



School of Performance

MFA International Theatre Practice and
Performance
(Two year)

Programme Specification

March 2021

The following information for students, adapted from QAA guidance to students in understanding courses, prefaces all Rose Bruford College programme specifications.

Programme specifications focus on single programmes of study (or courses), and outline the intended knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes of a student completing that course. A programme specification also gives details of teaching and assessment methods as well as linking the course to the framework for Higher Education qualifications and any subsequent professional qualification and career path.

Programme specifications form one part of a set of different types of documents about a programme and its components, which include prospectus, programme handbook, module specifications and information on websites. The Programme Specification is published on the College's website.

There may be concern that 'specifying' what a student will have learnt at the end of the course or programme might inhibit innovation within that course. For this reason, it is important not to see programme specifications as 'tick lists'. They offer broad indications of the types of things students might be expected to learn and the types of skills and abilities they might be expected to gain.

The College norm is to address the student directly and in all programme and module specifications, the second person is used.

1. General Information

| Award | Programme Title | Duration | Mode of study |
|-------|--|-----------|---------------|
| MFA | International Theatre Practice and Performance | 24 months | FT |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Institution | Rose Bruford College |
| School | School of Performance |
| Awarding Institution | Rose Bruford College |
| External Examiner | Bryan Brown |
| Programme Accreditation | |
| Relevant QAA benchmark(s) | NA |

2. Aims of the Programmes

The MFA programme aims to:

- Offer you as a student and practitioner the opportunity to develop and deepen your own practice and knowledge of theatre and performance within the framework of two international professional theatre schools specialising in performing, making, directing and writing theatre and performance;
- Provide specialist professional teaching and opportunities for study, research and embedded practice that is focused to enable you to build, enhance and take ownership of your own practice as an innovative and theatre-maker through study of performing, writing and directing;
- Provide in-depth training and study to develop your artistic and academic expertise within highly specialised performance systems and ecologies and offering opportunities to work within dynamic and diverse performance cultures;
- Provide a range of practical and theoretical approaches to advanced devising practice for advanced practitioners interested in complementing their professional experience.

3. Programme intended learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the MFA International Theatre Practice and Performance you will be assessed to the extent that you:

LO1 Apply a range of skills and effective methodologies that enable you to work effectively and productively as a performer and theatre maker in diverse professional situations.

LO2 Combine and utilise the insights, practices and knowledge you have developed within the programme across a wide range of professional activities.

LO3 Articulate and create practice that reflects, embodies and embraces complex social, political, and cultural values and perspectives.

LO4 Undertake independent and effective devising and rehearsal techniques to a professional level whether as writer, director or performer.

LO5 Demonstrate an effective and original writing and research practice that complements and enriches your work and practice.

LO6 Implement a range of technical skills and competencies which enable you to articulate, structure and present your ideas and practice at a professionally viable level.

LO7 Identify and develop an area of personal specialised performance related practice.

LO8 Employ your skills and knowledge as a performer to be an effective agent for professional theatre making or artistic enterprise.

4. Learning and teaching

With a commitment to experiential, holistic learning and teaching, the programme is designed to develop working methods that encourage collaboration, creativity, responsibility for learning, critical reflection, self-evaluation and team work. You are expected to play an active part in determining and shaping your independent learning individually as well as learning through being a member of the ensemble.

Learning

Learning is supported by: workshops, rehearsals, performances, performative writing, online resources (including use of the RBC VLE), library resources, student-led presentations, lectures, seminars, self-directed study, progress reviews, group and individual tutorials, feedback tutorials, screenings, discussions, teamwork, exercises, information gathering/research and enquiry, visiting speakers, critical reflection and work based learning.

Teaching

Classes, workshops and lectures will be conducted by senior academic and practitioner members of NTI and Rose Bruford College staff, and a range of external experienced expert and recognised specialists in both academic and practice fields

5. The structure of the programme

Detailed outlines of each of the modules can be found in the module specifications which are set on page

1st Year UK
2nd Year USA

Year 1: Rose Bruford College UK
120 credits

Oct to Jan: Module Performance Skills UK (30 Credits)
Oct to April: Module Performative Writing UK (30 credits)
Feb to June: Module Performer, Writer, Director UK (60 credits)

Year 2: National Theatre Institute, USA
120 credits

Sept to Feb: NTI Intensive USA (30 credits)
Feb to May: Advanced Practice USA (30 credits)
June to October: Independent Research Project USA. (60 credits)

| Master of Fine Arts | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|-------------|--------------------|
| Provisional module code | Module title | Credits | ETCs | Study hours |
| MAITPP 701 | Performance Skills | 30 | 15 | 300 |
| MA702 | Performative Writing/Vade Mecum | 30 | 15 | 300 |
| MFAITPP703 | Performer, writer, director and theatre maker into performance | 60 Increased from 30 credits to include performance | 15 | 300 |
| 60 MFAITPP704 | Laboratory Intensive | 30 | 30 | 300 |
| MFAITPP705 | Advanced Practice | 30 Shorter time and decreasing from 60 credits to 30 | 30 | 600 |

MFA International Theatre Practice and Performance

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|-------|--|--|----|------|
| | | no longer including the summer intensive | | |
| MA700 | Final Independent Project This modification has already happened. The IRP version that is currently in all other MFA programmes does not include Moscow. So this programme has already moved to that IRP model. | 60 | 30 | 600 |
| | | 2400 | 90 | 1800 |

The proposed MFA programme has 240 credits which is exactly the same number of credits as RBC usual two year MFA programmes. The emphasis in this particular programme has always been to extend the process and the time allocated to the programme and to each module. This proposal is that the three year programme would now run as a 24 month programme with the following structure.

Time line of the MFA International Theatre Practice and Performance Programme

| | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | |
|--------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| Year 1 | MAITP 701 Performance Skills | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | MA 702 Performative Writing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | MFAITP 703 Director, Writer, Performer & Theatre Maker | | | | | | | | |
| Year 2 | MFAITP 704 Laboratory Intensive | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | MFAITP 705 Advanced Practice | | | | IRP | MA | 700 | | |

6. Student induction, support and development

The previous experience of the subject team members at teaching at postgraduate level, at both National Theater Institute and Rose Bruford College, has informed the support systems which have been instituted to assist you and other postgraduate students through your studies. An induction event is arranged at Rose Bruford College at the beginning of the first academic year and at the beginning of the second year at National Theater Institute.

The Programme Director has overall responsibility for leading the programme and for your academic and professional development with the support of module coordinators and a Programme Administrator based at Rose Bruford College and National Theater Institute. You will be encouraged to discuss module-related issues with your tutors.

At the start of the academic year, you will be introduced to the VLE where you can find the course outline and appropriate module specifications and briefs. The module specifications detail the syllabus, teaching and learning arrangements, assessment requirements with clearly articulated assessment criteria, and will provide an appropriate bibliography.

The services available within the College's Student Services include general, health and financial advice, accommodation options, counselling, study abroad programmes and a range of support for disabled students.

At the programme level:

- You will receive a Student Handbook at registration;
- Each module throughout the programme is introduced with a briefing by the module coordinator;
- Peer learning and mentoring, are intrinsic to the programme's learning and teaching strategy;
- You will receive written feedback on all assessment tasks, and will be debriefed in a tutorial following the majority of practical projects, to encourage reflection on practice and to identify future learning goals;

At the College level:

- A Specialist Support and Equality Officer is available. (You are contacted at the admissions stage and invited to disclose any disabilities/medical conditions);
- Dyslexia and general welfare and study support is available;
- At key points during the programme, you will discuss your personal and professional development with a programme tutor, and plan future action;
- You will be introduced to the Learning Resources Centre online at induction, and receive both targeted and ongoing research skills and information literacy instruction and support during the remainder of your programme;
- Ongoing academic support is available through the specialist Academic Support Team, and through online support materials;

7. Curriculum map of modules against programme intended learning outcomes

| Module Title and Code | Programme Intended Learning Outcome | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | C | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| MAITPP 701 Performance | C | x | | | | | | | x |
| MA 702 Performative Writing/Vade Mecum | C | x | | x | | x | | x | |
| MFAITPP 703 Performer, Writer, Director & Theatre Maker | C | x | x | x | | | | x | |
| MFAITPP704 NTI Laboratory Intensive | C | | | | x | | x | | x |
| MFAITPP 705 Advanced Practice | C | | | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| MA 700 Independent Project | C | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |

8. Categorisation of programme intended learning outcomes

| Categorisation of Programme Intended Learning Outcomes | Programme Intended Learning Outcomes | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Practice | x | | x | x | | x | x | x | |
| Informed critical reflection | | x | x | | x | x | | | |
| Transferable and personal | | | x | x | | x | | x | |

9. Criteria for Admission

An applicant wishing to join any postgraduate taught degree programme should satisfy or expect to meet the College's general requirements for entry outlines on our Postgraduate degree regulations.

Applications for the MFA International Theatre Practice and Performance are made initially to Rose Bruford College who then refer students to NTI. As part of the application process applicants will be required on their application form to make a written statement outlining their intent/mission statement/ interest in the subject area and the programme. They will also need to submit material, a play they have written if they are a writer, a

MFA International Theatre Practice and Performance portfolio if they are a director, a reel or filmed scene or two contrasting monologues if they are an actor. Multi discipline artists are encouraged to apply, if they are a director/playwright/actor/composer for example they will submit materials that give a sense of their work in each area. There are a number of auditions being held in USA and Europe if applicants are available to attend an audition in person that would be preferable.

In all cases, the selection panel will look for a high degree of explicit ability, of self-motivation and criticism with an informed enthusiasm capable of sustaining you within the more rigorous and challenging conditions of the MFA programme.

You will normally be expected to hold a first-degree qualification (2.2 or above), hold an equivalent qualification or be able to demonstrate considerable professional or practical experience at a level commensurate with ability to work at Masters' level study. The award should be in a discipline which underpins your proposed programme of study or which can be shown to have provided appropriate practical or conceptual skills to contribute to the study.

10. Recognition of prior learning

The College operates a policy for recognising prior learning (RPL) which may be certificated or experiential. Requests for recognition of prior learning must be accompanied by the appropriate documentary evidence outlined in the College's policy, which is available on application.

A maximum of 60 credits, excluding the final Independent Research Project module may be certified in this way. All applications for RPL are considered by an academic panel on their own merits and are not automatic.

11. Selection

Selection is by written statement/submission of speeches or portfolio and interview and sometimes workshop, which is intended to ascertain whether the applicant will benefit from the programme and whether the demands of the programme are likely to be fulfilled by the applicant. The audition and interview panel consists of programme tutors. Details in 9.1 above.

12. Additional requirements for non-UK/EU applicants

All teaching and examination is carried out in English and consequently competence in written and spoken English is a requirement. Non-EU/UK applicants are required to hold an IELTS¹ with an overall minimum score of 6.5.

13. Progression and Assessment Regulations

¹ IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is now the only Secure English language Test (SELT) recognised by UK Visas and Immigration for student requiring a Tier 4 visa.

You are registered with Rose Bruford College at the beginning of the academic year. This is followed by a period of induction where you are introduced to the academic community, the details of the programme, the facilities, and its links with the industry. When you are resident at National Theater Institute you will have an induction where you will be introduced to the faculty, the creative community, the details of the programme, the facilities, and its links with the industry.

Attendance is compulsory for all classes, workshops and projects. During production periods a detailed schedule is negotiated allowing time for research and reflection. You will have regular feedback sessions on all areas of the programme and you will be made aware, therefore, of your academic progress and personal development.

14. Assessment Schedule

Assessment takes place at the completion of each module. Once your work is marked, you are advised through tutorials with the tutor or Programme Director of the *indicative* grade. You cannot receive your final mark until completion of the degree and following confirmation of those marks by the relevant Board of Examiners

15. Marking Categories for the MA:

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 70 – 100% | Distinction |
| 60 – 69% | Merit |
| 50 – 59% | Pass |
| 0 – 49% | Fail |

16. Marks and Classification of Awards

To qualify for the award of the MFA (240 credits overall in four modules) Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits in Modules One to Three), you must complete all of the programme requirements and must pass all modules.

| Classification | MA | PGDip |
|--------------------|--|--------|
| Distinction | Aggregate average mark of all modules of 70 – 100 including a mark of 70+ in the final Independent Research Project Module | |
| Merit | Aggregate average of all modules of 60-69 including a mark of 60+ in the final Independent Research Project Module | |
| Pass | 50-59 | 50-100 |
| Fail | 0-49 | |

Performance in work for which an award of credit for prior learning has been made is not taken into account in the calculation of the final award.

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|-------------------------------------|--------------|
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