



Programme Specification 2026/27
BA in Production Arts

Key Information

Programme Title	BA in Production Arts
Programme Code	UBARTPRAR
Length of Programme	3 Years
Mode of Delivery	Full Time
Total Credits (Learning Hours)	360 credits (3600 learning hours)
Contact Learning Hours	65%
Self-Directed Learning Hours	35%
Final Award Title	Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Production Arts [Pathway]
FHEQ Level	6
Awarding Body	Guildhall School of Music & Drama
Regulated by	The Office for Students (OfS)
Accredited by	Not Applicable
Location of Study	Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London. Some production activity, including rehearsals may take place off-site proximate to the Guildhall School. Work placements in Year 3 will be dependent on the location of the opportunity.
Programme Fees	Fee Schedule for entry year

Entry requirements

Pathways

The BA (Hons) Production Arts programme offers four specialist pathways: Costume, Design Realisation, Stage Management, and Theatre Technology. You may apply to more than one pathway when submitting your application, but you may only be enrolled on one. While your pathway provides a distinct specialist focus, you will also have opportunities throughout the programme to take part in work across other pathways and areas of production arts, helping you to develop a broad and collaborative skillset. Requests to change pathways can only be considered in Year 1.

Minimum entry requirements

You will normally have two A levels at grade E or above, or the national or international equivalent.

You will also need to provide a sample of written work for assessment to confirm it meets the programme's minimum standard, unless you already hold GCSE English at Grade 5 (Grade B) or above, or an equivalent English qualification.

Non-standard entry

Our programme follows the school-wide Non-Standard Entry policy. This means that if your abilities match the standards required for entry, but you do not hold the formal qualifications normally expected, you may still be considered. However, please note that exemptions from Year 1 or Year 2 of the programme are not available.

English language requirements

If you are an overseas applicant and English is not your first language you must achieve an overall IELTS score of 6.5 or above, and no less than 6.0 in any of the component parts. Valid equivalences may be accepted.

Interviews

All applicants will be invited to interview. You should prepare a portfolio of work relevant to your chosen pathway. Further information about what to include in your portfolio will be sent to you after submission of your application and in advance of your interview.

Occupational health

Our Production Arts course incorporates significant amounts of practical work, including work at height, and work with tools and machinery. Therefore, we ask that all offer holders complete an occupational health questionnaire. Completion of the questionnaire is a condition of the offer. An occupational health assessment may sometimes be required as a follow up in individual cases. This process is designed to ensure that students are clear about the demands and expectations of the course, and it enables us to consider and support any reasonable adjustments that may be necessary, as well as helping us to deliver the programme safely. The results of the questionnaire will not affect the status of the offer.

Programme aims

The programme is designed to develop well-rounded, industry-ready production artists who possess both specialist expertise and a broad understanding of contemporary performance practices. It aims to equip you with the technical, creative, and professional skills needed to contribute confidently to the theatre and wider creative industries.

A central aim of the programme is to develop your core production skills. From the outset, you will build a strong foundation in the core disciplines that underpin theatre production. Through a balance of technical instruction, creative exploration, and contextual learning, you will acquire essential skills within your chosen pathway while gaining an appreciation of how different production areas interconnect to deliver live performance.

The programme also seeks to foster professional standards and industry readiness by embedding professional methodologies and behaviours across all aspects of learning. You will work on a range of projects, public performances, and event-based productions that mirror professional practice, ensuring you are prepared to meet the expectations of the creative industries upon graduation.

You will be encouraged to develop both specialisation and versatility, refining your expertise within your chosen pathway while exploring other areas of production to enhance your adaptability. This approach ensures that, while you develop depth in your discipline, you also gain the flexibility to collaborate effectively and contribute to a range of production roles.

Learning on the programme is experiential and collaborative, reflecting the realities of the working theatre environment. You will gain first-hand experience through production allocations, professional placements, and interdisciplinary projects involving students, staff, and visiting industry professionals. These experiences foster collaboration and an understanding of how each production role contributes to the shared creative outcome.

The programme also aims to develop teamworking and leadership abilities, recognising that effective production depends on communication, cooperation, and respect. You will learn to work as both a team member and a team leader, managing responsibilities, supporting others, and ensuring productive collaboration within a professional context.

You will be supported to enhance your creative and critical thinking, developing confidence in your ability to generate, analyse, and realise ideas. By engaging with research-informed approaches and reflective practice, you will be encouraged to experiment, problem-solve, and create work that is both innovative and contextually grounded.

Through a structured tutorial system, mentorship, and ongoing feedback, the programme also seeks to strengthen your personal and professional development. You will be guided to set meaningful goals, monitor your progress, and develop the confidence, independence, and resilience required for a sustainable career in the arts.

Finally, the programme aims to encourage reflective and ethical practice, ensuring that you consider the wider social, cultural, and environmental implications of your work. You will be encouraged to engage critically with your own practice and that of others, demonstrating integrity, accountability, and awareness of your professional and ethical responsibilities as a creative practitioner.

Programme outline

Year 1

In Year 1, you will be introduced to the core skills and professional practices that underpin work in the production arts. You will develop a broad foundation within your pathway, with an emphasis on safe and professional working practices. This training is supported by opportunities to apply your learning in supervised contexts, preparing you for the demands of live production work.

You will also undertake Associated Studies, which provides experience outside of your main pathway and introduces you to complementary skills that will support your development as a versatile practitioner. In addition, Responding to Performance will develop your ability to critically engage with a range of live and recorded performances, giving you the tools to analyse creative work and consider its relevance to your own practice.

Alongside these modules, Personal and Professional Development 1 introduces you to the expectations of professional life, including approaches to teamwork, communication, and the organisational skills needed for a successful career in the creative industries.

You must complete all the following modules:

Title	Credits	Level	Type
Personal & Professional Development 1	20	4	Core
Stagecraft & Production Process	10	4	Core
Responding to Performance	10	4	Core
Associated Studies	10	4	Core

And the core module relevant to your pathway:

Title	Credits	Level	Type
Costume	70	4	Pathway
Design Realisation	70	4	Pathway
Stage Management	70	4	Pathway
Theatre Technology	70	4	Pathway
Year 1 TOTAL	120	4	

Year 2

In Year 2, you will consolidate and extend the pathway skills developed in your first year through Production Practice 1, a year-long module that forms the core of your training and accounts for most of your learning hours. This module provides opportunities to take on real production and project roles across drama, opera, events, screen, and other areas within the production arts. As part of this, you will also be required to undertake a role outside of your pathway, agreed in consultation with tutors and informed by your interests and career aspirations. The allocation of this role will draw on your engagement with Associated Studies in Year 1, where you will have demonstrated an appropriate level of aptitude. This module is central to your second-year experience, offering extended, hands-on learning in professional contexts.

Alongside this, you will take Personal and Professional Development 2, which runs throughout the year and prepares you for entry into the industry. This module includes talks from professionals working across a range of fields and provides essential training in practical matters such as freelancing, self-employment, and taxation.

You must complete all the following modules:

Title	Credits	Level	Type
Production Practice 1	110	5	Core
Personal & Professional Development 2	10	5	Core
Year 2 TOTAL	120	5	Core

Year 3

Year 3 consists of three modules designed to consolidate and extend your professional practice. In Production Practice 2, you will take on leading production roles across opera, drama, or screen, working either in a leadership capacity or as part of a creative team. Personal and Professional Development 3 focuses on building your professional network through a work placement in a professional environment, providing the opportunity to apply and showcase your skills within the industry. This module also includes participation in an industry-focused Graduation Exhibition. The Graduation Project offers the chance to complete either a practical or written research project, allowing you to explore an area of interest that aligns with your developing professional practice.

You must complete all the following modules:

Title	Credits	Level	Type
Personal & Professional Development 3	10	6	Core
Production Practice 2	90	6	Core
Graduation Project	20	6	Core
Year 3 TOTAL	135	6	

Outcomes and awards

Certificate of higher education award

If you decide to leave the programme at the end of Year 1 and have successfully passed all modules for that year (totalling 120 credits), the Assessment Board may recommend the exit award of a Certificate of Higher Education in Production Arts (with the relevant pathway title).

Year 1 outcomes

By successfully completing Year 1 you will be able to:

- Work effectively and respectfully as part of a collaborative team, demonstrating emerging responsibility, initiative, and clear communication skills, with awareness of shared goals and group processes.
- Demonstrate developing professional behaviours through preparation, organisation, and time management, showing responsibility for your own learning in both independent and group contexts.
- Use established techniques of research and reflection to support your ideas, develop your learning, and contribute constructively to the work of your peers; begin to evaluate your own progress and respond to feedback in order to improve.
- Communicate information, ideas and creative concepts clearly in written, verbal, and practical formats, using appropriate terminology and presentation skills to convey structured and coherent arguments.
- Describe and apply core processes in theatre production, including safe and ethical working practices, the use of tools and equipment, and an awareness of how different departments collaborate to deliver live performance.
- Demonstrate fundamental practical and technical skills in your specialist area, and begin to explore and apply techniques from other disciplines to extend your learning and practice.
- Identify and discuss cultural, historical, and ethical contexts that shape the performing arts, showing emerging engagement with current debates in the discipline, including sustainability, equality, diversity and inclusive practice.

The Level 4 outcomes have been designed to align with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) descriptors for Level 4, ensuring that you can demonstrate knowledge of underlying concepts and principles, can communicate ideas effectively, and take responsibility for aspects of your own learning. They are also mapped against the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Dance, Drama and Performance (2024), reflecting sector expectations in collaborative practice, safe and ethical working, research and reflection, communication, technical and creative skills, and engagement with cultural, historical, and ethical contexts.

The mark for the Certificate will be calculated using the final overall mark for Year 1.

Diploma of higher education award

If you choose to end your studies at the conclusion of Year 2 and have successfully passed all required modules from both Year 1 and Year 2 (totalling 240 credits), the Programme Assessment Board may recommend the exit award of a Diploma of Higher Education in Production Arts [pathway title].

Year 2 outcomes

By successfully completing Year 2, you will be able to:

- Apply a broad range of practical and technical skills with increasing independence, contributing effectively and reliably within defined production roles to the delivery of live or recorded performance.
- Collaborate professionally and communicate effectively across a variety of production contexts, showing initiative, responsibility, and respect for your team, audiences, and the creative process.
- Demonstrate an informed and critical understanding of production processes, analysing how your own work relates to current professional standards, industry practices, and evolving performance contexts.
- Evaluate your professional development with growing critical insight, identifying strengths, areas for improvement, and setting achievable goals for progression within the discipline and industry.
- Plan, structure, and justify a creative or technical project, articulating clear aims, objectives, and methodologies appropriate to your specialist discipline, and making informed decisions to support its realisation.
- Research, interpret, and reflect on current industry structures and career pathways, demonstrating awareness of the expectations, responsibilities, and behaviours associated with professional practice, and applying this understanding to your own development.

The Level 5 outcomes are aligned with the FHEQ Level 5 descriptors, requiring you to apply a broader range of knowledge and techniques with increasing independence, to analyse and evaluate production processes, and to exercise responsibility and decision-making within defined contexts. They also reflect the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Dance, Drama and Performance (2024), emphasising collaborative practice, professional standards, critical reflection, project planning, and engagement with industry structures and career pathways.

The overall mark used to determine the classification of the Diploma will be based on a weighted aggregate of overall marks from Years 1 and 2, as outlined below:

Module	Diploma Weighting
Overall mark for Year 1	20%
Overall mark for Year 2	80%

Bachelor of Arts (Hons) award

To be awarded the BA (Hons) in Production Arts [pathway title], you must successfully pass all modules and meet the credit requirements for Years 1, 2, and 3 - a total of 360 credits.

Programme outcomes

By the end of the programme you will be able to:

- Apply specialist knowledge and technical skills within your chosen pathway, demonstrating a systematic understanding of production processes and how they interconnect across the wider discipline.

- Operate to professional standards, deploying established and emerging industry methods, tools, and behaviours to plan and deliver productions, events and performances within safe, ethical and inclusive working environments.
- Demonstrate advanced expertise in your specialist area while showing flexibility and adaptability to contribute across a range of creative and production roles.
- Engage critically in collaborative practice, contributing effectively to complex projects through production allocations, placements and interdisciplinary work with peers, staff and industry professionals with respect for diverse perspectives.
- Communicate and collaborate with impact, taking initiative and responsibility in both leadership and support roles, and adapting effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences with awareness of different contexts and needs.
- Generate and realise creative solutions, synthesising technical proficiency, research, critical analysis and problem-solving in response to artistic and production briefs.
- Manage your personal and professional development, setting goals, making informed decisions, and reflecting on progress through academic support, mentorship and engagement with industry practice that values access and participation.
- Critically evaluate and reflect on practice, including your own and others', appreciating uncertainty, ambiguity, ethical and inclusive dimensions, and using this insight to sustain growth and innovation as a professional.

The programme outcomes are aligned to the FHEQ Level 6 descriptors and QAA Subject Benchmark (Dance, Drama and Performance 2024), ensuring that you acquire advanced specialist expertise, can deploy established and emerging methods of analysis and enquiry, and can critically evaluate evidence and assumptions to devise creative solutions to complex problems. You are encouraged to manage your own learning, set professional goals, and develop the initiative and responsibility required for employment or further training in professional contexts.

The final classification of the degree is determined by calculating a weighted aggregate based on the overall marks in Years 2 and 3 as shown in the table below:

Module	Degree Weighting
Overall mark for Year 2	20%
Overall mark for Year 3	80%

Award regulations

The final classification for your award is calculated using a weighted aggregate of your overall year marks, as set out above. The type of award and the corresponding classification are shown in the table below:

(Weighted) Aggregate	Certificate of Higher Education in Production Arts [pathway title]	Diploma of Higher Education in Production Arts [pathway title]	BA (Hons) in Production Arts [pathway title]
Minimum 70%	Distinction	Distinction	Class I
Minimum 60%	Merit	Merit	Class II Upper Division
Minimum 50%	Pass	Pass	Class II Lower Division
Minimum 40%	Pass	Pass	Class III

Teaching and learning

You are taught through a combination of practical classes, lectures, seminars and production activity. You use industry-standard equipment and have access specialist facilities throughout your programme.

In Year 1 you will usually have around 23 contact hours per week, typically consisting of:

3 hours of lectures

4 hours of seminars

10 hours of practical classes

6 hours of supervised production activity

In Year 2 you will usually have around 35 contact hours per week, typically consisting of:

2 hours of seminars

33 hours of supervised production activity

In year 3 your contact time will vary depending on when you undertake your Graduation Project and Work Placement. For Production Practice 2, you will usually have around 35 contact hours per week, typically consisting of:

35 hours of supervised production activity

Independent learning

When not attending lectures, seminars or other timetabled sessions you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study. Typically, this will involve reading journal articles and books, working on individual and group projects, undertaking research, preparing coursework assignments and presentations, and preparing for assessments.

Overall workload

Your overall workload consists of contact hours, independent learning, assessment activity and field trips. While your actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules you select, the following information gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

Level 4: 60% of your time is spent in scheduled teaching and learning activity.

Teaching, learning and assessment: 780 hours

Independent learning: 420 hours

Level 5: 79% per cent of your time is spent in scheduled teaching and learning activity.

Teaching, learning and assessment: 945 hours

Independent learning: 255 hours

Level 6: 46% of your time is spent in scheduled teaching and learning activity.

Teaching, learning and assessment: 546 hours

Independent learning: 654 hours

Teaching staff

Your learning will be supported by a diverse team of educators and industry professionals. This includes full-time teaching staff who provide consistency, structure, and ongoing academic support throughout your studies. Alongside them, you'll work with visiting guest tutors and professional freelancers.

Assessment

Assessment on the programme combines practical tasks and coursework to reflect the diverse skills required in professional production arts. Practical assessments in productions and projects allow you to demonstrate technical competence, creativity, and collaboration in real-world contexts. Coursework, such as reflective journals, essays, or portfolios, develops your ability to analyse, evaluate, and articulate ideas. Oral presentations strengthen communication skills and professional confidence. Assessment of professional standards evaluates your ability to meet professional practice expectations within the creative industries. Together, these methods are designed to measure both your specialist expertise and your ability to apply knowledge critically, while supporting your growth as an adaptable, reflective practitioner.

Each module normally contains at least one piece of practice or 'formative' assessment on which you receive feedback from your tutor. Practice assessments are developmental and any grades you receive for them do not count towards your module mark.

Percentage of the programme assessed by coursework/practical work

The approximate percentage of the programme assessed by coursework/practical work is as follows:

Year 1: 27% coursework 73% practical assessment

Year 2: 50% coursework 50% practical assessment

Year 3: 50% coursework 50% practical assessment

Feedback

Formative feedback is provided by tutors on an ongoing basis throughout each module. You will also receive feedback on all summative assessments undertaken by coursework and practical activity. We aim to provide you with written feedback within 15 working days of the hand-in date for coursework, or following the completion of practical assessment.

Additional course related costs

The following course-related costs are included in the fees:

- Compulsory visits to external performances, galleries and exhibitions in the UK as part of the Responding to Performance module
- Unlimited printing allowance
- Specialist PPE equipment i.e. safety harnesses
- Hi-vis vest

The following course-related costs are not included in the fees:

- General PPE equipment, such as steel toecap boots, hard hat, ear defenders, respirators etc. (approx. £150 on average depending on pathway)
- Non-specialist tools (approx. £60 on average depending on pathway)
- The cost of books that you might wish to purchase
- The cost of visits to external performances, galleries and exhibitions that do not form a compulsory part of your studies.
- Travel/accommodation costs associated with the work placement in Year 3. These costs are dependent on the location of the work placement.
- A £25 refundable deposit for a master key. This deposit is returned at the end of your final year upon return of the key.
- You should allow £150 per academic year for project materials and stationery.

Accommodation and living costs are not included in the fees. As an estimate, students in London should budget to spend around £1,500 per month to cover expenses like rent, food, transport, personal costs and leisure activities. Of course, this figure is an average estimate and will vary from individual to individual.

Sources of financial support

Scholarships and bursaries, including additional financial support for work placements are available and further information can be found on our website: [Scholarships, Bursaries and Financial Awards | Guildhall School of Music & Drama](#)