

NOTTINGHAM COLLEGE



Central College
Nottingham



Course Specification

Basic Course Information

1	Awarding Institution	Nottingham Trent University
2	Faculty/Campus	Creative Arts / Clarendon Campus
3	Final Award	Foundation Degree in Arts in Theatre Arts (Acting) (Dance) (Technical Theatre)
	Course Title	Foundation Degree Theatre Arts
	Modes of Study	Full-time
4	Normal Duration	2 years
5	UCAS code	Institution Code: N30 Course Codes: W410 (Acting) W500 (Dance) W450 (Technical Theatre) Short form of Course Code: W410 – FdA/TAAct W500 – FdA/TADa W450 – FdA/TATT Campus Code: A

6 Overview and general educational aims of the course

The Foundation Degree Theatre Arts contributes towards two of the College's strategic objectives for HE:

- to provide individuals with opportunities to participate in HE
- working in partnership, locally and regionally, with employers, colleges, schools, community groups, universities and other agencies to increase participation in HE.

The course is designed to develop your specialist knowledge in the theatre arts. It places great emphasis on praxis and its evaluation and application or, more succinctly, creative practice and cognitive reflection. It is aimed to provide you, as a graduate, with a 'toolbox' of intellectual and practical skills, to give you a working knowledge of the technical, administrative and professional skills needed to operate effectively within the industry.

At the end of the course you will have acquired the professional knowledge and skills to equip you for employment in the performing arts sector or further study/training.

The Foundation Degree Theatre Arts is designed to meet the following aims:

- To provide an educational foundation for a range of creative careers in the theatre arts
- To provide specialised studies directly relevant to pathways in which you intend to seek employment (Acting, Dance, Technical Theatre)
- To enable you to make an immediate contribution in employment
- To enable you to progress to further undergraduate/graduate studies and/or further training
- To provide knowledge, skills and motivation as a basis for future studies and career development
- To develop your ability in your chosen specialism through effective use and combination of the knowledge and skills gained in different aspects of the programme
- To develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attributes essential for successful performance in professional working life.

Course Outcomes

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your programme if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide. All outcomes are referenced against the QAA Foundation Degree Characteristics Statements 2015 and subject benchmark statement for Dance, Drama and Performance 2015.

Knowledge and Understanding. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Demonstrate an appreciation of evolving practice and theory in the field of Theatre Arts
- Display competence, knowledge and understanding of specialised areas of the Theatre Arts and understand the differences between professional roles within your area of specialism
- Have an overview of the policies, procedures and protocols relevant to the specialism
- Show specific insight into current practices within the context of the Theatre Arts
- Demonstrate an awareness of being part of a professional and artistic environment
- Demonstrate an understanding of the Theatre Arts practices through self evaluation, reflection and diagnostics
- Understand the concepts of the specialist area, apply and interpret them

Skills, Qualities and Attributes. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Demonstrate competent communication and presentation skills
- Select and apply appropriate practical skills in the response to Theatre Arts briefs
- Apply contextual knowledge and understanding
- Apply and justify the skills/techniques necessary to research and produce performance
- Explore and analyse a range of complex procedures within the Theatre Arts to include creation and interpretation of performance
- Justify ideas coherently and apply contextual knowledge and understanding in the production of performance
- Analyse and evaluate practical issues and apply learned theory independently
- Critically evaluate and interpret the creative process and resulting performance
- Develop and construct arguments and the capacity to present them in appropriate ways

- Demonstrate a set of transferable skills including: communication skills, diplomacy, endurance, interpersonal skills, IT skills and interpretive skills
- Demonstrate an ability to work independently or collaboratively and to communicate the results of that work in an appropriate manner
- Establish meaningful objectives for the future development and enhancement of academic and professional skills
- Initiate and manage your own work, accepting responsibility in determining and achieving appropriate outcomes
- Conduct insightful and reflective academic research or professional research activities in a coherent and systematic fashion with the application of appropriate performing arts methodologies.

8 Teaching and Learning Methods

A variety of teaching and learning methods appropriate to a diverse group of learners will be utilised and take into account the differing learning styles, experiences and abilities of the students.

The following opportunities will be provided to enable you to develop and demonstrate your achievement of learning outcomes:

- Acquisition of core knowledge through a mixture of lectures, presentations, demonstrations, individual and group tasks, tutorials, group seminars and presentations, self-directed study, both on and off campus
- Analytical and lateral thinking skills stimulated through discussion, debate and practical tasks
- Practical skills are an essential component of the programme and will be developed through team-based work, student presentations, lectures and professional demonstrations of concepts, techniques and processes, specialised workshops, peer-to-peer problem solving, discussion and individual practice. These techniques will present you with a stimulating range of learning opportunities.

Teaching methods adopted for individual modules are dependent on the module content. Student-centred learning is encouraged and the team approach to the rehearsal and production process will allow for student interaction and the development of interpersonal skills.

Courses offer work-based briefs, providing you with an understanding of the pressures and constraints of the industry. Past examples include:

- A devised performance for Nottingham Art Galleries and The Galleries of Justice Museum (Theatre). Students met with the commissioning bodies and worked to deadlines
- Two weeks' work experience at the Brew House Theatre, Burton on Trent for the whole second year Technical Team, meeting deadlines and operating for a professional theatre production. Invaluable learning, in a range of backstage and Front of House roles – under pressure to produce quality work, in a professional environment.

9 **Assessment Methods**

The assessment course has been designed to ensure that the learning outcomes for each module are assessed in an appropriate manner, whilst assessing you in a manner that suits your learning style and also prepares you for further study.

Cross-college assessment guidelines are in place for all HE courses. The guidelines include the assessment policy, academic appeals procedure and a plagiarism statement, which meet the requirements of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education's codes of practice. In order for the assessment process to be transparent, the guidelines are issued to all students and adhered to by all staff. Additional assessment details will be included in the module handbooks. The Faculty has developed standardised assignment, assessment and recording documentation. Assignment briefs have been designed to ensure clear contextualised grading criteria to enable students and staff to discriminate between different categories of performance. The criteria enable students and staff to have a clear understanding of the requirements of grading prior to commencement of the assessment.

During an assignment period, you will receive ongoing feedback in order to support you in the successful completion of the formal assessment.

10 **Course structure and curriculum**

This course has been designed to meet the requirements of the QAA Foundation Degree Characteristics Statement 2015 and with reflection upon current needs for you to be able to gain employment in the theatre arts industry.

The curriculum has been designed to achieve the aims of the programme in full by providing broad coverage of the specialisms, together with supporting modules relating to common transferable professional and problem solving skills. It achieves a balance between the study of theatre arts subjects and the acquisition of professional understanding and skills required. The curriculum supports individual development and creativity, providing progression at each level through the sequence of modules, delivered in a discrete but complementary way.

Level 4

Process and Production PA402

The aim of this module is to provide you with a range of technical skills which are seen, within the context of the course, as integral to the creative process of performance. The emphasis of this module will be the responsibility of the performer not only to create the performance material but also to be aware of the wider framework within which that material will be presented to an audience. You will be encouraged to consider the performance event from a holistic point of view.

Contextual Studies 1 PA403

The aim of this module is to provide you with an understanding of the historical, social and cultural background of the relevant art form. You will be encouraged to consider relevant contextual issues in all your work through the course and to develop an innovative and incisive approach to the analysis of aesthetic and intellectual problems. The art form should be placed in its socio/political context.

Staging/Creating Performance PA406

The aim of this module is to provide you with a practical focus for skills learnt in *Specialist Skills 1* and *Specialist Skills 2*. You will be introduced to the practical and theoretical approaches to the creation and staging of performance. The module will

provide you with the opportunity to develop your creative skills and your expression of these in the developing of material for performance. The module will enable you to develop techniques of following through the creative ideas using a variety of methods to develop performance based on the outcomes of these processes.

Specialist Skills 1 Acting PA407

The aim of this module is to provide you with an understanding and development of practical skills specific to your specialist art form. This module will underpin all subsequent practical work.

Specialist Skills 1 Dance PA408

The aim of this module is to provide you with an understanding and development of practical skills in dance. This module will underpin all subsequent practical work.

Specialist Skills 1 Technical Theatre PA409

The aim of this module is to provide you with an understanding and development of practical skills required by the technician. This module will underpin all subsequent practical work.

Specialist Skills 2 Acting PA410

This module aims to consolidate, deepen and extend the skills encountered in *Specialist Skills 1*.

Specialist Skills 2 Dance PA411

The aim of this module is to consolidate, deepen and extend the skills encountered in *Specialist Skills 1*.

Specialist Skills 2 Technical Theatre PA412

The aim of this module is to consolidate, deepen and extend the skills encountered in *Specialist Skills 1*.

Facilitation PA413

Theatre Arts students need to use teaching skills in a variety of contexts. This module enables you to develop facilitation skills in educational or community settings

Level 5

Production Company PA501

The aim of this module is to provide you with an understanding and experience of the professional model whilst working on a large-scale production. This staff-led module will demand practice of the vocational skills at the heart of the programme. The production company will include students from different specialisms.

Applied Specialisms PA502

The aim of this module is to provide you with the opportunity to apply your chosen specialist skill on a text/score/project of your own choice. This will be negotiated with your personal tutor.

Industry Practice/Work-based learning PA503

The aim of this module is to provide you with 'real' projects in preparation for your professional life. The work could take the form of a placement, may be the result of a commission or may be tutor led. The module offers you opportunities to develop skills in academic study, the application and development of technical skills and the broad transferable skills related to employability.

Contextual Studies 2 PA505

This module explores the relevance of critical theory for performance. The module

surveys some major theoretical frameworks, providing you with a critical vocabulary appropriate to the analysis of performance.

Developing the Practitioner PA506

This module provides you with an opportunity to showcase your work in the public arena. You will work independently as an individual or in groups to produce an original piece of work. The module will develop a range of practical and technical skills. In addition it will encourage skills related to future employment by developing the work to a professional standard.

The modules at level 4 have been organised to enable you to gather, in the first instance, essential knowledge of the basic methodologies of your specialism. The level 5 modules build on the knowledge and skills acquired at level 4 and develop these skills in work-based settings. Level 4 introduces you to the ethical basis of professional practice and lifelong learning, and at level 5 you learn to integrate the principles and practice of audit and research into your own professional practice.

Students will be auditioned for a pathway associated with their future career interest at the start of the programme. Students who only successfully complete Level 4 of the programme will be eligible for a Higher Certificate (120 credit points). Students successfully completing all required Level 4 and Level 5 modules will obtain a Foundation Degree (240 credit points).

Year 1	Year 2
PA402 Process and Production (20cp)	PA501 Production Company (30 cp)
PA403 Contextual Studies 1 (20 cp)	PA502 Applied Specialisms (20 cp)
PA406 Staging/Creating Performance (20 cp)	PA503 Industry Practice/Work-based learning (20 cp)
PA407 Specialist Skills 1 Acting (20 cp)	PA505 Contextual Studies 2 (20cp)
PA408 Specialist Skills 1 Dance (20cp)	PA506 Developing the Practitioner (30 cp)
PA409 Specialist Skills Technical Theatre (20cp)	
PA410 Specialist Skills 2 Acting (20 cp)	
PA411 Specialist Skills 2 Dance (20cp)	
PA412 Specialist Skills 2 Technical Theatre (20cp)	
PA413 Facilitation (20cp)	

11 Admission to the course

The Foundation Degree is for students seeking to work in the theatre arts industry or related fields.

The following are the standard entry criteria for the programme:

- Applicants who have achieved between 48 and 168 UCAS tariff points from:
 - At least two 'A' Levels at 'A2', one in a related subject area;
 - A BTEC National Certificate or Diploma in a related subject area
 - Progression Diploma with relevant Principal Learning
 - Advanced Diploma with relevant Principal or Additional and Specialist Learning (ASL)
- Applicants who have successfully completed an Access to HE programme in a related area with a suitable academic reference
- Mature applicants with 3 years' recent and relevant professional experience or other qualifications

All applicants will be required to attend an interview/audition and must satisfy the teaching team that they have enough relevant experience to successfully complete the programme. Candidates not able to do this will be required to provide evidence of skill e.g DVD.

The entry requirements outlined are such as to encourage applications from a wide range of potential learners, both at the age of 18 and leaving full-time education at school or college after completing a level 3 FE qualification, or from mature learners who may be returning to education.

International applicants who do not hold GCSE grade C or equivalent in English and Mathematics will require an IELTS score of at least 5.5, with no element less than 5.0, in addition to the standard entry criteria. Additional support for speakers of languages other than English is provided in two ways; general academic English classes are provided in addition to the normal classes, and also in addition to ordinary tutorials, technical tutorials are provided. These technical tutorials give international students the opportunity to have the technical language further explained.

Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning will be available for applicants who have substantial experience in the theatre arts industry and are able to provide evidence of their previous attainment of specific learning outcomes. Guidance will be taken from NTU's Quality Handbook relating to Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL), which includes specific guidance on APEL for admission with advanced standing. Additionally, guidance on the definitions and boundaries, policies and procedures will be taken from the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Chapter B6: Assessment of students and the recognition of prior learning. Any APEL decisions will be formally reported to the Examination Board.

12 Support for learning

- You will receive regular academic and pastoral tutorials with your programme leader or allocated personal tutor who will monitor your progress on an individual basis. Each student will be given at least three personal tutorials throughout the academic year.
- ncn operates an on-line Personal Development Plan where you can define and explore your goals and map ways to turn them into reality. It will enable you to articulate the skills you are developing in order to open up opportunities in the future.
- There is an induction course (including IT and library use) and you will receive a Course Handbook that provides all the essential information about the course and the support we provide for your learning.
- The majority of staff teaching on the course have or are working in the industry, participate in industrial activities and undertake consultancy. They bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the course delivery.
- The Learning Centre and other learning resources (equipment/IT) are continually updated to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- As part of your course you will have regular study skills sessions to give you advice on written academic work. You will also have access to a dedicated HE Study Skills team who are available for small group or one-to-one sessions.
- The Faculty has a range of physical resources including two dance studios, six rehearsal rooms, two theatres, design and construction workshops and other classroom spaces which can be used for teaching, learning and the realisation of your work.

13 Graduate destinations/employability

Three specific progression routes are identified for Foundation Degree Theatre Arts graduates:

- A specific progression route for students wishing to progress onto the second or third year of a Theatre Arts degree, or relevant one year BA top-up; students will need to successfully complete the Foundation Degree as a prerequisite for these programmes.
- Progression onto BA (Hons) Theatre Arts top-up year at ncn
- Employment within the theatre arts industries.

Graduates from the Foundation Degrees predecessor, the Higher National Diploma in Performing Arts, have progressed into: further Higher Education/training; employment in the industry as actors, workshop leaders, storytellers; teaching, youth and social work, arts administration, prison work.

14 Course standards and quality

As a student you will play a central role in the maintenance of standards and quality. This includes:

- Completion of module feedback sheets at the end of assignments
- A cohort representative at the Faculty of Creative Arts HE student board chaired by the Head of Faculty
- Involvement in discussions with the External Examiner
- Completion of student satisfaction surveys (mid term and end of year)

The Faculty also has a robust Internal Verification system whereby all assignments and marked student work are sampled. All work at Distinction level will be double marked.

The Course Leader will participate in the regular HE Course Leaders' Seminars which are a forum for debate on current issues relating to HE and all operational aspects of HE programmes where ncn has standard processes and procedures which ensure consistency of approach.

The Examination Board is held at the end of the academic year. This is preceded by a Faculty Standards and Moderation meeting. The composition of the Examination Board is outlined in the Foundation Degree Framework Regulations which have been approved by Nottingham Trent University as the framework within which all ncn Foundation Degrees will operate.

15 Assessment regulations

This course is subject to ncn's HE Assessment Policy (located in the Handbook for Higher Education Students). A copy of this will be handed to you at induction.

16 Additional Information

Collaborative partner(s):

None

Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:

Foundation Degree Characteristics Statement 2015

Dance, Drama and Performance 2015

Course recognised by:

Date implemented:

September 2017

Any additional information: