



Find out more

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Course Facts

CAO Code: GY 115

Course level: 8

Duration: 4 years

Entry requirements: Minimum Grade HC3 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at H or O level in the Leaving Certificate including: Irish, English, another language and three other subjects recognised for entry purposes. Additionally you must meet the CAO entry points for the programme.

Minimum entry points 2011: 465

Average intake: 15

Course Overview

This programme provides a practical engagement with Theatre and Performance, which is combined with the study of traditional subjects from the BA Degree. In addition to exploring different approaches to making theatre, the course introduces students to aspects of theatre history and nurtures their interest in and talent for performance. Extra-curricular and voluntary work in drama is an important part of the programme.

The BA with Theatre and Performance is aimed at students who wish to complement their studies by developing their personal interest in theatre and performance. In their first two years students participate in practical classes in a variety of acting techniques and performance styles. These encourage a greater understanding of theatre practice and the importance of theatre in human culture.

In their third year students studying a modern language* as one (or more) of their traditional subjects will spend time in a region or country where the language(s) is the native tongue. The students will be placed at third level institutions that facilitate the practical study of the theatrical practice and culture of the host country. Those students remaining in Ireland will participate in workshops developed by theatre practitioners and will work with a professional director on a collectively-created stage production.

In the final year, students drop drama in order to concentrate on their two degree subjects, but opportunities to engage in theatre-related activities will be made available outside of class.

Students who take a BA *CONNECT* in Theatre and Performance can expect to spend up to 30 percent of their time in university on drama, with the remaining 70 percent dedicated to their degree subjects.

The BA *CONNECT* programme allows students to take a BA degree in any two subjects of their choice, while “connecting with” opportunities to develop their personal interest in drama. The BA Connect programme is therefore ideally suited to those students who wish to develop an academic interest in other subjects, but who would also like to produce or read plays in their spare time.

What other arts subjects should I take with Theatre and Performance?

The BA with Theatre and Performance allows students to choose from a wide range of course offerings in the Arts and Humanities. It is delivered in the timetable of Arts subject group five, and therefore may not be studied together with the subjects Sociological and Political Studies, Information Technology, Welsh or Léann an Aistriúcháin. Students are strongly advised to take English, and should be aware that classes may also be delivered in the evening (up to 9.00pm on occasion).

Practical Professional Practice

Galway has long and proud history of theatre and performance and is home to the annual Galway Arts Festival, which attracts international and local productions to the city annually. The city has over the years seen the establishment of several still flourishing companies whose founder members were students of our university. The BA with Theatre and Performance is a welcome addition to Galway’s vibrant theatre scene. Those not studying abroad will in their third year benefit from the links already forged with the city’s professional practitioners by working with them in workshops, and on a fully-fledged production.

Career opportunities

In developing performance skills and by deepening understanding of different theatre practices, students gain a solid foundation on which to build towards professional theatre careers. However, the course also develops students’ abilities in analysis and communication, and builds confidence in public speaking, leadership and teamwork. Such skills are relevant in many spheres of life and work, including education, PR, and business.

Further education

This course provides an excellent basis for further study, such as the MA in Drama and Theatre Studies run by the Department of English.

Course Outline:

Year One

Theatre Workshop 1

Theatre Workshop 2

Year Two

Styles of Performance 1

Styles of Performance 2

Year Three

Performing Arts

Theatre Experience or Theatre Experience (Abroad):
Language students only

Theatre Experience Journal

Performing Arts

Students have the opportunity to engage with the Performing Arts as part of their programme of work in Year 3. Their course of study will allow them to develop their specialist interests by working with professionals in the fields of Creative Writing, Dance, Film-making and Theatre. The ultimate outcome will be a creative multi-media performance written and staged by the students themselves.

What students say

"I would call the BA with Theatre and Performance the perfect mix of work and fun. My skills as an actor have been honed, my knowledge of the theatre and its history expanded, and my analytical skills enhanced. The small group teaching environment is ideal for encouraging participation from everyone and for forging a good group dynamic so I have made a lot of good friends!"



Darragh O'Brien, BA (Theatre and Performance)

