'.

Final Year

Core Modules

Making Theatre 3: Advanced Performance Project

This year-long module is the culmination of your practical theatre-making studies. You'll develop a fully realised production in a style of your choice, guided by expert staff and supported by skills-based workshops, independent rehearsals, mentorship, and professional technicians—culminating in public performances at the Degree Festival.

Theatre Independent Project

Tailor your studies to your own passions. Undertake a major piece of research, supervised by a member of staff with relevant expertise. Choose between a written dissertation or opt for practice-based research combining solo work with an analytical essay.

Plus one from:

Technology and Social Justice

Queer Futures

People Power, Community Engagement and Collective Action

Confronting the Climate Crisis

The Power of Ideas

Artistic Fusions

Futures Beyond Borders

Optional Modules

+ Live Performance Criticism

+ Festival of the Future





Careers and employability



Many of our graduates work in theatre and creative roles, such as:

- + Actor
- + Director
- + Scenographer
- + Lighting technician
- + Stage manager

Graduates also work in associated fields such as journalism, the media, publishing and advertising.

A notably high number of our graduates have formed their own professional theatre companies, such as Stan's Café, idontloveyouanymore, imitating the dog, and Three Left Feet, producing internationally significant work.

You may also be interested in jobs relating to social applications of theatre and drama, such as teaching, charity and non-profit sector, community arts and drama therapy.

The transferable skills you gain during your degree will also prepare you for graduate roles such as in marketing and the civil service.

Throughout your degree a wealth of career guidance and support is available from your subject staff and the University's Careers Service, which has specialist careers consultants. We have connections with some of the world's top graduate recruiters and employers across diverse sectors, and organise careers fairs, workshops, and networking opportunities throughout the year.



“
*I improved
key skills
such as
teamwork,
communication,
project
management,
and creative
thinking.*
”



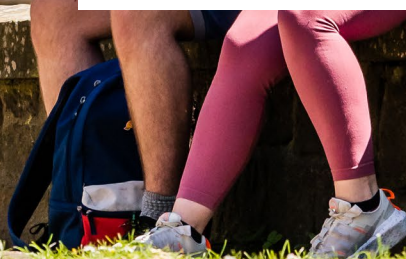
Alice, graduated from BA 2023

When I first started university, I wanted to be an actor. When I left, after my BA and my MA in social, political and environmental theatre, I wanted to be a creative arts facilitator working in the prison and probation service. Five months after graduating that is exactly what I do, and I wouldn't be here without the lessons I learnt in my degree and the support I received from staff.

I work directly for the Ministry of Justice within a HMPPS prison delivering creative arts workshops for inmates as well as running a book club. I design, organise, and deliver all the sessions myself using the skills I learnt throughout both my degrees. I also worked extremely hard to get to this point, by reading and researching into prison theatre, getting a job in the local prison alongside my studies, attending relevant workshops and networking within the community. I found out what would help me get into this niche area and I pursued it.

On the undergraduate degree I could follow my passion and love for acting whilst also pursuing new areas of theatre and creative arts. This was how I discovered social and interventionary theatre. The classes in social theatre and community theatre taught me the skills that would become essential in my current career.

The degree also improved key skills such as teamwork, communication, project management, and creative thinking. These have also been massively important for my career post-graduation.





lancaster.ac.uk/theatre

The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2026 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2025. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at: lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.