

COURSE SUMMARY DOCUMENT

2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR

COURSE TITLE: Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Professional Voice Studies

DURATION OF COURSE: One Year (Full Time)

Entry Requirements:

Applicants would be expected to have an honours degree in a related subject or have extensive relevant professional experience.

For speakers of English as a second language an IELTS 7.0 (International English Language Testing System) or equivalent is the minimum requirement with a minimum of 7.0 in each component of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

All applicants will be interviewed by two members of staff. Interviews May be conducted online.

Course Outline:

Professional Voice Studies offers students the opportunity to undertake specialised voice studies training within an internationally acclaimed theatre school setting.

(In the UK the terms course and programme / program are used interchangeably).

The course is eclectic in its approach, drawing on a range of methodologies and practitioners.

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School normally produces professional standard productions at a range of theatres in the South West of England and Professional Voice Studies students will usually have the opportunity to work with the actors on these productions as part of their studies.

There will be opportunities within the curriculum for collaboration with students on other courses including the MA Drama Directing, MA Performance Design, MA Drama Writing and BA (Hons) Professional Acting course.

Core Modules and any Optional Modules:

All modules are compulsory.

Module Name: Voice Anatomy and Physiology (15 credits)

Module Name: Phonetics and Accents (45 credits)

Module Name: Voice, Speech and Text (60 credits)

Module Name: Practice and Research (60 credits)

Interim Award: There are no interim awards under this award scheme.

Credit requirements: MFA Professional Voice Studies – 180 credits

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

The course is largely practical but with a theoretical underpinning. It is taught through practical classes, workshops, lectures, projects and coaching/teaching observation and practice.

Coaching/teaching practice usually takes place either within the School in tutorial or class settings, on student productions in theatres or in other professional contexts outside the School. Teaching is provided by highly specialised tutors and subject practitioners in small groups.

Increasingly, much of the information and some of the content of the course is available via the School's Virtual Learning Environment and you will benefit from having access to your own personal computer and the internet to make the most of your course.

Workload including number of structured hours with School staff/students and expected self-study: This is a full-time course consisting of three terms. Students' usual attendance hours will be Monday – Friday from 9.15 am until 5pm, some of this time will be dedicated to self-study. However, there may be an occasional requirement for weekend attendance.

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

Assessment is through assessment of practical work, presentations, coaching/teaching, a 'practice-as research' project and written assignments.

You are assessed on a pass or fail basis (meaning that degrees are undifferentiated).

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

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

Where the course is taught:

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School's Downside Road with projects happening in venues across the city

Length of the Modules:

Between 11 and 38 weeks.

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 UK and Republic of Ireland students on the MFA Professional Voice Studies course will be £16,000 Tuition fees for overseas students (non-UK) on the MFA Professional Voice Studies will be £26,500

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.