



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

BA (Hons) Performing Arts

Course Code: PERFA

2024/25

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

BA (Hons) Performing Arts (PERFA)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2024/25 Undergraduate Entrants

Confirmed at DEC/2023

General Information

Award	Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) Performing Arts
Contained Awards	Bachelor of Arts Performing Arts Diploma of Higher Education Performing Arts Certificate of Higher Education Performing Arts
Awarding Body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of Qualification and Credits	Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 120 credit points at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6 of the UK Credit Framework for Higher Education (360 credits in total).
Course Lengths and Standard Timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 years (full time, campus based)• 6 years (part time, campus based)
Part Time Study	PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that the work placement option is not generally available to PT students.
Location(s) of Delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.
Entry Requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:
AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Course Fees

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to
Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Policies, Standards and Regulations (www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations)

Removal of the pass mark at 40% and replace with a pass/fail module (Health & Wellbeing Level 4) where students are assessed on their ability to meet the learning outcomes of the module through a series of 1-2-1 conversations with their tutor.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director	Sarah Roe
Your Academic Advisor	Sarah Roe s.l.roe@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
Your Course Administrator	Adam Paul a.d.paul@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Sandwich or Other 'In Year' Work Placement Information

Summary

Leeds Beckett is dedicated to improving the employability of our students and one of the ways in which we do this is to support our students to gain valuable work experience through work-based opportunities and placements. Our placement and staff teams have developed strong links with art companies and organisations, many of whom repeatedly recruit our students into excellent placement roles.

Length

On the BA (Hons) Performing Arts programme there is an elective module, *Introduction to Creative Arts Infrastructure (level 5)*, which includes a 40 hours (min) placement. If this module is selected for study students may carry out their placement over several days/ weeks of the semester as appropriate.

Location

Students are responsible for obtaining their placement, with assistance from the University. The locations will vary, dependent on the opportunity.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

N/A

Course Overview

Aims

The BA (Hons) Performing Arts course is a highly practical and heavily taught programme with much delivery taking place within specialist studios and theatre spaces based in the City of Leeds. The primary focus of the course is to train students how to become Interdisciplinary makers and performers in the performing arts sector, developing upon students existing theatre, performance, voice and movement skills. Learning will take place through three strands, the first is how to make-work, the second is performer training and the third is conceptual/critical knowledge development. To do this, students will take practice-based modules in (this is not an exhaustive list) contemporary theatre practices, movement direction and physical theatre practice, ensemble performance, writing and direction, voice and singing technique, as well as engaging with theoretical contexts in lecture/seminar-based sessions. Alongside lectures, seminars, and project-based work students will also undertake weekly technique classes in movement, voice (singing), and actor training, which will further explore the role of 'Embodied Knowledges' in interdisciplinary performance practices.

The underlying ethos of the course is that students will explore how different disciplines come together to create innovative works that challenge how we understand performance practice in the 21st century. As such, we are interested in how individual artists can use multiple disciplines to make and perform work. The BA (Hons) Performing Arts course will be firmly rooted within the cultural landscape of the City of Leeds and will be impacted by our professional partnerships. Alongside these stakeholders, students will learn through project-based teaching and learning and can expect to regularly engage with Live Briefs and Artists working in the sector.

At Level 4, students can expect to engage with a range of different performance disciplines developing their skills and understanding of the underlying principles of these disciplines and the contexts that surround their development. However, as they progress to Level 5 and 6, the student's pathway on the degree will begin to reflect their own career aspirations and professional development needs as project-based modules require more independence, with negotiated assessments that allow students room to explore their own

artistic interests. This will lead to the final assessment of the course where third year work will be showcased in our annual 'Lift Off' festival.

1. To critically explore the potential for interdisciplinary practice to offer new perspectives on performance making, production and analysis.
2. To recognise the multitude of performance disciplines, styles, and cultural influences that inform and shape 21st Century performing arts practices.
3. To develop in students, a set of personal, intellectual, creative, imaginative, and practical skills appropriate to the field of Interdisciplinary Performance Practice.
4. To develop physical and intellectual skills, enabling students to become innovative and reflexive creative practitioners.
5. To contribute to the development and promotion of the eminently employable multi-skilled independent artist practitioner to motivate graduates to become capable contributors and collaborators to the Creative Industries.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Utilise multiple practices within the performing arts, such as movement, vocal skills, and theatre craft, as well skills beyond this discipline, to create performance.
2. Critique performance practices with an awareness of historical, social, cultural, and global contexts, applying this understanding to the creation of their own innovative performance practice.
3. Employ creative vocabularies, skills, techniques in performance through an advanced understanding of 'Embodied Knowledges' and its application in and through practice.
4. Demonstrate the ability to construct and communicate complex arguments about performance, practice and practitioners, through the application of advanced scholarly skills and techniques.
5. Demonstrate creative communication, collaboration and leadership skills in the pursuit and management of independent practice and study.
6. Employ reflexive and critical praxis in the analysis of their own creative processes and products, demonstrating creative problem solving in the pursuit of entrepreneurial arts practice, postgraduate study and/or employment.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Students who enrol on BA (Hons) Performing Arts can expect a variety of engaging learning experiences. Traditional lecture and seminar-based sessions provide an opportunity for students to discuss trends in performance and wider cultural practices in a critically informed manner with staff and external speakers. Workshops and making processes are also engaged with as a way of informing and developing the individual practical needs of each learner. Similarly, through participation in weekly technique classes students will develop their 'embodied' understanding of arts practice, working towards professional standards. The ethos of the course is one that values Professional Practice, and as such, students should expect teaching and learning activities to occur with professional artists, curators, and pedagogues in professionally appropriate settings.

The 'making' of art is an important part of BA (Hons) Performing Arts, and this occurs in a variety of contexts. Students will be expected to make solo art, but also work as an ensemble, be directed by in house and external artists, and receive, and reflect upon, critical feedback. The understanding of one's processes is also demonstrated in a variety of contexts, in the first instance this occurs in the making and presentation of performance, but also through portfolios, presentations, lecture demonstrations, vivas, and essays. In some cases, assessment vehicles are negotiated, in the form of a learning agreement, and adapted to suit the individual academic needs of the learner, whilst still adhering to the rigour of the learning outcomes. All teaching and learning on the Performing Arts programme in face to face on our City Campus within the Leeds School of Arts building.

The BA (Hons) Performing Arts course seeks to provide:

- Students with the opportunity to learn and develop movement and voice as 'embodied knowledges' in weekly technique classes.
- An active learning environment for students based on the values of an academic collaborative community.
- In the spirit of diversity and widening participation, a learning climate that supports and credits different learning styles and students through 'non-traditional' routes.
- More traditional approaches to learning and teaching such as lectures and seminars are underpinned by practice-based modules, which encourage teaching and learning that values practice as a form of research alongside other qualitative and quantitative research methodologies.
- The opportunity for students to identify, explore and develop their practice in a multicultural, artistic perspective drawing upon contemporary critiques of global cultures.
- A creative learning environment where creative practice is fundamental to the student experience on the programme.
- Dynamic practices and imaginative critical enquiry so that students are inspired to grapple with new ideas and think critically within their chosen field.
- An environment that nurtures a dynamically fluid and inclusive ethos, inspiring creative and productive responses to diversity and difference. It purposefully maximises individuality as a means of advancing critically, creative artists.

Teaching and Learning activities include:

- Staff-led studio workshops and technique sessions
- Student-led practice and assignment sessions
- The viewing of performance and related research tasks
- Staff and student-led peer observation and feedback
- Staff-led surgeries
- Independent, student-led studio practice research, devising and rehearsal
- Independent, student-led theoretical research

- Group and individual tutorials
- Documentation and evaluation
- Industry-professional led practical sessions
- Inter-disciplinary research and practical sessions

Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 4			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Embodying Theatre and Performance Contexts (40 credits)	Y	Embodying Theatre and Performance Contexts (continued) (40 credits)	Y
The Physical Practitioner (30 credits)	Y	The Physical Practitioner (continued) (30 credits)	Y
Performance Texts (20 credits)	Y	Writing and Directing Performance (20 credits)	Y
Health & Wellbeing for Artistic Practice (10 credits)	Y	Health & Wellbeing for Artistic Practice (continued) (10 credits)	Y

Level 5			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Thinking Bodies (40 credits)	Y	Thinking Bodies (continued) (40 credits)	Y
Project Lab (20 credits)	Y	Musical Theatre Practices (20 credits)	Y
Design in/for Performing Arts (20 credits)	Y	Introduction to Creative Arts Infrastructure (20 credits)	N (Elective)
		Acting for Screen (20 Credits)	N (Elective)

Level 6			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Arts Research (40 credits)	Y	Arts Research (continued) (40 credits)	Y
Making Work for Festival Contexts (20 credits)	N (Elective)	Lift Off Project (40 credits)	Y
Arts and Social Engagement (20 credits)	N (Elective)		
The Pilot Project (20 credits)	N (Elective)		

Students will choose 2 elective module per year

Electives listed above are indicated therefore scheduling and availability are subject to change.

Part-time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study.

Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities by Level

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director, but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities, and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

Level 4 is assessed predominantly by practical assignments with some examinations.

Level 5 is assessed predominantly by practical assignments with some examinations.

Level 6 is assessed predominantly by practical assignments with some examinations.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	360 hours	360 hours	284 hours
Independent Study	840 hours	800 hours (or 840 – if not undertaking placement)	916 hours
Placement		40 hours (Optional)	

Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

Student Services

If you have any questions about life at University, call into our Student Services Centre at either campus or contact Student Advice directly. This team, consisting of trained officers and advisers are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. They also work on a wide range of projects throughout the year all designed to enhance your student experience and ensure you make the most of your time with us. Student Advice are located in the Student Services Centre in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus and on the ground floor of the Priestley Building at Headingley Campus. The team can also be contacted via email at studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk, telephone on 0113 812 3000, or by accessing our online chat link, available on the student homepage.

Support and Opportunities

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.