

BA Street Arts



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINCHESTER

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 brand new 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.



BA Street Arts

The BA Street Arts programme at Winchester is an exciting new performance-based degree that explores how to create imaginative contemporary productions in the new arenas of street arts and outdoor spaces. This sector of the performing arts is innovative, diverse and rapidly expanding. In the programme, students develop a practice leading to the creation of many styles of performances engaging new audiences.

Are you excited by the idea of making new performances in new places? Do you want to develop and expand your performing skills and try out and explore new and different ways of making work? Winchester encourages you to apply your existing skills to these new contexts and strive for performances of the highest quality.

During the course, there is an opportunity to develop work for the Winchester Hat Fair (the longest running and one of the largest street arts festivals in the UK) and for the Tarrega festival in Spain. There is also an opportunity to work in an exchange with students from the

University of Girona in Spain. Students work with creative producers, arts administrators, professional practitioners and street arts festivals and events. Performances take shape under many influences and offer you the opportunity to transform your ideas into imaginative productions in a wide variety of settings through a process of creative engagement and critical reflection.

You may want to create and produce spectacular performances for festivals and large scale events; make and perform large scale puppets; engage in the vibrant world of street dance, music and comedy; or develop a show that you could perform in many different countries around the world. As a performing artist, you may choose to create and organise live events through creative partnerships with city centres, the heritage industry and commercial companies or as part of community celebrations.

As a graduate in this new arena of work you will be among the first professionally trained practitioners in this rapidly growing sector of the creative and cultural industries.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Typical offer: 240-280 points*
Single Honours

Selection process: Potentially suitable applicants may be invited to interview and/or a group workshop

If English is not your first language:

For undergraduate programmes students are required to have achieved a minimum of IELTS 6.0 (including 6.0 in writing) or a TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based) or 213 (computer-based) or an equivalent qualification. If you do not have the necessary level of English there are pre-sessional English language training programmes available at the University that may allow you to meet your minimum entry requirements. Please see the University website for details.

***Entry requirements correct at time of print. For the most up-to-date entry requirements please see the Undergraduate Prospectus for your year of entry or visit our website at www.winchester.ac.uk**

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With the growth of events, festivals and outdoor performances, you will be able to develop a portfolio of work throughout the degree and have the opportunity to showcase it in front of creative producers, agents and event's organisers here and abroad whilst studying on the programme.

This innovative degree builds on the University of Winchester reputation as a creator of contemporary performance in the performing arts. Students devise and develop productions that draw from a range of different subject areas and produce performances within an atmosphere of innovation and creative development.

Programme content

The course is based on the practices of outdoor performances that have a long and distinguished tradition. Street arts have always reflected on and drawn from intercultural influences evolving many styles from around the world. Students develop skills that involve physicality and movement, improvisation and devising, making and production, new media and technology, puppetry, music, circus and comedy.

Level 1

In Level 1, students learn how to create performance through improvisation and devising processes and through learning, developing and applying a wide range of core skills. As you develop these skills you explore how developments in digital media, networking and the internet can connect you to a wide range of audiences and practices in the shaping of your practice as well as allowing you to record and disseminate your own practice. This work is created within a framework of critical reflection as you study the dramaturgy of outdoor space and explore the subject from its roots in popular traditions and the carnival to its position as an innovative and diverse contemporary practice.

Initially, students make performances around the University. Students then increasingly engage in short form styles in and around Winchester, more in the form of interventions than fully-fledged performances for the public. Students are encouraged to explore street arts in its widest context drawing from contact with professionals and visiting lecturers as well as experienced street arts practitioners who already teach at the University.



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.

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Level 2

In Level 2, you extend your understanding of the approaches and skills in street arts through playful exploration and experimentation in cross disciplinary practice, drawing from and looking across to other forms to encourage new and exiting works. You are encouraged to discover new ways of working using a diversity of skills around key areas of interest to street arts. In Semester 2, over a three month period, you have the opportunity to develop productions in association with the students at the University of Girona resulting in performances at the Winchester Hat Fair and in festivals in Spain.

Students critically reflect on their own and other's work. Some aspects of your work will receive project direction from the staff as you approach public performance. As a company during this intense year of practice and performance you continue to develop your production and performance skills, including developing the administrative and promotional skills necessary to develop and run your own company in collaborative and sustainable relationships with professional

creative producers. You continue to inform your practice through a critical framework that looks at transcultural influences, counter narratives and alternative perspectives and practices.

Level 3

In Level 3, you are engaged in independent study and performance both as a group and individually. In the Company Performance Project you create, develop, produce and deliver performances to a level that on completion can be performed in front of the public at the Winchester Hat Fair. You are encouraged in the process to explore ways of developing your ideas using a variety of techniques, for example workshops, prototype performances. Your aim is to develop contemporary street arts performance to a level that can sustain professional and public scrutiny. The final production is showcased to invited creative producers, agents, events programmers in order to develop reciprocal sustainable relationships of employment and practice.



MODULES

Level 1

- Dramaturgy
- Devising
- Performance Skills
- Production Skills
- Popular Traditions – The Street as Stage

Level 2

- Circus/Spectacle
- Street Animation
- Comedy
- Street Dance/Acrobatics/Music/Parkour
- Installation/Site-specific
- Cross-disciplinary Devising
- Street Arts Practice
- Counter Narratives/Trans cultural Studies

Level 3

- Company Project
- Creative Production
- Current Debates/Performance Criticism



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Final Year Project

The Final Year Project is your chance to explore your ideas and visions through writing and performance that you have found interesting and engaging over the course of your study in the process of making performance. You might choose to write a dissertation, produce a documented project/ performance or produce a creative project.

The Final Year Project is accompanied by modules on creative production and critical studies that relate your final year's work to the working and performance environment that you will soon be entering. It also prepares you for the creative infrastructure that is currently emerging in street arts practice.

Learning and Teaching

At the roots of BA Street Arts is the central role of devising within a collective context, exploring practice using interdisciplinary methods and recognizing the importance of enquiry. You are introduced to a wide variety of street arts style and practice that informs your own understanding of the subject. We are as much interested in how performances

are created in outdoor contexts as in the skills that lie at the centre of the subject. We believe that both these elements need to be understood in relation to each other and within a wider social, political and cultural context. The course therefore is a journey into a wide engagement with street arts performing contexts that are both practical and conceptual. In this way we look for students whose critical awareness informs the way that they make work and in the way they understand their place in the community of street arts practitioners. What you believe and how you want to practice is important to us.

Assessment

Assessment is made mainly through assignments and projects completed during modules. Modules include performances, presentations, workshops, documentation journals, seminars, online tasks and written work. We encourage you to reflect through your relationship to the internet as well as more traditional means of study. We are conscious of this growing relationship with new media and encourage you to develop skills that can be used in a networking society.



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Increasingly through the course you are able to specify route ways that allows you to choose assessment methods that play to your strengths.

Teaching team

The core teaching team comes from all areas of the performing arts. They have a wide range of experience as producers, practitioners, lecturers and teachers. There are also opportunities to work with professional practitioners, creative producers and street arts companies throughout the course. Specialisms include circus, large scale puppetry, street dance and choreography, street theatre, Commedia dell'arte, carnival arts, devised theatre, clown and comedy, site specific performance and environmental art, live art, music, physical theatre and creative production. The staff is professionally engaged in projects that involve international collaborations, national street arts performance groups and consultancy. We are conscious of the need to have a contemporary understanding of this fast evolving area of practice.

John Lee (Programme Leader) is Artistic Director of Fuse Performance and a consultant to companies such as Kneehigh Theatre Company. He has toured in over 35 countries as a performer and street artist with the British Council and is Co-founder of the first Circus School in Britain.

Richard Cuming is a performer, director, deviser and teacher whose specialism is in innovative devised practice, especially in physical and visual performance and the synthesis of different forms, including clown and visual performance.

Janet Lee is a physical theatre performer and puppeteer, whose specialist areas are Physical and Visual Theatre. Her interests in street arts include large scale puppetry and stilt walking performance. She has directed for and performed with Strange Arrangements for the past 10 years as well as collaborating with Australian puppetry company Spare Parts Puppet Theatre.

Gordon Murray is a theatre director and script developer whose projects range from



the production of new plays to the staging of large-scale public performance events. He is also a practitioner of community and applied drama projects.

Dr Olu Taiwo graduated from the Laban Centre with an MA in Choreography and wrote his PhD on performance philosophy. He teaches dance, visual development and performance in a combination of real and virtual formats and has a background in Fine Art. He is an actor, dancer and drummer performing in national and international contexts. His main interests are to propagate twenty-first century issues concerning the interaction between body, identity, audience and technology.

Dr Cathy Turner's interests are in live art and cross-art-form work. She has published on writing for performance and site-specific practice and is co-founder of Wright and Sites, a group of reflective practitioners committed to creating and researching site-specific work.

Jane Watson is a practitioner and lecturer, whose specialisms are in the field of movement

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and performance. She trained in Paris at the Ecole Jacques Lecoq, after which she set up her own performance company, Watson & Co, with whom she devised four productions which toured internationally. She is also a trained Feldenkreis practitioner.

Career opportunities

Students leave this course with a wide range of skills and approaches appropriate to street arts practice. They will have experience of producing public performances within professional arenas using a wide variety of practices and styles. Through creating, developing and producing their own performances, they will also be well equipped with an understanding of how to market and administrate their own projects. Many of the skills involved are transferable and will equip the students to also move into a range of related professions that lie at the centre of creative industries.

Students can expect to go on to become street arts practitioners and performers, creative producers, events organisers, directors and choreographers of street arts and outside events, arts managers,

community, carnival arts and participatory theatre practitioners and teachers. There is also the opportunity to progress into postgraduate study.

For more information:

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Course Enquiries and Applications

Telephone: +44 (0) 1962 827234

Email: 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 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



Finding out more...

Course Enquiries and Applications

Telephone: +44 (0)1962 827234

Email: course.enquiries@winchester.ac.uk



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booklet is available on request