

ARCHIVE

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Acting BA (Hons)

This programme is only offered at Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts

Final award	BA (Hons) Acting
Intermediate awards available	Cert HE Dip HE
Mode of delivery	At Italia Conti's Avondale Campus
UCAS code	W410
Details of professional body accreditation	Drama UK
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Dance, Drama and Performance
UEL Academic School	School of Arts and Digital Industries
Date specification last updated	August 2016

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
Avondale Campus, 72 Landor Road London SW9 9PH	Level 4 Level 5 Level 6	No	Yes	Full-time

The summary - UCAS programme profile-

BANNER BOX:

This Programme is delivered at the Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts, which is a world renowned centre for actor training.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

AUDITION

Auditions are held throughout the year and the process is in 2 parts – Initial Audition (morning) and 2nd Round Audition (afternoon). The requirements and criteria for audition are detailed in the Applying section and Audition Code of Practice of the online prospectus (www.italiaconti-acting.co.uk), and Audition Procedures and Advice document, which is sent to candidates on receipt of an Application for Audition.

UK Students

In addition to the audition, the school would normally expect a candidate to satisfy the following standard UEL entry requirements:

1. Be at least 18 years of age by December 31st in the year of entry (there are no upper age limits)
2. GCSE passes (**C or above**) in five subjects including Maths and English Language. We will also accept a pass in the Key Skills qualification at Level 2 in place of GCSE English and Mathematics
3. In addition to GCSE passes, students should have UCAS tariff points of **64** from: A/AS level (Including 2 A2 passes), GNVQ, AVCE, Scottish Highers, International Baccalaureate, European Baccalaureate, BTEC/SCOTEC Diploma or Relevant Access Course. Other qualifications, including overseas may be considered.

International Students

Equivalent qualifications obtained internationally are calculated for entry according to UEL's standard requirements (as published on the website)

International students may submit an initial audition using digital media, which will indicate to the School whether the candidate has a reasonable chance of successfully completing the 1st Round Audition (see Audition Information). If successful they would then be invited to attend the 2nd Round audition. DVD's should be in British PAL format.

No formal qualifications

We also welcome applications from students who have gained appropriate skills through a wide range of vocational qualifications or suitable experience. Students may be admitted through Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL) or Accreditation of Certified Learning (ACL) processes.

Equivalent credit cannot be given for prior experiential or certified learning for mid-programme entry at either Level 5 or 6, but can be considered at Level 4 subject to standard Academy admissions procedures.

Candidates where English is not their first language

The BA (Hons) Acting course will be delivered in English. In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, then IELTS 6.0 (with no skill level below 5.0), or equivalent, is required.

Equality of Opportunity

At UEL, we are committed to working together to build a learning community founded on equality of opportunity – a learning community which celebrates the rich diversity of our student and staff populations. Discriminatory behaviour has no place in our community and will not be tolerated. Within the spirit of respecting difference, our equality and diversity policies promise fair treatment and equality of opportunity for all. In pursuing this aim, we want people applying for a place at UEL to feel valued and know that the process and experience will be transparent and fair and no one will be refused access on the grounds of any protected characteristic stated in the equality act.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What is BA (Hons) Acting

The programme is designed to provide you with:

- The knowledge and skills to perform as an actor to professional industry standards whether in TV, Film, Theatre or Radio.
- Specialised skills in acting, voice, movement and singing.
- Transferable skills, especially in communication and self-presentation, team-work, independent research, and critical analysis, which will allow you to operate successfully in a variety of fields.
- The knowledge and skills to be pro-active in the creation of employment opportunities.

Acting at Italia Conti

The BA (Hons) Acting at Italia Conti is a vocational programme, accredited by Drama UK (the sector's Professional Standards and Regulatory Body). Its principle aim is to provide a comprehensive acting training that will equip graduates to work in the acting profession. Its distinctive features are:

- High number of staff/student contact hours each week
- More contact hours due to longer teaching terms
- A dedicated staff team of highly experienced professionals
- Strong industry links
- A learning environment that is rich in performance opportunities
- Ensemble, group teaching and one to one tuition
- An emphasis on the development and assessment of the individual – aesthetically, intellectually, physically and emotionally

Programme structure

The BA (Hons) Acting is a full time, closely structured programme delivered over 3 years. All modules are compulsory. In the 1st year the curriculum focuses on the acquisition of technical skills, such as acting, voice, movement and singing. Rehearsals for projects allow you to put the techniques you have learnt into practice. This very technical 1st year underpins the 2nd year where more time is given over to rehearsal and project work. Acting for TV, Film and Radio is introduced.

In the 3rd year skills sessions take place on Mondays (in general) only with the rest of the week given over to rehearsals for public performances. You will prepare and film showreel scenes and take part in a showcase in a West End Theatre for industry professionals, such as agents and casting directors. You will also be given advice on self-promotion tools such as Spotlight photographs, CV's, letter writing, interview technique and mock auditions for theatre and TV.

Learning environment

Teaching will be by workshop, practical classes, tutorials and performance.

Avondale is situated 2 minutes from Clapham North Tube Station. It has a fully equipped 150 seat theatre and 70 seat black box studio theatre which are used for in-house and public performances. These spaces have dedicated lighting and sound equipment. The recording studio (used for radio classes) has a digital sound desk and computer based editing suite. In addition there is a large movement studio, smaller studios for acting, voice and singing, a student green room, changing rooms and a small learning resources room.

Assessment

Each module is assessed through a combination of cumulative assessment (rehearsal process, class work) and presentation/performance.

All contextual studies modules require written submissions such as personal development evaluations, reflective diaries, creative writing, and critical commentaries on performance, essays, professional portfolios and dissertation (Level 6 only)

Work experience/placement opportunities

Selected students have the opportunity to take part in the annual workshops run by the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford upon Avon, the Wanamaker Festival held at the Globe Theatre, the BBC Carleton Hobbs Radio Award and the Spotlight Award.

Project work

Project work takes place in the following modules:

Level 4

Introduction to Acting

Projects

Level 5

Workshops

Recorded Media

Level 6

Productions

Acting for Screen

Contextual Studies 3

Added value

You will be taught by a highly qualified team of industry professionals, many of whom continue to work at the highest levels within theatre, TV, film and radio.

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

If you are interested in.....

- Acting for Theatre
- Acting for TV
- Acting in Film
- Acting for Radio
- Theatre with Music
- Devising and Improvisation
- Advanced Movement and Voice for Actors
- Acting through Song
- Knowledge of theoretical approaches to Acting

If you enjoy....

- A creative and inspiring environment
- Rehearsal and performance
- Practical classes in acting, movement, voice and singing
- Working in groups
- Developing and researching characters

If you want....

- To be equipped for a career as a professional actor
- A full learning experience with industry professionals
- The opportunity to expand your range of performance skills
- Confidence in your academic abilities
- Skills to support personal and professional development throughout your life

Your future career

Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts is one of the world's longest established theatre schools. The BA (Hons) Acting Programme is one of the country's leading vocational acting courses with an emphasis on professional development and employability. Past students are currently appearing at the RSC, Royal National Theatre, the Royal Court, in the West End and in regional theatre, in TV shows such as *Doctor Who*, *EastEnders*, *Hollyoaks*, *Casualty*, *Holby City*, *In the Flesh*, *Misfits*, *Under the Dome*, *Lightfields*, *Hit and Miss*, *The White Queen*, *Versailles*, and *Cilla*. In addition students work on the London Fringe, direct, write and teach. Others take their skills into new areas to become theatre agents, casting directors and producers.

How we support you

Students are encouraged to identify and, with guidance, to reflect on their own learning needs and are offered the following support as appropriate to those needs:

- An induction period
- Accommodation Guidance
- Student Handbook and Module Guides
- Library and Study skills are taught as part of contextual studies
- On site library and computer facilities, plus further facilities through Westminster Library and access to UEL library and online resources.
- Staff Support through Year Heads and the Course Director.
- Professional counselling and Student Support through connected services with experience of performers' needs.
- Medical advice through connected services with experience of performers' needs.
- Small Group Classes allow students to gain advice on problems relating to and arising from the training process.

Bonus factors

In the 3rd Year students receive career guidance from leading professional organisations. In the past two years the following industry specialists have worked with 3rd year students:

Pippa Ailion Casting – West End Casting
Hannah Miller Head of Casting Royal Shakespeare Company
Wendy Spon Head of Casting Royal National Theatre
Ned Bennett – Director Royal Court Theatre
Anna Jordan – winner Bruntwood New Play Award
Brown and Simcocks - Agent
International Artists - Agent
Jeremy Brook Ltd. - Agent
BWH - Agent
Theatre Royal Stratford East
Propeller Theatre Company
The Globe Theatre
BBC
Hobson's – Voice over Agent

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Acquire the knowledge and skills to perform as an actor to professional industry standards
- Acquire specialised skills in acting, voice, movement and singing
- Operate as an actor in a professional environment, whether in TV, Film, Theatre, Radio or any of the emerging recorded media industries
- Gain transferable skills, especially in communication and self-presentation, team-work, independent research, critical analysis, which would allow you to operate successfully in a variety of fields
- Be proactive in the creation of employment opportunities
- Contextualise the historical and cultural framework of a performance
- Approach all genres of drama and performance with an open mind

What will you learn?

All learning outcomes are covered in the programme's single honours route.

Knowledge

1. A range of performance scripts from the history of World Drama.
2. Key methods and concepts of acting theory and their practical contemporary application.
3. The history and context of the main events, personalities and movements affecting the theory and practice of acting.
4. Vocal anatomy.
5. Phonetics and phonetic transcription.
6. Stage Combat.
7. The historical and cultural context of any given performance.
8. The use of physicality to create narrative and character.

Thinking skills

1. Reason critically.
2. Analyse and Interpret.
3. Apply theoretical concepts.
4. Identify and solve problems
5. Reflect, draw conclusions, and make plans.
6. Synthesise information from various sources.
7. Formulate and test ideas.
8. Research, assimilate information, and report findings.

Subject-Based Practical skills

1. Create a performance for live or recorded media using improvisation, text, or other source material.
2. Clearly communicate with an audience.
3. Use the body safely as an expressive creative tool.
4. Use the voice safely as an expressive creative tool.

5. Apply key methods and concepts of acting theory.
6. Phonetically transcribe the sounds of English.
7. Gather, sift, synthesise, and organise material independently.
8. Be proficient in the operation of at least one area of production – LX, Props or Wardrobe.

Skills for life and work (general skills)

1. Balance and organise personal and professional issues through self-management and meet deadlines.
2. Communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
3. Work effectively and creatively as part of a team, negotiating and pursuing goals with others, as well as working independently.
4. Use information media such as libraries, archives and the Web.
5. Use basic word-processing skills.
6. Create effective presentations.
7. Use advanced verbal and physical communication skills, including the use and analysis of body language
8. Demonstrate self-promotion, self-presentation and self-marketing skills.

The programme structure

Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 3 equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme
- 4 equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 5 equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 6 equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 7 equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is 3 years when attended in full-time mode

How the teaching year is divided

The teaching year begins in September and ends in July. There will be three 11 week terms in each academic year.

A typical student, in full-time attendance mode of study, will register for 120 credits in an academic year.

What you will study when

A student registered in a fulltime attendance mode will take 120 credits per year. Typically this will be comprised of four 30 credit modules. The exact number may differ if the programme is comprised of 14, 45 or 60 credit modules. An honours degree student will complete modules totalling 120 credits at level four, modules totalling 120 credits at level five and 120 credits at level six.

LEVEL	MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	Distance Learning Y/N	CREDITS	STATUS
4		Introduction to Acting		30	Core
4		Projects		30	Core
4		The Skills of the Actor 1		45	Core
4		Contextual Studies 1		15	Core
5		Workshops		45	Core
5		Recorded Media		15	Core
5		The Skills of the Actor 2		45	Core
5		Contextual Studies 2		15	Core
6		Acting for Screen		15	Core
6		Production		60	Core
6		Contextual Studies 3		30	Core
6		Contextual Studies 4		15	Core

Please note- A core module for a programme is a module which a students must have passed (ie been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award.

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level six or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level six or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher and 120 credits at level five or higher

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level four or higher

Further information

Degree Classification

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree by passing a valid combination of module to comprise an award and has gained the minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 5 or level 6 on the current enrolment for the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 6, the award classification is determined by calculating;

The arithmetic mean of the best 90 credits at level 6	x	0.8	+	The arithmetic mean of the next best 90 credits at levels 5 and/or 6	x	0.2
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and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimals points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

70% - 100%	First Class Honours
60% - 69%	Second Class Honours, First Division
50% - 59%	Second Class Honours, Second Division
40% - 49%	Third Class Honours
0% - 39%	Not passed

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through

- Practical work and rehearsals
- Production work and performances
- Practical classes in voice, movement and singing
- Acting classes
- Tutorials
- Exploring creative possibilities through theatrical performance
- Independent and guided research in various media (including electronic)
- Lectures, seminars and practical workshops
- Engaging with the conventions and styles of different genres of theatre, drama and performance
- Developing a critical vocabulary through which to articulate an examination and evaluation of performance
- Analysis of texts and theories
- Written work
- Self evaluation
- Group discussion and performative presentations (oral communication skills)

Assessment

The following forms of assessment are used on this programme:

- Performances
- Workshops
- Class work
- Group presentations
- Research exercises/presentations
- Essays
- Dissertations – written and practical
- Self-evaluations

Students will demonstrate **knowledge** in these assessments through their ability to identify, assimilate and communicate and apply in practice relevant information.

Students will demonstrate **thinking skills** in these assessments through their ability to evaluate and analyse a range of information and material, and to organise and present it coherently.

Practical skills developed and demonstrated in these assessments are through performance and production work as well as through group or individual presentations.

General Skills are assessed by:

- Working to deadlines
- Effective application of performance skills
- Industry level discipline – punctuality, time management, preparation, focus and concentration

- Presentation and communication of ideas
- Analytical thinking

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before this programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every five years an in-depth review of the programme and collaboration between UEL and Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.

The external examiner reports for this programme are located on the Italia Conti Study support site (www.contistudies.co.uk) You can also view a list of the external examiners for the UEL School by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminersystem/currentexaminers/>

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- *Module evaluations*
- *Student representation on programme committees (meeting 3 times year)*
- *Student representative/staff consultative meeting 3 times a year*

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- *Circulating the minutes of the programme committee*
- *Year Meetings*
- *Providing details on the programme notice board*
- *Module evaluations*
- *Student representation on programme committees (meeting 3 times year)*
- *Student/Staff consultative meeting (meeting 3 times a year)*

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- *Circulating the minutes of the programme committee*
- *A newsletter published three times a year*
- *Providing details on the programme notice-board*

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- *Annual student satisfaction questionnaire*
- *Questionnaires to former students*
- *Alumni forum meetings – once yearly*
- *Industry personnel questionnaire – at each final year production*

Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site (<http://www.uel.ac.uk>)
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/policies/manual/>)
- UEL Quality Manual (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/policies/qualitymanual/>)
- <http://www.italiaconti-acting.co.uk/>