

## BA Drama



# Why study at Winchester?

There are many reasons to study at the University of Winchester – but the one to consider most is that you will become part of a safe and supportive community.

The University is located within walking distance of the city centre of Winchester, which is only one hour away from London by train. The campus is located in a beautiful wooded setting overlooking the South Downs.

We have excellent facilities for learning and teaching that are continually being updated to enhance the student experience. There is a vibrant Student Union, excellent sports facilities, a modern library and IT facilities across the campus.

At the University of Winchester we aim to provide campus or University Managed Accommodation to all first year full-time undergraduates who hold Winchester as their firm choice. In addition, we also endeavour to provide students from non-EU countries and students with disabilities a room on campus, not just for their first year, but for the duration of their course.

The culture of the University is informal and the emphasis is on you unlocking your potential, developing a clear sense of direction and becoming the best you can be in your chosen career.

Our graduates have a strong track record of finding employment after leaving the University. There is a dedicated Careers Service to provide advice and help you research career pathways and employers. They also organise recruitment fairs and workshops on how to write CVs and perform well at interview.



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Drama at the University of Winchester integrates the study of theory and practice. This exciting and innovative programme engages with the subject through a study of theory, performance and production skills. There is an emphasis on text-based approaches to staging and devising theatre, alongside approaches to applied and community drama.

Each approach is explored in relation to various theories including theatre histories, social and cultural perspectives, major movements and theatre practitioners. Students will largely be taught in our newly completed suite of purpose-built Performing Arts Studios, as well as our performance spaces which host professional, staff and student productions throughout the year. In support of the programme visiting companies and specialists offer workshops linked to the modules on the course.

## Programme content

Students may concentrate on drama as a Single Honours or a Combined Honours degree programme. See page 5 for more details on study options.

## Single Honours

The Drama programme is developmental, promoting increasingly independent learning as the student progresses.

**Level 1** offers introductory modules in improvisation, approaches to performance and production, theatre histories, non-western and other alternative theatre practices, popular theatre as well as a range of critical and theoretical skills. All modules in Level 1 are compulsory, but as students progress through the course their choices and specialisations expand and they gradually take greater responsibility for their own learning.

**Level 2** students broaden their technique and skills and apply them in a staff-led production or an applied drama project. They choose from a range of optional modules and explore major elements of theory which underpin the work of some of the world's most important practitioners.

In **Level 3** the studies are concentrated on three major tasks: the Final Year Project, a dissertation closely focused on the student's particular interests; the Group Project, in which the students form small companies and create major performance



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or project work for a public audience; and a double module which explores contemporary and emerging performance practices and theories.

## Level 1

Level 1 offers introductory modules in the theory and practice of drama. Four year-long modules offer insights into the history of Drama, the context in which dramatic production has taken place, how we make theatre, the political underpinning of texts and practices, as well as examining the ways in which we interpret texts and performances. All modules at this level are compulsory and are designed to give students a high-level of engagement with their chosen subject.

## Level 2

Level 2 sees students broaden their practical and critical skills. Students choose from a range of optional modules enabling them to construct their own experience. They will be able to undertake a Production Project, or experience Drama in Applied and Educational Contexts. Alongside this students will study important theories and practices that have underpinned the development of the subject, and there are opportunities to study controversial and popular aspects of

performance. Students may also elect to take Open Project – a module which allows students to accredit activity outside of their main studies. This may take the form of a negotiated project or work placement.

## Level 3

Level 3 sees students emerge as independent learners. There are three main tasks at this level: the Final Year Project (a dissertation closely focused on the student's particular interests); the Group Project (where students create small companies to make a major performance for a public audience, which can also take the form of an applied/community project); Performance Now (which explores contemporary and emerging theories and practices). Students will also elect a Specialist option focused on staff research interests, as well as a module in Enterprise.

## Combined Honours

Combined Honours degree students are offered many similar options to the Single Honours students, including compulsory and foundational courses in Level 1, optional courses, the opportunity to develop more sustained performance work in Level 2 as well as a major performance or applied/community drama project in Level 3. Whilst the relationship between practice

## STUDY OPTIONS

### Single Honours

Single Honours degree programmes focus on one subject. They generally focus around a 'core' of compulsory modules which are added to by a range of optional modules which enable you to tailor your degree towards your own interests.

### Combined Honours

Combined Honours degree programmes enable you to study two subjects, either jointly (50%/50%) or in a main/subsidiary combination (75%/25%). This enables you to adopt a flexible pathway and develop other interests.



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and theory is similarly imperative to these studies, it is inevitable that the Combined Honours programme does not offer the same range or concentration upon performance and production skills as the Single Honours course. However, the compensation is that the student is able to experience half of another programme, either within the Faculty of Arts, such as Dance, Media, Film or English, or outside of the Faculty, such as Psychology or History. We encourage Combined Honours students to apply the skills from their other programme to their study of drama.

Whether you are studying the Single Honours or Combined Honours degree, you will cover each of the following streams to some extent, and you may choose to specialise in one or more of them:

**Popular Theatre** – including the commedia dell'arte, street theatre, pantomime, stand-up comedy, mask theatre, vaudeville and puppetry.

**Theatre Practitioners** – including Constantin Stanislavski, Bertolt Brecht, Antonin Artaud, Jerzy Grotowski, Edward Gordon Craig, Joan Littlewood, Robert Wilson, Robert Lepage and Elizabeth LeCompte.

## MODULES

The new Drama degree is specifically designed to encourage students to engage with the course, whilst be able to establish concrete links between the different areas they may opt to study.

An innovative range of assessment helps students to make the most of their learning.

### Level 1:

- Histories and Contexts
- Making Theatre
- Politics of Performance
- Contemporary Theatre (Text and Interpretation)
- Reading Theatre (Combined Honours module)

### Level 2:

- Identities
- Production Project
- Drama in Education
- Applied Drama
- Popular Performance
- Drama and Controversy
- Open Project

### Level 3:

- Final Year Project/Dissertation
- Group Project
- Performance Now
- Enterprise
  
- Specialism (a range of modules based on staff research interests, including: Shakespeare, Body Parts, Women: Theatre and Autobiography and others)

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**Applied Theatre** – including community drama, prison theatre, theatre and disability and theatre in education.

**Theatre Production** – including, in previous years *Antigone*, *Julius Caesar*, *Faustus*, *Medea*, *Come Along Thursday*, *We Want Your Dog!*, *Our Country's Good*, *The Lion*, *the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Oh What a Lovely War!* and many more.

**Critical Theatre** – including theories of culture and society, production and consumption, representation and its effects, race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality and how each of these impact upon and inform our understanding of theatre.

**Theatre Histories** – including Ancient Greece, Medieval, Shakespeare and early modern drama, Restoration, Naturalist, Expressionist, Post-War, Post-Colonial and New Writing.

**Making Theatre** – including improvised, devised, physical, text-based, adaptation, design and technical theatre.

**Theatre Skills** – including voice and movement, approaches to directing and facilitating drama workshops.

## Facilities

As well as our new Performing Arts Studios, the University is equipped with a camera and sound studio, a new multimedia suite containing composition and film editing software, as well as rehearsal spaces and music practice rooms. There is also a state-of-the-art Performance Gymnasium, as well as dance studios and other performance spaces.

## Teaching Team

### Stephen Hall

Stephen is the Programme Leader for Drama. Alongside this role he continues to work as an actor, writer and director, as well as a consultant to the Creative and Cultural industries. His teaching is focused on popular forms of theatre and performance. Think that covers it!

## Contact us

### Course Enquiries and Applications

Telephone: +44 (0) 1962 827234

Email: [course.enquiries@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:course.enquiries@winchester.ac.uk)



# Explore the Winchester experience

Open Days are a great way to find out more about the course that you are interested in. It is also an opportunity to explore the campus and meet tutors and current students to discover what studying at Winchester is all about.

To find out when the next Open Day is visit [www.winchester.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.winchester.ac.uk/opendays) or contact the Student Recruitment team.

At the event, academics from all of our programmes will be around campus giving sessions about your subject of interest. Each of the sessions will include an overview of the course, entry requirements, the application process and an opportunity to ask any questions you might have.

Student Union representatives will also be available so you can find out more about Winchester's sports clubs, societies and community involvement.

As part of the campus tour you will see the halls of residence and the West Downs Student Village and find out more about living in Winchester. You will also be told about the student support services and scholarships and bursaries that are on offer.

If you miss any of the Open Days or are unavailable to attend – you can arrange a

Campus Tour instead by contacting the Student Recruitment team.

## Student Recruitment

**Telephone:** +44 (0) 1962 827089

**Email:** [opendays@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:opendays@winchester.ac.uk)



# Finding out more...

Course Enquiries and Applications

Telephone: +44 (0)1962 827234

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booklet is available on request**