

# BA (Hons) Acting

## Programme specification document

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### Overview

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Bath School of Music and Performing Arts
Main campus	Newton Park and Oldfield Park Theatre Workshops
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	Acting
Qualification (final award)	BA (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	CertHE, DipHE
Routes available	Single
Professional Placement Year	No
Duration of award	Full-Time

Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based
Regulatory Scheme[1]	Undergraduate Academic Framework
Exemptions from regulations/framework[2]	N/A
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	N/A
UCAS code	W410
Route code (SITS)	ACTSPS
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	<a href="#">Dance, Drama and Performance (2019)</a>
Date of most recent approval	March 2023
Date specification last updated	January 2024

[1] This should also be read in conjunction with the BSU Qualifications Credit Framework

[2] See section on 'Exemptions'

## Exemptions

The following exemptions are in place:

Programme/Pathway	Regulations/Framework	Brief description of variance	Approving body and date

## Programme Overview

BA (Hons) Acting is for anyone who wishes to become a versatile, imaginative and employable actor on stage, screen or radio. The course develops your approach to acting through a sequence of progressive modules that in your first

year focus on the process of acting that the remainder of the course then challenges by asking you to explore different genres and media. The course encourages you to develop an individual acting process that works both on stage and screen and mirrors the Stanislavskian system at the heart of current industry practice. Because the course encourages you to utilise your skills as an actor in many and various ways, BA Acting graduates are adept at working across a profession that requires creativity, resilience, and continued application.

Level 4 features 6 progressive project modules that last 4 or 5 weeks each. These introduce you to the key skills and processes that underpin actor training - such as movement, voice, and improvisation - but they also encourage you to become a self-reflective team member who uses analysis, critique and instinct to inform your performance. Each project leads you to the next encouraging you to build a toolkit of skills and approaches that you can draw upon in all creative projects.

Level 5 starts with three short project modules, before moving into 3 longer modules that require you to manage several projects in tandem. This prepares you for a career in an industry that requires you to manage multiple projects at once. Across the year, you will advance your knowledge of textual analysis, different genres and begin to explore how to adapt your acting process for work on stage and on screen. This will enhance your creativity and critical thinking, while the introduction of stage combat and the opportunity to explore a broader range of career options will begin your preparation for level 6.

Level 6 is a year of professional practice, overseen by our production house, Bath Spa Productions, which provides you with an industry focused series of projects and opportunities. You will collaborate with peers across a range of partner programmes, for instance, BA Theatre, Festival and Event Production, and therefore have the opportunity to refine the kind of skills and knowledge you will require in any employment scenario.

This professional preparation includes public performances throughout the year, and work with industry specialists to help you develop professional connections, working relationships and networking skills vital for future employment. Training in self-promotion and management skills will also prepare you for a career in the creative industries.

Acting at BSU, equips you with the necessary training for a professional career as an actor, underpinned by academic knowledge required for postgraduate study, as well as the essential practical and creative skills for becoming independent thinkers, motivated artists and freelance practitioners.

## Programme Aims

- 1 To provide a relevant, diverse and challenging programme that develops the practical and creative skills at the forefront of actor training.
- 2 To develop your creative, critical, analytical and interpersonal skills in a range of settings and contexts as an actor of existing texts and maker of new work.
- 3 To foster your ability to select, refine and effectively engage appropriate skills and processes of acting in a range of performance genres.
- 4 To encourage highly responsive, creative and investigative approaches to developing and sustaining individual projects and/or collaborative contexts.

5 To optimise critical and analytical engagement with theoretical perspectives of performance and their application to practice through a rigorous programme of study.

6 To prepare you for a career in acting by offering industry-focused support that complements and enhances entrepreneurship and proactive engagement with the cultural industries.

7 To improve your career opportunities by developing an acute awareness of the depth and range of transferable subject specific skills applicable to fluctuating and evolving employment scenarios and lifelong learning.

8 To develop your ability to assess and manage risk, health and safety and to employ ethical working practices.

## Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

### A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

	<b>Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)</b>	<b>On Achieving Level 5</b>	<b>On Achieving Level 4</b>
	<b>On Achieving Level 6</b>		
A1	A critical understanding and application of the interplay between performance skills, vocabularies, structures and acting methodologies in both text-based and devised performance	A working knowledge and understanding of the interplay between performance skills, vocabularies, dramatic structures and acting processes in both text-based and devised performance	A practical knowledge and understanding of the interplay between performance skills and acting processes in both text-based and devised performance
A2	A critical understanding of how key practitioners, practices and theorists inform creative practice across a range of live and recorded media	The ability to critically and imaginatively extend existing concepts and principles relevant to text-based and devised performance in both live and recorded media settings	A practical knowledge of key practitioners, practices and theorists that shape and inform a process-led approach to actor training

A3	A synthesis and application of performance skills within a range of complex creative and professional contexts that can accommodate complexity, diversity and change	A critical understanding and creative application of further skills training (movement, voice, comedy, stage combat, acting for camera) within a range of live and recorded media settings	An embodied knowledge and understanding of the key skills (vocal, physical and comedic) that underpin the study of acting
A4	The sophisticated application of inter-collaborative skills and means of communication as expected of the professional rehearsal and production space.	A critical understanding and application of individual and collaborative skills both in class and in independent rehearsal to ensure clear and productive levels of communication within a range of creative scenarios and working practices	An understanding and application of the communication skills, individual and collaborative working practices required within both studio-based activity and rehearsal settings
A5	A sophisticated application of acting practices in the current industry that draw on knowledge of their historical contexts locally, nationally, and internationally	A critical application of acting practices in the current industry that draw on knowledge of their historical contexts locally, nationally, and internationally	An understanding of acting practices in the current industry that draw on knowledge of their historical contexts locally, nationally and internationally
A6	Application of knowledge and understanding in assessing and managing risk, health and safety issues and employing ethical working practices	A critical knowledge of risk, health and safety issues within a simulated employment context as well as the application of ethical working practices in independent projects	An awareness of risk, health and safety issues when working individually or collaboratively as well as the application of ethical working practices

## **B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills**

<b>Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)</b>	<b>On Achieving Level 5</b>	<b>On Achieving Level 4</b>
<b>On Achieving Level 6</b>		

B1	The ability to integrate creative, analytical, critical and reflective skills in order to interpret text-based and/or devised performance across a range of performance genres	Effectively integrate creative, analytical, critical and reflective skills required to interpret text-based and/or created performance across a range of performance genres	An ability to present the creative and reflective skills required to interpret text-based and/or devised performance
B2	The ability to formulate, conduct and evaluate the transition from stimulus to performance, whilst appreciating the need for ethical standards and professional codes of conduct	Use a range of working processes and techniques to initiate and undertake independently and/or collaboratively, the transition from stimulus to performance	An ability to apply and evaluate process-led approaches that facilitate the transition from stimulus (text/idea) to performance
B3	The ability to think independently and undertake systematic independent research that draws on a range of sources (evaluative and critical) to underpin the actor's creative process	Effectively communicate analysis and application of research skills drawing on a variety of sources (evaluative and critical) that underpin the actor's creative process	Communicate the results of working processes with structured and coherent arguments
B4	The ability to identify, propose and manage interpersonal strategies to collaborative scenarios	Acknowledge responsibility and accountability when working independently or as a member of a group project to determine and achieve personal/and or collaborative outcomes	Work independently and as a member of a collaborative process, to research and evaluate a range of information

### **C Skills for Life and Work**

	<b>On achieving Level 6 you will be able to:</b>	<b>On achieving Level 5 you will be able to:</b>	<b>On achieving Level 4 you will be able to:</b>

C1	<b>Work Independently</b>  Exercise initiative, independence and personal responsibility to manage your own learning and time.	<b>Work Independently</b>  Exercise independence and personal responsibility to manage your own learning and time.	<b>Work Independently</b>  Manage your own learning and time.
C2	<b>Work with Others</b>  Work collaboratively with others to achieve individual and common goals, solve problems creatively and build interpersonal relationships to flourish in a global workplace.	<b>Work with Others</b>  Work collaboratively with others to achieve individual and common goals, solve problems creatively.	<b>Work with Others</b>  Work collaboratively with others.
C3	<b>Communicate with Impact</b>  Communicate clearly, effectively and impactfully with specialist and non-specialist audiences.	<b>Communicate with Impact</b>  Communicate clearly and effectively with others.	<b>Communicate with Impact</b>  Communicate accurately and reliably with others.
C4	<b>Demonstrate Digital Fluency</b>  Use digital skills productively, critically and ethically to enhance creativity and communication.	<b>Demonstrate Digital Fluency</b>  Use digital skills productively, critically and ethically.	<b>Demonstrate Digital Fluency</b>  Use digital skills productively.

[3] i.e. the ability to review, direct and manage one's own workload

## Programme content [🔗](#)

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required\* = R\*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single and/or combined award

BA (Hons) Acting				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
4	ACT4020-20	Preparing the Actor	20	C	
4	ACT4021-20	Introduction to Acting	20	C	
4	ACT4022-20	Acting Processes in Action	20	C	
4	ACT4023-20	Form and Practice	20	C	
4	ACT4024-20	The Actor in an Ensemble	20	C	
4	ACT4025-20	Performance Practice	20	C	
5	ACT5020-20	Text Project	20	C	
5	ACT5021-20	Theatre Making	20	C	
5	ACT5022-20	The Actor's Portfolio Career	20	C	
5	ACT5023-20	Live Performance	20	C	
5	ACT5024-20	Mediated Performance	20	C	
5	ACT5025-20	The Self-Directed Creative	20	O	
6	ACT6000-20	Acting Independent Study	20	C	
6	ACT6020-40	Production Project: Live Production	40	C	
6	ACT6021-20	Production Project: Mediated Production	20	C	
6	ACT6022-20	Production Project: Small Scale Production	20	C	
6	ACT6023-20	Creative Portfolio	20	O	



## Assessment methods [↗](#)

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

## Work experience and placement opportunities [↗](#)

Given union restrictions for actors taking placements in professional performance settings, it is not possible to offer placement directly related to the degree subject. The programme therefore simulates a work environment the third year through Bath Spa Productions. The third year of this programme is run through that production house, engaging students in a range of professionally focused projects led by industry professionals. The SparkFest project also generates opportunities for students to showcase their work in a real 'live performance' setting or digital online performance space.

## Table of Additional Costs [↗](#)

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost
ACT4020-20	Specialist clothing	For Females: Character Shoes (approx £30), Corset (approx £40), Long/Practice Skirt (approx £50) For Males: Dress Shoes (approx £30), Waistcoat (approx £15), Suit Jacket (approx £40), Tie (approx £10) We recommend that students buy second-hand, to keep costs at a minimum
ACT4021-20	Reading material	Chekhov plays, translated and introduced by Michael Frayn, published by Bloomsbury, Methuen Drama (approx £12.99 brand new, approx £3 used)

ACT4025-20	Reading material	Four Major Plays (Dolls House, Ghosts, Hedda Gabler, The Master Builder), translated by James McFarlane, published by Oxford World Classics (approx £7.65 new and approx £3 used)
ACT6020-40	(Optional) Professional headshot	An optional opportunity is offered to get a headshot with a professional photographer at the beginning of your third year for this module. The cost is approx £70.

## Graduate Attributes [↗](#)

Graduate Attribute	While at Bath Spa, I will develop my ability to:	This programme will help me to do this through:
<b>Confidently Self-Aware</b>	Reflect on and recognise my unique skills, strengths, and values and be able to apply and articulate them in a range of different contexts.	<p>Continuous self-reflection during sessions, reflective journaling, and assessment.</p> <p>Within acting processes, character development relies on psychological understanding of character journey within stories. This process has to come from a lens of oneself to put feelings into context collaborative projects demand self-awareness and a deep understanding of what skills, strengths and values a student can contribute to the group the process of rehearsals for public performance demands the applications of an actor's unique voice and the ability to identify their own strengths, skills and values to accomplish the work.</p> <p>Continuous and specific verbal and written feedback throughout the course allows students to reflect and develop their understanding of themselves as a performer, their strengths and weaknesses and what they need to work on in order to become an independent artist.</p>
<b>Emotionally Attuned</b>	Be mindful of how my actions and emotions impact those around me so I can better navigate difficult situations and build effective interpersonal relationships.	<p>Continuous feedback and expectation setting before each module and project. These expectations are also incorporated into assessment criteria.</p> <p>There is a necessity to be emotionally attuned within our practice as outlined in being confidently self-aware. Therefore, all that is outlined in this section is true for this also.</p>

<b>Inclusive Collaborator</b>	Contribute independently to collaborative projects while working effectively with others, valuing diversity and respecting individual differences.	<p>Sensitivity to others and collaboration are included in assessment criteria. Best practice in our work demands that our collaborations and the working space is safe and accepting to all participants.</p> <p>Purposeful storytelling needs to represent all global voices and therefore this is a critical core value within development of acting practice.</p>
<b>Adaptable Innovator</b>	Embrace challenges, taking risks where needed and applying individual and collective problem solving.	<p>Working with creativity from our minds, bodies and voices means that we are constantly risking ourselves within the development of our work. We work deeply with vulnerable states that come with taking risk and essential problem solving to ensure the work is of quality and relevant for audiences.</p> <p>Continuous reflection and feedback mean that the demand on the student is to innovate and adapt their work and themselves to produce the necessary product for audiences</p> <p>Critical feedback is given by tutors throughout all rehearsals for practical projects. For the final production to be of a high standard students must take on critical feedback and adapt the work accordingly.</p>
<b>Critical Thinker</b>	Keep an open mind, ask curious questions and think creatively to gain a deeper and broader understanding of global perspectives and the world around me.	<p>Students are encouraged to see their work through the eyes of the general public who will come and watch them.</p> <p>The demand to create performance is that we constantly are keeping an open mind and asking questions about ourselves and the world around us. We have to think always about where stories are universal or are specific to certain communities.</p> <p>Through the wide range of plays we work on or read that offer characters with a variety of lived experiences students are encouraged to empathise with different viewpoints and perspectives that are not necessarily their own.</p>
<b>Forward Thinker</b>	Set goals, plan ahead and utilise resources to support my personal ambitions and achieve my own version of success.	<p>The assessment structures that encourage goal setting and action planning.</p> <p>Self-management is a crucial part of working as actor, especially as a freelance artist and creator.</p> <p>Project management is core to 3<sup>rd</sup> year, where students build and deliver their own creative projects and independent study projects.</p> <p>Professional development begins at level 5, with reflection and research to ensure deep understanding of how individual ambition and goals.</p>
<b>Ethical Leader</b>	Act with empathy, making decisions grounded in ethical principles while advocating for sustainability and positive social change.	<p>Within our skills classes we teach consent-based practices, body autonomy and industry practices of inclusive working methods allowing student actors to understand the practical structures necessary to be an inclusive artist and leader.</p>

<b>Responsible Self-Starter</b>	Be accountable for my actions and decisions while demonstrating creativity, proactivity, and a focus on solutions.	Creation of individual and independent projects that will go to a public audience in the festival SparkFest and beyond graduation.
<b>Compassionately Resilient</b>	Respond to setbacks with a reflective and positive attitude, flexibility and a self-caring approach.	<p>The assessments that involved self-reflection, encouraging journaling of individual progress, and embracing the culture of engaging in a positive mindset with the work that lecturers set.</p> <p>The demands of our projects require us to drive and guide our own work and practice. To ensure success we need always to be reflecting on how to problem solve creative and logistic issues and setbacks and deal with any obstacles that hinder us and our project delivery. Creativity can only come from a positive 'can-do' attitude and as you manage yourself a self-care approach is essential to ensure you can sustain your work.</p> <p>A self-care approach is embedded in training from the beginning as our creativity is expressed using our creative ideas and through our bodies and voices.</p>
<b>Digitally Resourceful</b>	Utilise and responsibly leverage existing and emerging technologies to solve problems and communicate.	Our assessments are run across a variety of digital platforms including film, audio and sometimes interactive digital projects, as well as project marketing often being created by the students. These projects enable the learning of a variety of digital languages and imbed an understanding for the need to be flexible and dynamic in the digital realm in order to get your work seen.

## Modifications

### Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
ACT5024-20	Mediated Performance	Minor typographical changes, changing "film/ed" to "mediated" and "self-tape", including for an assessment	SQMC February 2024	2024/25

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#### Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

#### **Attached as appendices:**

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

#### **Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – BA (Hons) Acting**

Single Honours	
Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core Modules	
ACT4020-20 Preparing the Actor	ACT4023-20 Form and Practice
ACT4021-20 Introduction to Acting	ACT4024-20 The Actor in the Ensemble
ACT4022-20 Acting Processes in Action	ACT4025-20 Performance Practice
<b>Rule Notes:</b> N/A	
Level 5	
Core Modules	
ACT5020-20 Text Project	ACT5023-20 Live Performance
ACT5021-20 Theatre Making	ACT5024-20 Mediated Performance

ACT5022-20 The Actor's Portfolio Career		
Optional Modules		
	ACT5025-20 The Self-Directed Creative	
Rule Notes:		
Optional: Professional Placement Year 120 credits		
Level 6		
Core Modules		
ACT6020-40 Production Project: Live Production		
*ACT6000-20 Acting Independent Study	*ACT6000-20 Acting Independent Study	
*ACT6022-20 Production Project: Small Scale Production	*ACT6022-20 Production Project: Small Scale Production	
*ACT6021-20 Production Project: Mediated Production	*ACT6021-20 Production Project: Mediated Production	
Optional Modules		
*ACT6023-20 Creative Portfolio	*ACT6023-20 Creative Portfolio	
Rule Notes: *You must take 2 of the above 20-credit Level 6 modules in each Semester, without repeating any module.		

## Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes [↗](#)

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,*,O) [4]	Intended Learning Outcomes													
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge						Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work			
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4
4	ACT 4020-20	Preparing the Actor	C	X													

4	ACT 402 1-20	Intr odu ctio n to Acti ng	C	X		X				X	X				X		
4	ACT 402 2-20	Acti ng Proc esse s in Acti on	C			X	X							X			
4	ACT 402 3-20	For m and Prac tice	C				X	X					X				
4	ACT 402 4-20	The Acto r in an Ens emb le	C		X							X				X	
4	ACT 402 5-20	Perf orm anc e Prac tice	C		X			X	X								X
5	ACT 502 0-20	Text Proj ect	C	X									X				
5	ACT 502 1-20	The atre Mak ing	C				X				X			X			
5	ACT 502 2-20	The Acto r's Port folio Car eer	C			X									X		
5	ACT 502 3-20	Live Perf orm anc e	C		X			X		X						X	

5	ACT 502 4-20	Med iate d Perf orm anc e	C		X				X			X				X
5	ACT 502 5-20	The Self- Dire cted Cre ativ e	O				X						X		X	
6	ACT 600 0-20	Acti ng Inde pen dent Stud y	C		X							X		X		
6	ACT 602 0-40	Prod ucti on Proj ect: Live Prod ucti on	C			X	X			X					X	
6	ACT 602 1-20	Prod ucti on Proj ect: Med iate d Prod ucti on	C	X				X					X			X



6	ACT 602 2-20	Production Project: Small Scale Production	C						X		X					X	
6	ACT 602 3-20	Creative Portfolio	O			X					X						X

[4] C = Core; R = Required; R\* = Required\*; O = Optional

### Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module [↗](#)

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O) [5]	Assessment method											
				Coursework					Practical				Written Examination		
				Dissemination	Self-Evaluation	Slide Presentation	Tutorial	Portfolio	Performance	Practical Skills Test	Devised Project	Mediated Production	Written Examination	In-class test (see n)	In-class test (unseen)
4	ACT4 020-20	Preparing the Actor	C				1x								
4	ACT4 021-20	Introduction to Acting	C		1x							1x			

4	ACT4 022- 20	Acting Processes in Action	C							1x	1x				
4	ACT4 023- 20	Form and Practice	C			1x				1x					
4	ACT4 024- 20	The Actor in an Ensemble	C								1x	1x			
4	ACT4 025- 20	Performance Practice	C		1x					1x					
5	ACT5 020- 20	Text Project	C									1x			
5	ACT5 021- 20	Theatre Making	C		1x					1x					
5	ACT5 022- 20	The Actor's Portfolio Career	C							1x					
5	ACT5 023- 20	Live Performance	C							1x					
5	ACT5 024- 20	Mediated Performance	C							1x					
5	ACT5 025- 20	The Self-Directed Creative	O					1x							

6	ACT6 000- 20	Actin g Inde pend ent Stud y	C	1x										
6	ACT6 020- 40	Prod uctio n Proje ct: Live Prod uctio n	C					1x						
6	ACT6 021- 20	Prod uctio n Proje ct: Medi ated Prod uctio n	C									1x		
6	ACT6 022- 20	Prod uctio n Proje ct: Smal l Scale Prod uctio n	C								1x			
6	ACT6 023- 20	Creat ive Portf olio	O					1x						

[5] C = Core; R = Required; R\* = Required\*; O = Optional