



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification MA Theatre & Performance

Course Code: MTHPF

2026/27

Award and Title: MA Theatre & Performance (MTHPF)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at 11/2025

General Information

Award	Master of Arts Theatre & Performance
Contained awards	Post Graduate Diploma Theatre & Performance Post Graduate Certificate Theatre & Performance
Awarding body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of qualification and credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 months (full time, campus based)• 24 months (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 from that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that a 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 are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course. Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk .

Policies, Standards and Regulations

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>

Standard regulations apply to this course.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

N/A

Timetable

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.

Key Contacts

Your course director Beth Cassani

Your course administrator Sue Kershaw PerformanceCourseAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

1. To provide students with an MA education in current theatre and performance practice which will enhance potential employability.
2. To develop student's criticality in the interrogation of practical and conceptual bases for theatre and performance work.
3. To develop in students an informed, critical and creative approach to arts and culture-based practice and research.
4. To develop the capacity for critical self-appraisal and peer appraisal, facilitating more complex strategies and procedures by which to improve performance.
5. To develop a community of collaborative enquiry into contemporary theatre and performance practice.

Course learning outcomes

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

1	Demonstrate the ability to autonomously negotiate, set, and meet objectives, and deadlines, in a variety of different professional practice contexts
2	Demonstrate the ability to be able to work ethically and sympathetically with a variety of stakeholders with the aim of creating work/art appropriate for professional practice.
3	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the current cultural debates pertaining to contemporary performance practices
4	Demonstrate the ability to apply critical reflection as a method for creative problem solving in a variety of different professional contexts.
5	Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of research methodologies and their application to arts and culture research.
6	Demonstrate the ability to identify new perspectives on contemporary theatre and performance practice.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Students who enrol on MA Theatre and Performance can expect a variety of engaging learning experiences. Traditional lecture and seminar-based sessions provide an opportunity for students to discuss trends in theatre, 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. The ethos of MA Theatre and Performance is one that values professional practice, and as such, students should expect teaching and learning activities to occur with arts practitioners and pedagogues in professionally appropriate settings.

The 'making' of theatre and performance is an integral part of the MA programme, and this occurs in a variety of contexts. Students will be expected to make solo work, but also work as an ensemble, and may 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, viva voces and essays. In some modules 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 MA Theatre and Performance learning outcomes.

On the MA Theatre & Performance programme inclusive teaching, learning and assessment has been considered and is reflected in the content of the modules, the modes of assessment, and the general ethos of the programme. In modules such as Research in the Arts, Arts Activism, Socially Engaged Arts Practice, and Critical Conversations the social-political content covered, aims to highlight and critique national and international arts practice, the diverse histories, contexts, and approaches that may shape student's future work. Students may cover for example (this list is not exhaustive) social and/or political areas such as workers' rights, human rights, race, gender, sexuality, class, religion, disability, environmental change. On several other modules, Directing, Writing for Performance, Major Project, Negotiated Project, Commission, inclusive design has influenced our approach to assessment. Within these modules, as examples, the length and mode of the assessment will be negotiated between the tutor and student, so that it reflects both the artistic interests/aspirations of the individual and their needs as a learner. All modules are taught face to face on our City Campus within the Leeds School of Arts building.

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 7

Full time - Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Research in the Arts	20	1
Commission	40	1
Critical Conversations	20	2
Major Project	40	3
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Arts Activism	30	

Writing for Performance	30	
Directing	30	
Embodied Practitioner	30	
Socially Engaged Arts Practice	30	
Negotiated Project	30	
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	60	

Part time - Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Year 1 - Commission	40	1
Year 1 - Critical Conversations	20	2
Year 2 - Research in the Arts	20	1
Year 2 - Major Project	40	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Arts Activism	30	
Writing for Performance	30	
Directing	30	
Embodied Practitioner	30	
Socially Engaged Arts Practice	30	
Negotiated Project	30	
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	30 per year	

Assessment and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

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 7

On this course students will be assessed through a broadly even mix of coursework and practical presentation of theatre and performance work. There is a major independent study module at the end of

the degree which will require students to produce a substantial piece of practice. This offers students the opportunity to mine-down on an artistic practice of their choice.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	420 hours
Independent study	1380 hours
Placement	-