

COURSE SUMMARY DOCUMENT

2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR

COURSE TITLE: Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Professional Acting

DURATION OF COURSE: One Year (Full Time)

Entry Requirements:

Applicants would normally be expected to have an undergraduate degree in a related subject area such as Drama, Acting, Theatre Studies or Performance Studies. However, applicants with relevant professional experience will also be considered.

For speakers of English as a second language an IELTS 6.5 (International English Language Testing System) or equivalent is the minimum requirement with a minimum of 6.5 in each component of reading, listening and speaking and 6.0 in writing.

Applicants will be auditioned online by two practitioners, one of whom will either be a senior member of Bristol Old Vic Theatre School Acting staff or a practitioner of high standing in the industry. Auditions will be recorded for further assessment by senior members of the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School Acting staff.

At audition, applicants will need to demonstrate a good standard of acting, both in terms of preparation and ability to take direction.

Applicants will be given an opportunity to ask questions about the course as part of the audition session, as well as via internet or phone after the audition.

Course Outline:

This one-year Masters level course gives postgraduate students the opportunity to study in Bristol on an intensive one-year Conservatoire acting course. There is a strong emphasis on developing the actor's voice and body and a commitment to building performance through close text work.

As well as working on the core actor skills, there is a focus on broadening the student's capacity to work through a range of acting techniques, advancing movement, and stage combat skills, examining the classical British and European repertoire, and a practical exploration of Shakespearean text as well as contemporary work.

In the spring or summer term students are directed in a production, support by professional design, stage management and costume students or industry practitioners.

The main thrust of the course is to equip students with a range of techniques appropriate to the varied acting demands made within the current performance industry, including those appropriate to film, television and audio recording. The training will provide graduates with the skills to work at a high professional standard in the country where they choose to practice.

Core Modules and any Optional Modules:

All modules are compulsory.

Module Name: The Actor's Instrument (40 credits).

Module Name: Applied Movement and the Classical Tradition (30 credits).

Module Name: Text and Context (40 credits).

Module Name: Performance (30 credits).

Module Name: Professional Portfolio (40 credits)

Optional Modules: There are no optional modules.

Credit requirements: Total 180 credits from the above modules at level M.

Method of study (for example, lectures, seminars, work placements) expected:

The Course is practical and career focused, and is fully integrated with the school's other Acting courses. It involves the same full-time teaching staff and visiting industry professionals and is coordinated as part of the School's weekly timetable.

Much of the teaching is through group classes involving the MFA cohort in areas including acting, voice, movement, singing, professional development and Alexander Technique. The Course also features a high level of one-to-one teaching by visiting industry professionals and full-time teaching staff as part of individual tutorials.

Workload including number of contact hours with School staff and expected self-study: The learning is immersive with students being in class with teaching staff at least 23 hours per week across the 40 teaching weeks of the course. Students will normally need to spend on average 10 hours per week in independent study.

Students will normally be in class Monday – Friday between 9.15am and 5.15pm, Wednesday afternoons will regularly not have timetabled classes.

The overall methods of assessment for the Modules (for example exams, course work or practical assignments):

The assessment strategy for this course is appropriate for professional practice modules and involves a mix of continuous assessment of student's learning and performances (text project presentations and student internal auditions), written assignments (research document, CV and Production Journal), viva voce (exploratory discussion with the students intended to demonstrate a sound methodological and reflective approach to performance praxis) and recorded material. In addition, students will be assessed on their presentation of a choreographed fight sequence based on dramatic text.

Assessment also focuses on the development of self-reliance, intellectual and emotional engagement, and initiative in creating growth.

Students are assessed on their professional practice on a pass or fail basis. Judgements about students' performance are made against relevant academic and industry standards.

The UWE qualifications are awarded as non-classified/non-differentiated.

The award students will receive on successful completion of their Course:

MFA Professional Acting validated by the University of the West of England, Bristol.

Where the course is taught:

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School

Length of the Modules:

Between 7 and 25 weeks each.

Staff who are delivering the teaching:

Head of Course, BOVTS teaching staff and visiting industry professionals.

The fees which students can expect to pay:

Tuition fees for students on the MFA Professional Acting (one year) course will be £27,010 Please see the

Fees Policy at <https://www.uwe.ac.uk/courses/fees/tuition-fees-policy> for further information.

Any extra costs (in addition to fees) which students may have to pay to complete the course and estimated cost:

Increasingly, much of the information and some of the content of the course is available via the School's virtual learning environment and so you will benefit from having access to your own personal computer and the internet to make the most of your course. It is estimated that a suitable personal computer will cost £300.00. Please check with the Course leader for recommended functionality. You will need to research the most cost-effective way of accessing the internet. The School has a number of means tested scholarship funds available to assist students with purchases of computer hardware and other essential costs which would otherwise cause financial hardship.

Course materials are provided, but students may have to allow funds to provide their own work clothes and contribute to some costs towards their self-promotion materials. It is estimated that additional costs will be around £150.00. Students can apply for hardship funds if required.