

ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

The Programme Specification provides a summary of the main features of the **BA** (**Hons**) **Acting** course, and the learning outcomes that a 'typical' student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she passes the course.

Further detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching and learning methods of each unit may be found within this Handbook and the online Unit Information, which is available on your course blog.

Key Course Information	
Final Award	BA (Hons)
Course Title	Acting
Award Title	BA (Hons) Acting
Teaching institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Awarding Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Offered in the Faculty of:	Media and Performance
Contact details: Telephone number Email	01202 363270 fomp@aub.ac.uk
Professional accreditation	None
Length of course / mode of study	3 years full-time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 6
Subject benchmark statement	Dance, drama and performance
UCAS code	W410
Language of study	English
External examiner for course	To be confirmed
Please note that it is not appropriate for directly	r students to contact external examiners
Date of Validation	2004
Date of most recent review	2014
Date programme specification written/revised	Revised September 2014

Contact hours

Contact hours include all scheduled teaching sessions, but also supervised time in the workshop or studio. In line with national guidance, we include in our calculation of contact hours all the time which is scheduled in the studio for independent study which is also supported by staff (either academic staff, or technicians).

Contact hours	
Year 1 (% time)	75
Year 2 (% time)	75
Year 3 (% time)	77

The information provided below gives the proportion of your study time which constitutes contact hours. Where there are optional routes through the course, we have used the figures for the most popular option.

Assessment

The figures below set out the proportion of your assessment which will be coursework or written exams and, where appropriate, practical assessment (such as a performance) or placement. Where there are optional routes through the course, we have used the figures for the most popular option.

% coursework assessment	28
% Practical assessment	72

Course Philosophy

The BA (Hons) Acting course has been designed to recognise the power of performance to change people's lives and the artistic, educational, social and political power of performance to facilitate understanding and growth in us as humans. We believe in each actor having their own voice as an artist and as a creator. Developing the ability to create your own opportunities is as important as the ability to work effectively and professionally and the ability to generate and sustain individual work is crucial to an actor's continued growth and development throughout their career. Learning to act is a continuous process of personal discovery and exploration.

We believe that no one individual is any more or less valuable to the performance than any other and that the performance event itself should be a true ensemble experience. Therefore the process of development for each actor is not done in competition. Personal brilliance is only important to the demands of the event, the needs of the audience and the task that the team must fulfil together.

Significant opportunities exist for collaboration between you as an acting student and the students on other AUB courses such as Costume and Performance Design, Film Production, Creative Events Management, Make-up for Media and Performance, Fine Art, Animation Production and Photography. The synergy of activity on the courses at AUB is an important part of your development as an artist and contributor to our national and global community.

Professional opportunities for actors are increasingly broad and the course aims to address key concepts and skills that can be adapted to a wide range of performance

media and contexts. In light of this, the course team does not focus upon a single methodology, but provides you with the tools to develop yourself as a professional and confident performer and individual.

Course Aims

The course aims to:

- A1 Enable you to develop a comprehensive knowledge and application of a wide range of physical and vocal skills in performance.
- A2 Enable you to develop an understanding and appreciation of key performance genres, their place within the broader cultural context and the inter-relationship between theory and practice.
- A3 Provide opportunities to participate in collaborative working situations that will develop your practical skills and the ability to work with others.
- A4 Provide a comprehensive understanding of the professional and ethical behaviour (i.e. time management, discipline, rehearsal and performance protocols) expected in order to meet the demands of the performance industry.
- A5 Demonstrate strategies for identifying personal strengths and needs through self-reflection and self-management.
- A6 Enable you to develop an understanding of the business/entrepreneurial requirements of performance making (budgeting for performance, use of technology, live pitching, targeting key audiences etc.).
- A7 Provide you with the tools to describe, theorise, interpret, and evaluate performance texts and performance events from a range of critical perspectives.

Course Outcomes

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

- LO1 Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of, and apply a wide range of physical and vocal skills in performance.
- LO2 Understand and appreciate key performance genres, their place within the broader cultural context and their inter-relationship with theory and practice.
- LO3 Participate in collaborative working situations that will develop your practical skills and the ability to work with others.
- LO4 Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the professional and ethical behaviour (i.e. time management, discipline, rehearsal and performance protocols) expected in order to meet the demands of the performance industry.

- LO5 Apply strategies for identifying personal strengths and needs through self-reflection and self-management.
- LO6 Demonstrate an understanding of, and facility for, the business/entrepreneurial requirements of performance making (budgeting for performance, use of technology, live pitching, targeting key audiences etc.).
- LO7 Demonstrate the ability to describe, theorise, interpret, and evaluate performance texts and performance events from a range of critical perspectives.

Reference Points

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:

- Subject Benchmark Statement: Dance, drama and performance
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

AUB Regulatory Framework and Undergraduate Assessment Regulations

AUB Creative Learning Plan

AUB Strategic Plan

AUB Employability Framework

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Within this area of performance, experiential learning is a key principle of study and your work throughout the course reflects the collaborative nature of acting.

Throughout the degree, you will experience both tutor led learning, including the participation of professional practitioners and self-directed methods of learning (through negotiated practice and research work). In this way you will be able to develop an increasing independence and a positive attitude towards life-long learning.

The course objectives are met by deploying a wide variety of teaching and learning methods including rehearsal, performance, ensemble working, workshops, lectures, seminars, group critiques and tutorials. In consultation with the Course Leader, staff are responsible for co-ordinating individual units of study, and for selecting appropriate methods of delivery according to subject matter and student experience.

The methods employed induct you to the disciplines required of a creative practitioner and promote the development of transferable skills.

The study time allocated to each unit in the course incorporates a balance of formal teaching, tutorial support and independent learning. The course is structured progressively to provide increased opportunities for independent learning as you reach the later stages of the course.

The progressive promotion of independent learning reflects your anticipated maturity as a student and allows you to direct your learning towards individual goals. The teaching in Level 4 is directed at providing you with the knowledge, concepts and skills to take increasing responsibility for the management of your own learning.

Ensemble working reflects the importance of team work in the discipline of acting and there are many opportunities to work in teams to learn the value of peer co-operation.

The integration of theory and practice is promoted and reinforced through a team teaching approach. Lectures, seminars and tutorials may be delivered by team members, as appropriate, in the creative learning environment.

<u>Assessment</u>

Each unit is assessed separately, and the assessment forms part of the unit. Assessment both provides a measure of your achievement, and also gives you regular feedback on how your learning is developing.

For every unit of your course, we will inform you of what you are expected to learn; what you have to submit; how your work will be assessed; and the deadline for presenting your work for assessment. This is made available through Unit Information, which is on your course blog.

You will receive a final mark for each unit in the form of a percentage, which will be recorded on your formal record of achievement (transcript). Each component of assessment is graded using a notched marking scale, whereby only certain marks are used within each grade. The only marks available within any ten-point band are *2, *5 and *8 (eg 62, 65, 68). These marks correspond to a low, mid, and high level of achievement within each grade band.

All learning outcomes must be passed to successfully complete the unit.

On successful completion of your Honours degree course, you will be awarded a degree classification based on your unit marks. The final classification is determined using all unit marks at Levels 5 and 6 using two different algorithms, which are detailed in the HE Student Regulations. If the two algorithms produce different results, you will be awarded the higher class of degree.

If you have joined Level 6 through either the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) route or having completed a Foundation Degree (FdA), the final classification is determined using only your unit marks at Level 6.

For further information on assessment, progression, awards and classifications, please visit https://viewpoint.aub.ac.uk

Course Structure

All students are registered for the award of BA (Hons); however exit awards are available if you leave the course early, having successfully completed one or two levels. If you successfully complete a level of the course, you will automatically be entitled to progress to the next level.

For the award of a Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), you must have achieved a minimum of 120 credits at Level 4. This qualification may be awarded if you leave the University following successful completion of the first year of your course.

For the award of a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), you must have achieved a minimum of 240 credits of which a minimum of 120 must be at Level 5. This qualification may be awarded if you leave the University following successful completion of the second year of your course.

For the award of a BA (Hons) you must have achieved a minimum of 360 credits of which a minimum of 240 must be at Level 5 or above, of which a minimum of 120 credits must be at Level 6. This qualification will be awarded upon successful completion of your course.

A BA without Honours may be awarded if you have achieved 300 credits, at least 180 of which are at Level 5 or above, and at least 60 of which are at Level 6.

Course Content

Level 4

Level 4 provides a foundation enabling you to develop a methodological approach to psychophysical Acting, introducing the tools and techniques helpful in creating performances in realistic drama for the stage and screen. The work is Stanislavskibased, and you will be introduced to the intellectual, imaginative and physical skills that you will need to acquire and to develop.

Work proceeds through a series of practical, studio-based acting exercises and projects that are underpinned by seminar and lecture based classes which provide additional literary, theoretical and historical contexts for your practical work.

Throughout this first year you will also have movement, voice and singing classes. These are highly practical classes that provide you with specific skills and experiences that will further support your work on the acting units and will introduce you to the particularities of these individual disciplines.

By the end of this level you will have a sound knowledge of the basic concepts of acting.

Level 5

After acquiring the understanding, skills and techniques that enable you to approach work using the concept of 'Psychological Realism', Level 5 consists of more advanced work concerned with aspects of dramatic structure and the implications of style for the actor. In Level 4 practical work took the form of exercises which, in general, did not require you to take into account the needs of the audience, and enabled you to focus on the internal creative processes of psychologically motivated work. In Level 5, you will learn to regard the audience as an integral factor in the creative process. Practical work will take the form of Workshops leading to performance which will be viewed by an internal audience.

You will continue to develop a personal methodological approach to acting which will be evidenced in your practical work and in your Process and Performance Evaluations and you will further develop your investigative skills in relation to the world of the play, and explore the demands of different kinds of dramatic structures

and styles of performance, nationally and internationally, and their implications for the actor.

Simultaneously, you will explore specific theoretical and/or practice based interests that you may have a wish to pursue further as well as identifying career and post-graduate study options that will be available to you upon graduation. You will also further develop your research and communication skills and prepare for the independent study opportunities available to you in your final year.

As in Level 4, you will have movement, voice and singing classes as part of your acting units. These classes will expand on the body of knowledge acquired in these disciplines in the previous year and will ask you to further integrate these skills in your work in the acting classes.

By the end of this stage in the course, you should be confident about your ability to organise your working methods. You will have developed investigative techniques, textual analysis skills, and physical/vocal skills to a higher level, and you will be able to distinguish between realistic and epic styles and identify your work in the context of an international performance community. You will be prepared with key knowledge and skills that will allow you to enter the third year of the course, which is production based, with confidence.

Level 6

Level 6 enables you to extend the scope and depth of your exploration of the acting process by providing you with a range of creative challenges. In preparation for professional life, your work in this year of study will be focused on work related study in theatre production. You will be given the opportunity to test the working methods you have developed in Levels 4 and 5 by applying them to the creation of a series of characters in plays that will vary in the range and complexity of their demands.

The Investigative Study unit presents the opportunity to pursue a course of advanced independent research and allows you to demonstrate that the level of your skills in research, analysis, and criticism enables you to articulate a discursive argument to at a level appropriate to the award of BA with Honours.

This level provides you with the opportunity to evaluate your development as an artist, consider your strengths and weaknesses, develop an understanding of the business aspects of being an actor and to develop audition/interview techniques and awareness that will prepare you with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage your career and approach potential employers and employment opportunities in a professional manner.

Course Units

Unit code	Unit Title	Credit Weighting
Level 4		
ACT455	Acting 1	20
ACT456	Acting 2	20
ACT457	Practice in Context	20
ACT458	Body and Voice	40
ACT459	Recorded Performance	20
Level 5		
ACT555	Shakespeare	40
ACT556	Actor Creator	40
ACT557	Professional Contexts	20
ACT558	Applied Theatre Project	20
Level 6		
ACT650	Production Practice 1	40
ACT651	Investigative Study	20
ACT652	Negotiated Practice	20
ACT653	Production Practice 2	40

Course Diagram

This diagram shows the proposed start/end dates for each unit and shows teaching weeks only; holiday periods are not included. Further information on the structure of each unit will be included in the online Unit Information which is available on your course blog.

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Resources

University Resources:

Library

The course is supported by a Subject Librarian who liaises closely with the team to ensure that the Library resources are relevant and meet student and staff research needs. As part of the AUB's Information Literacy Framework, the Subject Librarian provides sessions on researching and using information, as well as individual support for students in the use of Library resources.

The Library holds an excellent range of specialist learning materials including books, journals, CDs, DVDs, and newspapers. It has subscriptions to a wide range of specialist electronic resources focusing on art, design, media and performance, including e-books and e-journals. The Library's facilities include computers, a viewing room, and a silent reading room.

The Library consistently receives high scores in both the in-house and national student surveys which are carried out annually.

Digital Learning Resources

The University provides a range of computing hardware and software applications for use in general purpose locations such as the library and computer studios, as well as high quality and specialist resources linked to subject specialisation. You will be able to use Microsoft Office and Adobe Creative Suite on the majority of computers in the University and have access to industry standard digital resources and computing appropriate for your subject in course areas.

We have a comprehensive wireless network and our new virtual learning environment (VLE) can be used on desktop, laptop and mobile devices. The VLE, called MyAUB, provides a customisable portal to a variety of course and university related information including timetables, email, course handbooks, resource booking and online learning materials.

Support for digital learning resources is provided by a network of University staff. Course related equipment is cared for by Technician Demonstrators and library information resources is supported by library staff. General computing support and advice on your own equipment is provided by our Digital Campus Services Team who provide a servicedesk facility. The Service Desk is located in the Library, and their email address is: servicedesk@aub.ac.uk.

Museum of Design in Plastic (MoDiP)

MoDiP is a registered museum of 20th and 21st century design and popular culture with a focus on plastics. Its collection is unique within the UK and has been developed to support teaching and learning at Arts University Bournemouth.

There are many ways in which MoDiP can play a part in your studies:

- as a source of inspiration large numbers of items may be viewed, handled and explored in depth, drawn, photographed and filmed
- as the focus of a brief for products and projects relating to course work
- as an exhibition venue your work can be displayed in relation to the collections and exhibitions and events may be mounted in the museum space

The Museum is in a purpose built space within the Library, designed with wheelchair access in mind, and has the same opening hours as the rest of the University for the viewing of exhibitions. Objects not on display can be borrowed and taken to the studio. To see what is available, go to the MoDiP website (www.modip.ac.uk).

TheGallery

TheGallery is a major resource for contemporary visual art at Arts University Bournemouth and has received regional and national recognition. There are regular gallery events, including collections on loan from galleries and museums, as well as individual exhibitions by some of today's leading artists, photographers, designers and critical writers.

It also functions as a learning resource and is integrated into the teaching, learning, and research practice undertaken at the University.

text + work is the ethos which underpins the exhibition programme at Arts University Bournemouth. The **text + work** concept promotes and provides a forum for challenging dialogue between innovative contemporary art, design, media and performance practice and its theoretical context.

There are **text** + **work** gallery events, critical texts, shared and networked exhibitions and a **text** + **work** website.

Student Support

Academic Guidance

Academic staff are responsible for providing you with feedback on your work and your general academic progress, and for providing academic support and guidance through the course. This is provided through "critiques" and written feedback, as well as guidance on practical work and informal discussion about your concerns. These sessions may be individual or, in the case of collaborative work, in small groups.

Academic tutorials are scheduled to allow you to discuss in depth matters relating to creative or theoretical work, or the course in general. You will be entitled to at least one formal academic tutorial per term with a nominated member of the course team.

Support and advice is also provided on an informal basis throughout the course, through discussions between staff and students.

The University also has a team of Study Skills Tutors who can support you with your academic work such as essays, dissertations and presentations. This service is available to all students to access. You can book tutorials for individual or group sessions at the Student Services reception. The team also run regular lunchtime

study skills workshops and drop in sessions which can help support you in your studies.

Career Education, Information and Guidance

You will be prepared for employment, and given the opportunity to learn about the various career options available to you, through a wide range of projects which may include live briefs or external competitions. Academic staff remain very familiar with the discipline, and will often still work in the field, and are also able to advise on specific opportunities.

The Careers and Employability Service within the University offers impartial, confidential advice, support and guidance, to help you explore and develop your career ideas and manage your future career successfully. The service offers individual career guidance appointments, as well as advice on job seeking strategies, CVs and interview skills, self-employment / freelancing, and further study opportunities.

The Senior Employability Officer holds regular lunchtime lectures, which cover a range of popular careers topics, including Postgraduate study and funding, Career planning, Networking and self-marketing, and Teaching as a career. Full details and dates of forthcoming lectures are available on the Careers and Employability intranet pages (Viewpoint) and on the Student Services notice boards.

The Careers and Employability Service also offers specialist events, working in partnership with local employers, AUB alumni, and external agencies to bring together a range of art, design, media, performance and business expertise.

For more information, or to make an appointment, please contact careers@aub.ac.uk or call +44 1202 363355. You can also drop in to Student Services on campus between 8.30am and 5pm, Monday to Thursday, and between 8.30am and 4.30pm on a Friday.

Support for students with disabilities (including dyslexia)

The Arts University Bournemouth is firmly committed to a policy of equal opportunities for all students and positively welcomes applications from people with disabilities and/or additional needs. Throughout all aspects of University life, we actively encourage and support the participation of students with disabilities. We aim to support disabled students by offering needs assessments and support plans which enable you to achieve your personal goals.

The Learning Support team provides academic support for students with specific learning difficulties including dyslexia. We ask all new Home students to complete a 'Quickscan' screening programme when they join the University. This screening is designed to check your learning style (the way you learn best) and whether you might have signs of dyslexia. If appropriate, you will be referred to an educational psychologist for a full assessment.

Students with a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia are able to access individual tutorials aimed at improving your independent study skills, and are

supported in applying for the Disabled Students' Allowance, which can provide specialist equipment and, if appropriate, personal support.

The Senior Disability Officer and Wellbeing Officer provide ongoing support and advice for students with all other types of disability, including mental health difficulties, physical disabilities, medical conditions and sensory impairments. The Wellbeing service is a free and confidential service offered by the University to all students. The Senior Wellbeing Officer is based in Student Services and is able to provide specialist advice, information and practical strategies to help students manage personal concerns or concerns they may have for a friend. Accessing the wellbeing service at an early stage may prevent more serious issues developing and help students to feel more in control of their situation.

The Arts University Bournemouth has a duty to anticipate the needs of disabled students, and to make "reasonable adjustments" to ensure that these students can access education and related services. If you feel that some aspect of the learning, teaching or assessment on your course places you at a disadvantage because of your disability, please contact the Senior Disability Officer within Student Services, who will be happy to work with you and your course team to identify any appropriate reasonable adjustments. Contact wellbeing@aub.ac.uk or telephone 01202 363291.

Academic support for students for whom English is a second language

If English is not your first language, AUB has a team of specialist English for Academic Purposes (EAP) lecturers who provide personalised guidance and support with the academic aspects of your course. You can book tutorials with them for individual assistance.

At the beginning of your course you will be invited to complete an academic skills needs assessment. One of our English for Academic Purposes (EAP) team will review this with you in a follow-up tutorial. If you feel you would benefit from additional advice and support, the EAP tutor will work with you to draw up an Individual Learning Plan which will set out a structured approach to developing your use of academic language and study skills. This may, for example, include helping you to develop strategies for interpreting assignment briefs, working on the structure of your written work or developing your proof-reading skills. Your Individual Learning Plan will be reviewed periodically and shared with your course tutor, if requested, so that they are aware of the work you are doing to improve your use of language and study skills.

Throughout the academic year the EAP service also offers Study Skills Workshops. Further details can be found at:

http://aub.ac.uk/international/english-not-first-language/international-student-support/

Pastoral support and guidance

Support and advice on non-academic matters is provided through trained and qualified professional staff within Student Services. We have a team of professionally qualified male and female counsellors, with appointments available during weekdays. Talking to a counsellor in a safe, non-judgemental and confidential setting can enable you to work through your problems with the aim of reaching a solution. Students wanting to access the service can book by email, phone or by

coming into the Student Services reception. The AUB Counselling Service is student focused and we offer single therapeutic sessions with a counsellor for one hour. If your situation is very urgent and you are extremely emotionally distressed, we also have a crisis support service where the aim is that one of our counsellors or the Wellbeing Officer will see you as soon as possible.

Pastoral support is also available from the AUB Chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy at Arts University Bournemouth is shared with Bournemouth University and is an inclusive Chaplaincy, which welcomes people of all faiths and none. The Quiet Room and the Islamic Prayer Room are in regular use by staff and students, and meetings with ministers of any faith can be arranged.

Advice and support with practical issues such as funding, accommodation or childcare is available from the Student Advice, Funds and Accommodation Office within Student Services.

Monitoring the quality of your course

The course is subject to the University's rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and internal peer review of the course at periodic intervals, normally of 5 years. This process ensures that the course remains up to date, and is preparing you for a career within the creative industries while also delivering a high quality student experience.

In addition all courses undertake an Annual Course Review which takes account of relevant information such as:

- External Examiners' Reports
- Key statistics including data on application, retention and achievement
- Results of the National Student Survey
- Results of the in-house Student Perception Survey
- Feedback from Student Representatives
- Feedback from relevant employer groups, including the course Industry Liaison Group

All courses develop an action plan arising out of this exercise, which is monitored by the University. Your student representatives can keep you informed about progress against the action plan.

Staff development priorities for the course team as a whole are identified through the Annual Course Review process, and for individuals through the Staff Performance Review process.

Indicators of Quality and Standards

The Arts University Bournemouth was granted taught degree awarding powers by the Privy Council in 2008; and University status was conferred in 2013. All students on taught higher education courses are enrolled on a course validated by the University.

A new Teaching Excellence Framework has been introduced to recognise excellent teaching. AUB was given a Gold award, reflecting the high quality of the academic student experience.

The University was audited by the QAA in May 2011 and received a judgement of 'Confidence' in the management of the academic standards of its awards, and its management of the quality of learning opportunities. This is the best available outcome, and confirms that our quality assurance mechanisms are robust, meaning that we can have full confidence in the standard of course outcomes, and the quality of the educational experience we deliver.

More detailed information is available in the HE Student Regulations, Viewpoint and on your course blog