

BA (Hons) Acting

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Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Bath School of Music and Performing Arts
Main campus	Newton Park
Other sites of delivery	Oldfield Park Theatre Workshop
Other Schools involved in delivery	None
Name of award(s)	Acting
Qualification (final award)	BA (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	CertHE, DipHE, BA
Routes available	Single Honours
Professional Placement Year	Optional
Duration of award	3 years full-time or 4 years with Professional Placement Year
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 (2015)
Date of most recent approval	February 2018
Date specification last updated	February 2021

[1] This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

[2] See section on 'Exemptions'

Exemptions

There are no exemptions

Programme Overview

BA (Hons) Acting trains you to be a versatile, imaginative and employable actor. Its embodied approach develops graduates who are adept at working in a variety of genres across the classical and contemporary repertoires at the forefront of industry, as well as preparing you for the option of postgraduate study. This is a challenging programme that requires considerable stamina and continued application.

Level 4 introduces key practitioners and processes that underpin actor training. We develop movement, vocal, singing and comedic skills for working effectively as individuals and as members of an ensemble. The principles of academic writing: research, analysis, and critique are initiated at this level.

Level 5 builds your knowledge of interpretation, analysis and performance of text. As an actor/creator you develop an understanding and application of a range of theatrical approaches and dramaturgical choices to make meaningful and imaginative work. Critical theory develops your academic and cognitive skills. In addition to ongoing technical classes, acting for camera training and stage combat expands your skills in preparation for level 6.

This is your professional practice year, in which you collaborate with peers across a range of partner programmes, for instance, BA Theatre and Digital Production. Your final year hones the skills and knowledge applicable to a range of employment scenarios.

Strategically selected projects and public performances throughout the year with directors, writers and other industry specialists in public venues encourages professional working relationships and networking skills vital for future employment.

Professional preparation includes invited practitioners and graduates sharing their knowledge and experience of the workplace. Your professional training is complemented by advice on developing an online presence.

Acting at BSU, equips you with the rigorous 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 interpreter of existing texts and/or maker of new performance
- 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 practical knowledge and understanding of the interplay between performance skills, vocabularies, structures and acting methodologies 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 acquisition of specialist and transferable skills, knowledge and experience in order to prepare you for employment in a wide range of contexts within the field of performance or for postgraduate study	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 critical knowledge of both historical contexts and developments in contemporary practices relating to the acting industry at local, national and international levels	A sophisticated knowledge of historical contexts and application of contemporary practices in the acting industry at local, national and international levels	An awareness of historical contexts and contemporary practices in the acting industry at local, national and international levels
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

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
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.

BA (Hons) Acting				Status			
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Major	Joint	Minor
4	ACT4000-20	Introduction to Acting Processes	20	C			
4	ACT4001-20	Composition	20	C			
4	ACT4002-20	Performance Skills 1	20	C			
4	ACT4003-20	Acting Processes	20	C			
4	ACT4004-20	Ensemble Practice	20	C			
4	ACT4005-20	Performance Skills 2	20	C			
5	ACT5000-20	Actor Interpreter	20	C			
5	ACT5001-20	Actor Creator	20	C			
5	ACT5002-20	Performance Skills 3	20	C			
5	ACT5003-20	Creating with Shakespeare	20	C			
5	ACT5004-20	Performance Skills 4	20	C			
5	ACT5100-20	Theatre Directing and the Production Process	20	O			
5	ACT5101-20	Acting New Dramaturgies	20	O			
5	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	120	O			
6	ACT6100-20	Acting Research Project	20	O			
6	ACT6000-20	Acting Independent Study	20	C			
6	ACT6004-20	Production Project – Acting in a Directed Play	20	C			
6	ACT6005-20	Production Project – Making Performance	20	R*			

6	ACT6006-20	Production Project – Mediated Performance	20	R*			
6	ACT6001-20	Rehearsed Reading	20	C			
6	ACT6002-20	The Professional Actor	20	C			

R - You should take at least 20 credits of R* modules at Level 6'*

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 and continuing feedback.

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 (appendix 3) in order to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities

Structured work placements are considered to be a key determinant in gaining graduate level employment on graduation by both employers and students. If you want to explore a placement in a field completely different to your course, then this is possible between levels 5 and 6 via the university-wide Open Module for placements. The BSU **Professional Placement Year** provides you with the opportunity to identify, apply for, and secure professional experience, normally comprising 1-3 placements over a minimum of 9 months, which attracts 120 Level 5 credits. You may choose to take an open work-placement module if you wish to work in a field other than acting. These placements are not related directly to industry specific employment, but do enhance your transferable skills in the wider workplace environment.

With regard to BA (Hons) Acting, it is important to note that Equity, the UK trade union for professional performers and creative practitioners, does not permit students to undertake any formal work experience or placement as a professional actor before graduation. However, level 6 of this programme focuses exclusively on live projects replicating the professional workplace environment through your involvement with OnSet, the production company of the College of Liberal Arts (CoLA).

OnSet brings together performers, designers, directors, musicians, technicians, producers and managers across the field of Music and Performance. All OnSet projects involve working directly with industry professionals. The Professional Actor module provides you with excellent opportunities for developing your professional profile and expanding your networks.

Examples of organisations and professionals that have provided OnSet projects include:

Theatre Royal Bath	The Egg, Bath	The Ustinov Studio Bath	Phillip Ridley Playwright	Ian Nicholson Theatre Director	Matt Ball Theatre Director
Sky of the Bird Theatre Company	Creativity Works Bristol	Blind Eye Theatre Company	David Glass Ensemble	Red Cape Theatre	Taking Flight Theatre
Mirth Control – Geoff Whiting	Chris Head – Comedy Director	Tanya Rich – Voiceover artist and coach	Oscar Blustin – Artistic Director: <i>Spec ifiq</i>	Rupert Miles – Film director	Ed Viney – Theatre Director

This programme can also be taken as a 'Sandwich' degree, which is studied over 4 years and includes a year-long work placement in a sector of your choice. The placement year is completed between years 2 and 3 of your degree and counts for 120 Level 5 credits. During this time you will be able to utilise knowledge gained as part of your studies in a real work environment to gain 'hands on' experience. The University has a dedicated Careers & Employability team to help you find and prepare for a placement. Following your placement year, you will return to University to complete your final year of study.

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	By 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	By your understanding and ability to take responsibility for complex scheduling and your ability to respond imaginatively to the diverse demands required of the actor-interpreter and actor-creator 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	By developing your understanding and ability to work imaginatively and resourcefully across a range of professional and artistic processes. In 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 their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	By encouraging you to take opportunities to study abroad (BSU's Global Citizenship Award). Importantly, BA (Hons) Acting 's curriculum draws on European and global acting practices, theories and techniques and emerging international partnerships offer you access to creative intercultural projects. In this way, we seek to ensure that on graduating from BA (Hons) Acting, you are culturally aware and able network and work with communities in the UK, Europe and worldwide.
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	By 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	By 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
ACT 5001-20	Actor Creator	Assessment modification	approved SQMC 18th November 2019	2020/21
ACT 5100-20	Theatre, Directing and the Production Process	ILO and assessment modification	approved SQMC 18th November 2019	2020/21
ACT 5003-20	Creating with Shakespeare	Content and ILO changes	approved SQMC (Extended deadline Feb 2020)	2020/21
ACT 5001-20	Actor Creator	Change to Semester Additional text to 'Brief description and aims of module' & 'Teaching and learning activities' Change to assessments	approved BSMPA SQMC 19th November 2020	2021/22
ACT 5000-20	Actor Interpreter	Change to Semester	approved BSMPA SQMC 19th November 2020	2021/22
ACT 5003-20	Creating with Shakespeare	Change to Semester Additional text to 'Brief description and aims of module' & 'Outline syllabus' Change to assessments	approved BSMPA SQMC 19th November 2020	2021/22
ACT 5100-20	Theatre, Directing and the Production Process	Change to Semester Change to assessments	approved BSMPA SQMC 19th November 2020	2021/22
ACT 6005-20	Production Project - Making Performance	Additional text to 'Brief description and aims of module' & 'Outline syllabus'	approved BSMPA SQMC 19th November 2020	2021/22

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

Semester 1	Semester 2
Level 4 (take 120 credits core modules only)	
Introduction to Acting Processes 1x 20 credits (C)	Acting Processes 1x 20 credits (C)
Composition 1x 20 credits (C)	Ensemble Practice 1x 20 credits (C)
Performance Skills 1 1x 20 credits (C)	Performance Skills 2 1x 20 credits (C)
Level 5 (take 100 credits core modules, and 20 credits of Options)	
Creating with Shakespeare 1x 20 credits (C)	Creating with Shakespeare 1x 20 credits (C)
Actor Interpreter 1x 20 credits (C)	Actor Interpreter 1x 20 credits (C)
Actor Creator 1x 20 credits (C)	Actor Creator 1x 20 credits (C)
Performance Skills 3 1x 20 credits (C)	Performance Skills 4 1x 20 credits (C)
Theatre Directing and the Production Process 1x 20 credits (O)	Theatre Directing and the Production Process 1x 20 credits (O)
	Acting New Dramaturgies 1x 20 credits (O)
Level 6 (take 80 credits core, at least 20 credits of R* and/or Optional module)	
Acting Research Project 1x 20 credits (O)	Acting Independent Study 1x 20 credits (C)
Production Project – Acting in a Directed Play	Production Project – Making Performance

1x 20 credits (C)	1x 20 credits (R*)
Production Project – Mediated Performance 1x 20 credits (R*)	The Professional Actor 1x 20 credits (C)
Rehearsed Reading 1x 20 credits (C)	

*modules may have to change semesters depending on timetable constraints

Please note, the following modules are available in both semesters 1 and 2: Rehearsed Reading, Production Project - Acting in a Directed Play, Production Project – Making Performance, Production Project – Mediated Performance and The Professional Actor

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	ACT4000-20	Introduction to Acting Processes	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
4	ACT4001-20	Composition	C	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	ACT4002-20	Performance Skills 1	C	x	x	x	x		x					x	x		x
4	ACT4003-20	Acting Processes	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
4	ACT4004-20	Ensemble Practice	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
4	ACT4005-20	Performance Skills 2	C	x	x	x	x	x	x					x	x		x
5	ACT5000-20	Actor Interpreter	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
5	ACT5001-20	Actor Creator	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	ACT5003-20	Creating with Shakespeare	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
5	ACT5002-20	Performance Skills 3	C	x		x	x		x		x		x	x	x		x
5	ACT5004-20	Performance Skills 4	C	x		x	x		x		x		x	x	x		x
5	ACT5100-20	Theatre Directing and the Production Process	O	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
5	ACT5101-20	Acting New Dramaturgies	O	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
5	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	O											x	x	x	x
6	ACT6100-20	Acting Research Project	O	x	x		x	x		x		x		x		x	
6	ACT6000-20	Acting Independent Study	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	ACT6004-20	Production Project – Acting in a Directed Play	C	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
6	ACT6005-20	Production Project – Making Performance	R*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	ACT6006-20	Production Project – Mediated Performance	R*	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	ACT6002-20	The Professional Actor	C				x	x	x					x		x	x

6	ACT6001-20	Rehearsed Reading	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
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^[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			
				Composition Portfolio	Research Project	Journal / Blog	Portfolio	Project Plan	Evaluation	Essay	Performance Recital	Practical project	Presentation	Skills Project	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)
4	ACT40 00-20	Introduction to Acting Processes	C									1x					
4	ACT40 01-20	Composition	C							1x		1x					
4	ACT40 02-20	Performance Skills 1	C											1x			
4	ACT40 03-20	Acting Processes	C									1x					
4	ACT40 04-20	Ensemble Practice	C							1x		1x					
4	ACT40 05-20	Performance Skills 2	C						1x					1x			
5	ACT50 00-20	Actor Interpreter	C						1x			1x					
5	ACT50 01-20	Actor Creator	C							1x		1x					
5	ACT50 02-20	Performance Skills 3	C											1x			
5	ACT50 03-20	Creating with Shakespeare	C							1x		1x					
5	ACT50 04-20	Performance Skills 4	C											1x			
5	ACT51 00-20	Theatre Directing and the Production Process	O									2x					

5	PPY51 00-120	Professional Placement Year	O				1x	1x								
6	ACT51 01-20	Acting New Dramaturgies	O						1x			1x				
6	ACT61 00-20	Acting Research Project	O		1x											
6	ACT60 00-20	Acting Independent Study	C		1x											
6	ACT60 04-20	Production Project – Acting in a Directed Play	C								1x					
6	ACT60 05-20	Production Project – Making Performance	R*								1x					
6	ACT60 06-20	Production Project – Mediated Performance	R*								1x					
6	ACT60 02-20	The Professional Actor	C				1x		1x							
6	ACT60 01-20	Rehearsed Reading	C								1x					

^[5] C = Core; R = Required (ie required for this route); R* = Required*; O = Optional