



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## BA (Hons) Performing Arts

Course Code: PERFA

2026/27

# Award and Title: *BA (Hons) Performing Arts (PERFA)*

## Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at MAY/2026

### General Information

<b>Award</b>	BA (Hons) Performing Arts
<b>Contained awards</b>	BA Performing Arts (Level 6), Diploma of Higher Education Performing Arts (Level 5), Certificate of Higher Education Performing Arts (Level 4)
<b>Awarding body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of qualification and credits</b>	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).
<b>Course lengths and standard timescales</b>	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"><li>• 3 years (full time, campus based)</li><li>• 6 years (part time, campus based)</li></ul>
<b>Part time study</b>	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.
<b>Location(s) of delivery</b>	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.
<b>Entry requirements</b>	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: <a href="https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/">https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/</a>  Admissions enquiries may be directed to: <a href="mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> .
<b>Course fees</b>	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 <a href="mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> .

## **Policies, Standards and Regulations**

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

*Performing Arts 1 and Performing Arts 2* at Level 4 are exempt from the regulatory framework of the university so that they can operate pass/fail assessments.

## **Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course**

### **Professional body**

N/A

## **'In Year' Work Placement Information**

### **Summary**

The course contains a modular placement.

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 placements. Our placement teams have developed strong links with companies, many of whom repeatedly recruit our students into excellent placement roles. Our teams are dedicated to supporting students through every stage of the placement process. Details of how to contact our placement teams may be found here:

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/enhancing-employability/getting-a-placement/>

### **Placement Delivery**

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.

### **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**

Bethwyn Osborne [performancecourseadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:performancecourseadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## Course Overview

### Aims

The BA (Hons) Performing Arts course is a highly practical and heavily taught multi-disciplinary 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 in the performing arts sector, developing upon students' existing theatre, vocal 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. In order to do this, students will take modules that encompass contemporary theatre practices, dance and choreography, voice work, ensemble performance, devising, and engage with theoretical contexts in lecture/seminar-based sessions. Alongside lectures, seminars, and project-based work students will also undertake weekly technique classes in performance 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 21<sup>st</sup> century. As such, we are interested in how individual artists can use multiple disciplines to make work, how artistic disciplines can come together, and how disciplines from outside the sector can work alongside performing arts practices to offer us new perspectives. The BA (Hons) Performing Arts course is firmly rooted within the cultural landscape of the City of Leeds and is impacted by our working relationship with industry partners and organisations such as Transform Festival, Northern Opera Group, Slung Low, Red Ladder, Wrongsemble, Phoenix Dance Theatre, Yorkshire Dance, Dance United Yorkshire and Leeds Playhouse. 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. 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. Some negotiated assessments 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.

The aims of the programme are to:

1. To critically explore the ways interdisciplinary practice offers 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 professional participants in 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, acting and performing, digital media, devising and theatre-making, to create new perspectives in 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 knowledge and its application to 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 project participation, management and in independent practice and study.
6	Analyse their own creative processes reflexively and critically. They will demonstrate creative problem solving and entrepreneurial approaches to arts practice that prepare them for 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 developing the student's practical skills and disciplinary knowledge. These occur in our own specialist studio spaces. Through participation in weekly vocal and movement technique classes, students develop an 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 in professional settings with professional artists, teachers and industry specialists.

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 work, to work as an ensemble, to be directed by in house and external artists, and to receive regular critical feedback. Students demonstrate their developing understanding of processes in a variety of contexts, in the making and presentation of performance, and through portfolios, presentations, lecture demonstrations, vivas, and essays. In some cases, assessment vehicles are negotiated, in the form of a learning agreement, to suit the individual academic needs of the student, whilst still adhering the learning outcomes.

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.
- A learning climate that supports and credits diverse learning styles and supports students through 'non-traditional' routes.
- Traditional approaches to learning and teaching such as lectures and seminars alongside practice-based modules, valuing 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 environment drawing upon contemporary critiques of global cultures.
- A creative, dynamic learning environment where creative practice is fundamental to the student experience.
- 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, recognising and appreciating diversity and difference and foregrounding individuality to develop creative and critically aware 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**

##### ***Compulsory modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Performing Arts 1 (PA1)	60	1
Performing Arts 2 (PA2)	60	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

## Level 5

### *Compulsory modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Thinking Bodies	40	Full Year
Project Lab	20	1
Design in/for Performing Arts	20	1
Musical Theatre Practices	40	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

### *Option modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Introduction to Creative Arts Infrastructure	20	2
Acting for Screen	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	20	

## Level 6

### *Compulsory modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Arts Research	40	Full Year
Lift Off Project	40	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	80	

### *Option modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Making Work for Festival Contexts	20	1
Arts and Social Engagement	20	1
The Pilot Project	20	1
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	40	

## 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 4*

Level 4 is assessed by a broadly even mix of coursework and practical assessments.

### *Level 5*

Level 5 is assessed by a broadly even mix of coursework and practical assessments.

### *Level 6*

Level 6 is assessed by a broadly even mix of coursework and practical assessments.

## Workload

Overall Workload	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Teaching, learning and assessment	400 hours	360 hours	284 hours
Independent study	840 hours	800 hours	916 hours
Placement	-	40 hours	-