

BA (Hons) Acting

Programme specification document

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Overview

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Bath School of Music and Performing Arts
Main campus	Newton Park and Oldfield Park Theatre Workshops
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	Acting
Qualification (final award)	BA (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	CertHE, DipHE
Routes available	Single
Professional Placement Year	No

Duration of award	Full-Time
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based
Regulatory Scheme[1]	Undergraduate Academic Framework
Exemptions from regulations/framework[2]	N/A
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	N/A
UCAS code	W410
Route code (SITS)	ACTSPS
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Dance, Drama and Performance (2019)
Date of most recent approval	March 2023
Date specification last updated	January 2024

[1] This should also be read in conjunction with the BSU Qualifications Credit Framework

[2] See section on 'Exemptions'

Exemptions

The following exemptions are in place:

Programme/Pathway	Regulations/Framework	Brief description of variance	Approving body and date

Programme Overview

BA (Hons) Acting is for anyone who wishes to become a versatile, imaginative and employable actor on stage, screen or radio. The course develops your approach to acting through a sequence of progressive modules that in your first year focus on the process of acting that the remainder of the course then challenges by asking you to explore different genres and media. The course encourages you to develop an individual acting process that works both on stage and screen and mirrors the Stanislavskian system at the heart of current industry practice. Because the course encourages you to utilise your skills as an actor in many and various ways, BA Acting graduates are adept at working across a profession that requires creativity, resilience, and continued application.

Level 4 features 6 progressive project modules that last 4 or 5 weeks each. These introduce you to the key skills and processes that underpin actor training - such as movement, voice, and improvisation - but they also encourage you to become a self-reflective team member who uses analysis, critique and instinct to inform your performance. Each project leads you to the next encouraging you to build a toolkit of skills and approaches that you can draw upon in all creative projects.

Level 5 starts with three short project modules, before moving into 3 longer modules that require you to manage several projects in tandem. This prepares you for a career in an industry that requires you to manage multiple projects at once. Across the year, you will advance your knowledge of textual analysis, different genres and begin to explore how to adapt your acting process for work on stage and on screen. This will enhance your creativity and critical thinking, while the introduction of stage combat and the opportunity to explore a broader range of career options will begin your preparation for level 6.

Level 6 is a year of professional practice, overseen by our production house, Bath Spa Productions, which provides you with an industry focused series of projects and opportunities. You will collaborate with peers across a range of partner programmes, for instance, BA Theatre, Festival and Event Production, and therefore have the opportunity to refine the kind of skills and knowledge you will require in any employment scenario.

This professional preparation includes public performances throughout the year, and work with industry specialists to help you develop professional connections, working relationships and networking skills vital for future employment. Training in self-promotion and management skills will also prepare you for a career in the creative industries.

Acting at BSU, equips you with the necessary training for a professional career as an actor, underpinned by academic knowledge required for postgraduate study, as well as the essential practical and creative skills for becoming independent thinkers, motivated artists and freelance practitioners.

Programme Aims

- 1 To provide a relevant, diverse and challenging programme that develops the practical and creative skills at the forefront of actor training.
- 2 To develop your creative, critical, analytical and interpersonal skills in a range of settings and contexts as an actor of existing texts and maker of new work.
- 3 To foster your ability to select, refine and effectively engage appropriate skills and processes of acting in a range of performance genres.
- 4 To encourage highly responsive, creative and investigative approaches to developing and sustaining individual projects and/or collaborative contexts.
- 5 To optimise critical and analytical engagement with theoretical perspectives of performance and their application to practice through a rigorous programme of study.
- 6 To prepare you for a career in acting by offering industry-focused support that complements and enhances entrepreneurship and proactive engagement with the cultural industries.

7 To improve your career opportunities by developing an acute awareness of the depth and range of transferable subject specific skills applicable to fluctuating and evolving employment scenarios and lifelong learning.

8 To develop your ability to assess and manage risk, health and safety and to employ ethical working practices.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
A1	A critical understanding and application of the interplay between performance skills, vocabularies, structures and acting methodologies in both text-based and devised performance	A working knowledge and understanding of the interplay between performance skills, vocabularies, dramatic structures and acting processes in both text-based and devised performance	A practical knowledge and understanding of the interplay between performance skills and acting processes in both text-based and devised performance
A2	A critical understanding of how key practitioners, practices and theorists inform creative practice across a range of live and recorded media	The ability to critically and imaginatively extend existing concepts and principles relevant to text-based and devised performance in both live and recorded media settings	A practical knowledge of key practitioners, practices and theorists that shape and inform a process-led approach to actor training
A3	A synthesis and application of performance skills within a range of complex creative and professional contexts that can accommodate complexity, diversity and change	A critical understanding and creative application of further skills training (movement, voice, comedy, stage combat, acting for camera) within a range of live and recorded media settings	An embodied knowledge and understanding of the key skills (vocal, physical and comedic) that underpin the study of acting
A4	The sophisticated application of inter-collaborative skills and means of communication as expected of the professional rehearsal and production space.	A critical understanding and application of individual and collaborative skills both in class and in independent rehearsal to ensure clear and productive levels of communication within a range of creative scenarios and working practices	An understanding and application of the communication skills, individual and collaborative working practices required within both studio-based activity and rehearsal settings
A5	A sophisticated application of acting practices in the current industry that draw on knowledge of their historical contexts locally, nationally, and internationally	A critical application of acting practices in the current industry that draw on knowledge of their historical contexts locally, nationally, and internationally	An understanding of acting practices in the current industry that draw on knowledge of their historical contexts locally, nationally and internationally

A6	Application of knowledge and understanding in assessing and managing risk, health and safety issues and employing ethical working practices	A critical knowledge of risk, health and safety issues within a simulated employment context as well as the application of ethical working practices in independent projects	An awareness of risk, health and safety issues when working individually or collaboratively as well as the application of ethical working practices
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B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
B1	The ability to integrate creative, analytical, critical and reflective skills in order to interpret text-based and/or devised performance across a range of performance genres	Effectively integrate creative, analytical, critical and reflective skills required to interpret text-based and/or created performance across a range of performance genres	An ability to present the creative and reflective skills required to interpret text-based and/or devised performance
B2	The ability to formulate, conduct and evaluate the transition from stimulus to performance, whilst appreciating the need for ethical standards and professional codes of conduct	Use a range of working processes and techniques to initiate and undertake independently and/or collaboratively, the transition from stimulus to performance	An ability to apply and evaluate process-led approaches that facilitate the transition from stimulus (text /idea) to performance
B3	The ability to think independently and undertake systematic independent research that draws on a range of sources (evaluative and critical) to underpin the actor's creative process	Effectively communicate analysis and application of research skills drawing on a variety of sources (evaluative and critical) that underpin the actor's creative process	Communicate the results of working processes with structured and coherent arguments
B4	The ability to identify, propose and manage interpersonal strategies to collaborative scenarios	Acknowledge responsibility and accountability when working independently or as a member of a group project to determine and achieve personal/and or collaborative outcomes	Work independently and as a member of a collaborative process, to research and evaluate a range of information

C Skills for Life and Work

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
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C1	Autonomous learning[3] (including time management) that shows the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility and enables decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts.	Autonomous learning (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	Autonomous learning (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility.
C2	Team working skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively.	Team work as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making for effective work with others such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	Team work as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility for effective work with others.
C3	Communication skills that ensure information, ideas, problems and solutions are communicated effectively and clearly to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.	Communication skills commensurate with the effective communication of information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences in which key techniques of the discipline are deployed effectively.	Communication skills that demonstrate an ability to communicate outcomes accurately and reliably and with structured and coherent arguments.
C4	IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate core competences and are commensurate with an ability to work at the interface of creativity and new technologies.	IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the development of existing skills and the acquisition of new competences.	IT skills and digital literacy that provide a platform from which further training can be undertaken to enable development of new skills within a structured and managed environment.

[3] i.e. the ability to review, direct and manage one's own workload

Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required* = R*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single and/or combined award

BA (Hons) Acting	Status
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Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
4	ACT4020-20	Preparing the Actor	20	C	
4	ACT4021-20	Introduction to Acting	20	C	
4	ACT4022-20	Acting Processes in Action	20	C	
4	ACT4023-20	Form and Practice	20	C	
4	ACT4024-20	The Actor in an Ensemble	20	C	
4	ACT4025-20	Performance Practice	20	C	
5	ACT5020-20	Text Project	20	C	
5	ACT5021-20	Theatre Making	20	C	
5	ACT5022-20	The Actor's Portfolio Career	20	C	
5	ACT5023-20	Live Performance	20	C	
5	ACT5024-20	Mediated Performance	20	C	
5	ACT5025-20	The Self-Directed Creative	20	O	
6	ACT6000-20	Acting Independent Study	20	C	
6	ACT6020-40	Production Project: Live Production	40	C	
6	ACT6021-20	Production Project: Mediated Production	20	C	
6	ACT6022-20	Production Project: Small Scale Production	20	C	
6	ACT6023-20	Creative Portfolio	20	O	

Assessment methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities

Given union restrictions for actors taking placements in professional performance settings, it is not possible to offer placement directly related to the degree subject. The programme therefore simulates a work environment the third year through Bath Spa Productions. The third year of this programme is run through that production house, engaging students in a range of professionally focused projects led by industry professionals. The SparkFest project also generates opportunities for students to showcase their work in a real 'live performance' setting or digital online performance space.

Table of Additional Costs

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost
ACT402 0-20	Specialist clothing	For Females: Character Shoes (approx £30), Corset (approx £40), Long/Practice Skirt (approx £50) For Males: Dress Shoes (approx £30), Waistcoat (approx £15), Suit Jacket (approx £40), Tie (approx £10) We recommend that students buy second-hand, to keep costs at a minimum
ACT402 1-20	Reading material	Chekhov plays, translated and introduced by Michael Frayn, published by Bloomsbury, Methuen Drama (approx £12.99 brand new, approx £3 used)
ACT402 5-20	Reading material	Four Major Plays (Dolls House, Ghosts, Hedda Gabler, The Master Builder), translated by James McFarlane, published by Oxford World Classics (approx £7.65 new and approx £3 used)
ACT602 0-40	(Optional) Professional headshot	An optional opportunity is offered to get a headshot with a professional photographer at the beginning of your third year for this module. The cost is approx £70.

Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In Acting, we enable this...
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	Engaging you in independent individual and collaborative projects, which will involve leading teams and being part of a team. The range of projects and collaborations involved expose you to diverse work based scenarios and contexts for team building.
2	Will be able to understand and	

	manage complexity, diversity and change	Your understanding and ability to take responsibility for complex scheduling and your ability to respond imaginatively to the diverse demands required of actors in a range of settings and contexts.
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	level 6 you will collaborate with industry professionals and students from other courses. You will identify ways in which your creativity must serve a wider audience and solve the questions that any creative process presents.
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	Our curriculum includes regular and diverse interaction with digital technology that develops skills and nuanced understanding of the digital literacy skills that are required to conduct the activities (writing scientific papers, creating multimedia presentations, online discussion). As a BA (Hons) Acting student you will engage with online teaching tools (online voice skills) recorded media (acting for camera) and be conversant with the latest online resources for emerging industry-specific digital platforms (social media profile, online casting, self-taping).
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	The programme draws on European and global practices, theories and techniques. You will have opportunities to study abroad and to take BSU's Global Citizenship Award. You will study with colleagues from around the world all of which enables you to be culturally aware, supporting your ability to network and work with communities in the UK, Europe and worldwide.
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	Encouraging you to solve complex assignments independently and imaginatively throughout the course and to critically reflect on your practice.
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	Encouraging you to solve the questions that the creative process presents and to articulate your findings, through essays, presentations and in-class dialogue.
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	On graduating, you will have the ability to apply your subject knowledge and understanding across cultural divisions, with practitioners and colleagues who offer global perspectives. Importantly, you will develop the transferable skills to address familiar and unfamiliar challenges as well as appreciating the need for ethical standards and

		professional codes of conduct. These aspects are covered within modules and are assessed.
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Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
ACT5 024- 20	Mediated Performan ce	Minor typographical changes, changing "film/ed" to "mediated" and "self-tape", including for an assessment	SQMC February 2024	2024/25

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – BA (Hons) Acting

Single Honours	
Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core Modules	
ACT4020-20 Preparing the Actor	ACT4023-20 Form and Practice
ACT4021-20 Introduction to Acting	ACT4024-20 The Actor in the Ensemble
ACT4022-20 Acting Processes in Action	ACT4025-20 Performance Practice
Rule Notes: N/A	
Level 5	
Core Modules	
ACT5020-20 Text Project	ACT5023-20 Live Performance
ACT5021-20 Theatre Making	ACT5024-20 Mediated Performance
ACT5022-20 The Actor's Portfolio Career	
Optional Modules	
	ACT5025-20 The Self-Directed Creative
Rule Notes:	
Optional: Professional Placement Year 120 credits	
Level 6	
Core Modules	
ACT6020-40 Production Project: Live Production	
*ACT6000-20 Acting Independent Study	*ACT6000-20 Acting Independent Study
*ACT6022-20 Production Project: Small Scale Production	*ACT6022-20 Production Project: Small Scale Production
*ACT6021-20 Production Project: Mediated Production	*ACT6021-20 Production Project: Mediated Production
Optional Modules	
*ACT6023-20 Creative Portfolio	*ACT6023-20 Creative Portfolio
Rule Notes: *You must take 2 of the above 20-credit Level 6 modules in each Semester, without repeating	

any module.

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)[4]	Intended Learning Outcomes															
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge						Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work					
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4		
4	ACT4020-20	Preparing the Actor	C	X															
4	ACT4021-20	Introduction to Acting	C	X		X					X	X				X			
4	ACT4022-20	Acting Processes in Action	C			X	X							X					
4	ACT4023-20	Form and Practice	C				X	X					X						
4	ACT4024-20	The Actor in an Ensemble	C		X							X				X			
4	ACT4025-20	Performance Practice	C		X			X	X								X		
5	ACT5020-20	Text Project	C	X									X						
5	ACT5021-20	Theatre Making	C				X				X			X					
5	ACT5022-20	The Actor's Portfolio Career	C			X									X				
5	ACT5023-20	Live Performance	C		X			X		X						X			
5	ACT5024-20	Mediated Performance	C		X				X			X					X		
5	ACT5025-20	The Self-Directed Creative	O				X						X		X				
6	ACT6000-20	Acting Independent Study	C		X							X		X					
6	ACT6020-40	Production Project: Live Production	C			X	X			X					X				
6	ACT6021-20	Production Project: Mediated Production	C	X				X				X					X		
6	ACT6022-20	Production Project: Small Scale Production	C						X		X					X			
6	ACT6023-20	Creative Portfolio	O			X					X						X		

[4] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional

Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C, R,R*,O)[5]	Assessment method													
				Coursework					Practical				Written Examination				
				Dissertation	Self-Evaluation	Slide Presentation	Tutorial	Portfolio	Performance	Practical Skills Test	Devised Project	Mediated Production	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)		
4	ACT4020-20	Preparing the Actor	C				1x										
4	ACT4021-20	Introduction to Acting	C		1x								1x				
4	ACT4022-20	Acting Processes in Action	C							1x	1x						
4	ACT4023-20	Form and Practice	C			1x				1x							
4	ACT4024-20	The Actor in an Ensemble	C								1x	1x					
4	ACT4025-20	Performance Practice	C		1x					1x							

5	ACT50 20-20	Text Project	C								1x			
5	ACT50 21-20	Theatre Making	C		1x				1x					
5	ACT50 22-20	The Actor's Portfolio Career	C						1x					
5	ACT50 23-20	Live Performance	C						1x					
5	ACT50 24-20	Mediated Performance	C						1x					
5	ACT50 25-20	The Self-Directed Creative	O				1x							
6	ACT60 00-20	Acting Independent Study	C	1x										
6	ACT60 20-40	Production Project: Live Production	C				1x							
6	ACT60 21-20	Production Project: Mediated Production	C									1x		
6	ACT60 22-20	Production Project: Small Scale Production	C							1x				
6	ACT60 23-20	Creative Portfolio	O				1x							

[5] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional