



**Drama, Theatre
and Performance**
Undergraduate Degrees
2025

Drama, Theatre and Performance at Lancaster

When you study at Lancaster, you get involved in ground-breaking performance projects that respond to the world around us. Our students push theatre in new directions to produce highly creative, thought-provoking work. We're bold and experimental, and we're known for our focus on cutting-edge and socially-engaged practice.

We have strong connections with our local theatres, schools, and community organisations. You will learn about practices and theories that will help you to make active contributions to social change.

You'll be taught in workshops, lectures and seminars and will learn theory through practical exploration, culminating in group performance projects at the end of each year.

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.

The Department of Theatre is part of the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (LICA).

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.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/lica/degreeshow

4th

overall for Drama, Dance and Cinematics
Complete University Guide 2025

8th

for graduate prospects, Drama, Dance and Cinematics
Complete University Guide 2025



Your degree

In the first year, you will build a foundation for your studies and explore a range of theoretical and practical approaches. In subsequent years 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

Skills and Concepts in Drama, Theatre and Performance

You will develop a critical and practical understanding of a variety of forms and genres of drama, theatre and performance, including naturalism, Brechtian theatre, contemporary physical theatre and dance, multimedia theatre, postdramatic performance and applied theatre. Through practical workshops you will explore different modes of acting/performing, uses of space, creative processes, technical skills, and forms of performance making and put these into practice in a major group project.

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Fundamentals: Drama

This module, taught through lectures and seminars, will introduce you to key methods, analytical tools and critical concepts used to understand creative works. You will develop foundational study skills while learning about important historical innovations across a range of artistic disciplines. In the second term you will focus on theories and practices specific to drama, including historical and cultural contexts and socially and politically engaged practices.

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Fundamentals: Contemporary Arts and Design

This core module introduces you to university-level study. It encourages you to think of yourselves as burgeoning creative critics who use intelligent observations about the creative world to inform your own practice of writing and making.

During the first term, you will work together in mixed seminar groups with students on all the LICA programmes to explore the different ways creative practitioners respond to the culture of a rapidly changing world.

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Minor Module

Choose an optional module from another discipline.

OR

Joint Major Subject

Joint major students will take the core module for their second subject instead of a minor option.

In second and final year, joint major students take approximately 50% of their modules in Theatre and 50% in their other subject.



Year 2

In Year 2, you can choose to focus solely on Theatre or choose options from other disciplines in LICA including vocationally focused modules.

First Term Optional Modules

Select optional modules, such as:

- + Devised Theatre
- + Environmental Performance
- + Dance Theatre
- + Theatre for Social Change
- + Performance, Identity and Postcolonial Nationhood
- + Performing Texts
- + Visual Theatre
- + Writing for Performance

The specific options available will vary each year. Through practical sessions and the study of exemplary performances, these modules combine technical training, approaches to composition, and methods of critical reflection.

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Theatre Practice

In the second term, you will further develop your practical skills through a major group performance project that draws on the theories and practices studied on other second year modules.

You will work with a supervisor who is a professional theatre maker as well as a team of dedicated technicians to help bring your vision to life.

+

Critical Reflections in Creative Arts

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.

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Further Optional Modules

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



Final Year

You will build on the learning of your second year, developing independent critical and creative skills. You can further specialise in Drama, Theatre and Performance and take some modules in other LICA disciplines, or the Creative Enterprise module.

Optional Modules	Dissertation	Advanced Theatre Practice
<p>You will choose optional modules such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Contemporary European Postdramatic Theatre+ Contemporary Dance and the Visual Arts+ Contemporary Performance and Climate Change+ Community Performance+ New Scenographies in Performance+ Creative Enterprise <p>You can also choose from optional second and final year modules in other LICA disciplines (Art, Design, Film) and related modules in other departments.</p>	<p>You will complete an independent research project on a topic of your choice. Research skills are taught via lectures/seminars and you will be supported through one-to-one supervision.</p>	<p>This practical module stands at the pinnacle of the whole theatre programme. You'll work in a group on an intensive practical project that will lead to a public performance in the Nuffield Theatre as part of the LICA degree show.</p>
<p>Creative Enterprise</p> <p>In this optional final year 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.</p>		



Ciara's career

I am the Founder & Director of The Performance Studios, a theatre school for children aged 3 – 18. My degree allowed me to explore new concepts whilst fine tuning my skillset. It also gave me the confidence to take risks whilst offering a network of contacts I could tap into to achieve my dream of starting my own business. During my studies I worked on campus at The Nuffield Theatre and also at a local theatre school which opened my eyes to the many possibilities that exist within performing arts.

I am at a point in life now where I want to own multiple performance schools across the UK, which is currently in the pipeline. It's interesting to see dreams I never imagined come true, such as winning the Enterprise Vision Awards for the 'Best Creative Industry' whilst also being shortlisted as 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year' and 'Best Education & Training' by the StartUp Awards. I'm looking forward to taking my business to new heights and growing as an individual along the way.

Ciara Moriarty

BA (Hons) Drama, Theatre and Performance, graduated 2021

Connections

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. There are various opportunities to go on theatre trips or career related trips to other cities.


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.



Degrees and entry requirements

Degree title		Award	Duration	UCAS code	Typical offer
Drama, Theatre and Performance	 	BA (Hons)	3 years	W440	ABB
Theatre and Creative Writing	 	BA (Hons)	3 years	WW48	ABB
Theatre and English Literature	 	BA (Hons)	3 years	WQ43	AAB
Film and Theatre	 	BA (Hons)	3 years	PW34	ABB
Fine Art and Theatre	 	BA (Hons)	3 years	WW14	ABB, plus portfolio
Theatre and Chinese Studies		BA (Hons)	4 years	W4T1	ABB
French Studies and Theatre		BA (Hons)	4 years	WR41	ABB
German Studies and Theatre		BA (Hons)	4 years	WR42	ABB
Spanish Studies and Theatre		BA (Hons)	4 years	WR44	ABB

 Study abroad available
  Placement year available
  Includes international placement year

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.

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements (such as BTECs).
www.lancaster.ac.uk

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.

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 are available and many placements are paid. Places are not usually guaranteed but we will help you prepare for the competitive application process.

The majority of our degrees are also available as placement year degrees that you can apply to via UCAS. With specialist support, you apply for a professional, paid work placement in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. We also offer part-time, paid internships as part of the FASS internship scheme.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements

Study abroad and vacation travel

We partner with institutions around the world to provide exciting opportunities to travel, study and work abroad.

Potential destinations currently include Australia, Canada, and the USA. These destinations are given as a guide only as the availability of places may vary from year to year.

Alternatively, we run short trips to destinations such as China, Germany, Ghana, Malaysia and Switzerland during the summer vacation. The trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

Get in touch

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E: study-theatre@lancaster.ac.uk

www.lancaster.ac.uk/theatre

Message a student: www.lancaster.ac.uk/chat

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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 Marketing and the Civil Service.

Throughout your degree a wealth of career guidance and support is available from the Department 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.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers

Important information

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2025–26 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2024). The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the courses as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. In exceptional circumstances that are beyond the University's reasonable control (Force Majeure Events), we may need to amend the programmes and provision advertised. However, in this event, the University will take reasonable steps to minimise the disruption to your studies. You are advised to consult our website at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. More information on limits to the University's liability can be found in the Student Contract at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms. Further legal information may be found at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice

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