

Drama



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Further information

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Admissions Policy

Candidates for drama programmes are usually expected to have A level or equivalent in English Literature and/or Theatre Studies, as well as another arts subject. We encourage you to apply if you have alternative qualifications equivalent to our stated entry requirement. Please see page 43 or contact our Admissions team for details. We employ an interview and audition process for applicants to these programmes. Overseas applicants who are unable to attend an audition should be willing to submit a video performance of specified audition pieces. Applicants for Scriptwriting and Performance (WW84) will, in addition, be asked to submit a sample of writing.

Teaching and Assessment

The first year introduces the study of drama through texts, practical classes and lectures. In years 2 and 3 you pursue the study of Dramatic Theory and Dramatic Literature from a wide range of choices, as well as Theatre History and World Performance Practice, culminating in an individual performance project. Coursework and the assessment of performances constitute a large part of the final assessment. There are no final examinations.

Career Prospects

Graduates from our drama programmes have an excellent employment record in all aspects of their field and beyond it. When you graduate, you will be qualified for a high proportion of those jobs which require general graduate entry. In addition, you will have acquired skills that qualify you to go on to directly related fields in the media and media administration, such as television production, directing and theatre administration. Some graduates go on to gain professional and vocational qualifications, or to study for a higher degree (such as our own MA programmes in Theatre Directing, Scriptwriting and Theatre and Development).

Research Areas

We are noted for our work on the theory of performance including improvisation, scriptwriting and directing. Textual specialisms include Shakespeare, Strindberg and Indian drama. Teaching and research activity have received high ratings; postgraduate work focuses on writing for the stage, directing, and the development and analysis of performance theory and practice. The faculty has an outstanding programme of readings and lectures by poets, dramatists, novelists and visiting scholars.

The Drama Studio

As well as hosting a series of international and professional theatre visits, recent productions in the adaptable, professionally-equipped Studio have included European classics (Shakespeare, Ibsen, Pirandello, Wedekind), a contemporary Indian play, puppet versions of Medea and a children's classic, and new physical and scripted work from students. Students run their own highly-successful theatre company, regularly producing work in the Drama Studio and elsewhere, allowing students invaluable directing, acting, technical and writing experience. There are strong links with the University Drama Society and with the following local theatres: Maddermarket, Sewell Barn, Playhouse, Puppet Theatre and Theatre Royal. UEA validates degree programmes at London's Mountview Theatre Academy and has links with academies and university programmes in India and South Africa. A team of professional tutors provide expertise in music, voice-work, physical skills and non-western theatre forms. Our ethos is grounded in a recognition of the personal, social and political empowerment that theatre training can deliver through its wide range of creative and practical skills.

Key facts

- ✦ Top-ranked for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey 2008
- ✦ Purpose-built 200-seat studio theatre
- ✦ Opportunities for placement with professional theatre, film or television company
- ✦ Course based on developmental series of assessed practical projects
- ✦ Strong creative writing presence (writing for stage and other media)
- ✦ Expertise in English, European and non-European drama
- ✦ 'Excellent' Teaching Quality Assessment rating
- ✦ Students run their own theatre company

Far left: UEA drama graduate Matt Smith has been chosen as the new Dr Who in the popular BBC television series.

Drama

BA Drama

UCAS code W400

A level (typical offer): AAB-BBB
 International baccalaureate: 33-31
 Preferred entry qualifications:
 A level English Literature
 and/or Theatre Studies
 Length of course: 3 years
 Option to study abroad: Yes

This programme allows you to combine a strong practical emphasis with the study of the theory, history and social significance of drama, complemented by detailed study of dramatic literature and aspects of visual and technical design. You will participate in a major practical project each year as well as undertaking a wide variety of applied drama work and there is also the opportunity for you to study on placement with professional companies.

Year 1

From the start of the first year all drama students (whatever their programme) are introduced to a range of applied and technical theatre skills (including safe use of the Drama Studio and aspects of lighting, sound, stage management and stage design) as well as basic acting, group work and weekly voice classes. You also begin a study of the historical repertoire, reading dramatic texts from

Ancient Greece to the present. Lectures explore history and conventions as well as interpretative and performance strategies for a selection of 'key texts'. You also choose from a range of optional modules (including Literature in History, Key Issues in Film Studies and Introduction to Philosophy) which equip you to take further seminars in these areas later on. A spring semester module (currently focusing on Post-War British Drama) leads to performance work with staff and MA theatre directors.

Year 2

The second year introduces a wide range of optional courses (such as detailed acting work in The Actor and the Text; seminars in, for example, Classical Drama, Shakespeare, Contemporary American Drama, Political Theatre or Creative Writing). There is an emphasis on World Performance, exploring non-western theatrical forms. Second-year practical work

currently focuses on 'out-reach' work, taking performance into a variety of real-world contexts (recent projects include work with school children, the elderly and trainee medical personnel).

In the second year, you may choose an internship with a professional venue or company. You may also opt to transfer your studies to another European university for one or both semesters of the second year, choosing from universities in countries such as Greece, France, Germany and Switzerland. Alternatively, and depending on the availability of places, you may spend a second-year semester at an Australian university, such as Macquarie, Sydney. Many students have made use of the internship option to experience professional work abroad (including India, South Africa, Ghana, Tanzania, Canada, New Zealand, Indonesia) as well as European theatre venues.

Year 3

The third year has two major production elements. The third-year production usually centres on a complex text, and synthesises the skills acquired in the first two years, such as acting, directing, and production work, alongside textual and critical exploration. Practical work culminates in an individual project. There is the option of a dissertation.

“The University had an incredibly supportive atmosphere in which one could succeed and experiment. Now that I am on a clear career path, it is easier for me to see how the skills I use every day are those that were developed and nurtured at the University.”

Becky Barber, BA Drama now Production Administrator, Old Vic Productions

Course brochure: Tel 01603 592283
 or email lit.admiss@uea.ac.uk



English Literature and Drama

BA English Literature and Drama

UCAS code WQ43

A level (typical offer): AAB-BBB
 International baccalaureate: 33-31
 Required entry qualifications:
 A level English Literature
 Length of course: 3 years
 Option to study abroad: Yes

Course brochure: Tel 01603 592283
 or email lit.admiss@uea.ac.uk



This programme combines modules in English literature with practical drama modules, enabling you to study the relationships between the practices of writing in all major genres – prose, poetry and drama – and the practices of dramatic production and acting. There is also the opportunity for you to study on placement with professional companies. A final-year module brings the two subjects together in a study of the concept of genre, and of the adaptation of literature for the stage. See the programmes in English literature (page 133) and Drama (112) for more information on the structures of the two strands.

Year 1

From the start of the first year all drama students (whatever their programme) are introduced to a range of applied and technical theatre skills (including safe use of the Drama Studio and aspects of lighting, sound, stage management and stage design) as well as basic acting, group work and weekly voice classes.

You will take Reading Texts – a year-long small group module which encourages you to explore and reflect on your responses to literature. You choose between lectures in Literature in History or Introduction to World Dramatic Literature, both of which explore contexts and conventions as well as interpretative strategies for a selection of ‘key texts’ equipping you to take further seminars in these areas later on. A spring semester module (currently focusing on Post-War British Drama) leads to performance work with staff and MA theatre directors.

Year 2

The second year offers optional courses (including detailed acting work in The Actor and the Text, and an extensive choice of seminars in literature, drama and creative writing – prose, poetry or drama). There is an emphasis on World Performance, exploring non-western theatrical forms, but there is also a free choice module enabling you to explore more widely. You may opt for the second-year practical module which currently focuses on

‘out-reach’ work, taking performance into a variety of real-world contexts (recent projects include work with school children, the elderly and trainee medical personnel).

In the second year, you may choose an internship with a professional venue or company. You may also opt to transfer your studies to another European university for one or both semesters of the second year, choosing from universities in countries such as Greece, France, Germany and Switzerland. Alternatively, and depending on the availability of places, you may spend a second-year semester at an Australian university, such as Macquarie, Sydney. Many students have made use of the internship option to experience professional work abroad (including India, South Africa, Ghana, Tanzania, Canada, New Zealand, Indonesia) as well as European theatre venues.

Year 3

There is one compulsory module called Drama and Literature: The Question of Genre, which brings together the two strands of your course and allows you to explore the processes of dramatic adaptation. You may choose either the third year production or the individual project, and you may opt for a dissertation.

“I had some high expectations of what Uni life would be like, but having been here for a year now, I can honestly say that in reality it surpassed them all! It’s been more challenging and more fun than I could have ever expected.”

Joe Wright, English Literature and Drama

Scriptwriting and Performance

BA Scriptwriting and Performance

UCAS code WW84

A level (typical offer): AAB-BBB
 International baccalaureate: 33-31
 Preferred entry qualifications:
 A level English Literature
 and/or Theatre Studies
 Length of course: 3 years
 Option to study abroad: Yes

This programme offers you the opportunity to study creative writing for each of the major dramatic media – theatre, cinema, television and radio – combined with practical, critical and historical studies in dramatic literature and performance. You will be introduced to the specific formats, conventions and techniques of scriptwriting for different forms, and will learn by writing scenes and short scripts, and critiquing each others' work. Working alongside students on other drama programmes, you will develop your writing skills in the context of an understanding of many aspects of theatre work, including acting, rehearsal and production methods. You will be able to opt to do the Drama Internship in year 2, which involves a work placement in a drama-producing organisation or environment and you will be able to take part in production and practical project work.

Year 1

From the start of the first year all drama students (whatever their programme) are introduced to a range of applied and technical theatre skills (including safe use of the Drama Studio and aspects of lighting, sound, stage management and stage design) as well as basic

acting, group work and weekly voice classes. Your options are largely those available to single honours drama students (see page 112) alongside whom you work, but you will take the Key Issues in Film Studies module and a compulsory module in Scriptwriting and Performance which marks the beginning of your specialist study and prepares you for the detailed work of the second year. A spring semester module (currently focusing on Post-War British Drama) leads to performance work with staff and MA theatre directors.

Year 2

In year 2, there is a compulsory Creative Writing: Drama module in each semester, one of which will focus on stage/radio writing, and one of which will explore the discipline of screenwriting: both lead to the workshoping of scripts. In addition, you choose from a wide range of optional courses (including detailed acting work in *The Actor and the Text*, and seminars in film studies or dramatic literature). There is an emphasis on World Performance, exploring non-western theatrical forms. Optional second-year practical work currently focuses on 'out-reach' work, taking performance into a variety of real-world contexts.

In the second year, there is the option of an internship with a professional venue or company. You may also opt to transfer your studies to another European university for one or both semesters of the second year, choosing from universities in countries such as Greece, France, Germany and Switzerland. Alternatively, and depending on the availability of places, you may spend a second-year semester at an Australian university, such as Macquarie, Sydney. Many students have made use of the internship option to experience professional work abroad.

Year 3

You may choose to be involved in the third year Production and/or the third year Project (which for you, will mean a short written piece for performance by other students). You will also do a creative writing dissertation (a full-length play or screenplay).

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Second year production
Bed by Jim Cartwright.