

# ual:

## Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Theatre Design

camberwell  
college of arts

chelsea  
college of arts

wimbledon  
college of arts

**APPROVED**

<b>Course AOS Code</b>	10258
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<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 6 Degree
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<b>No. of Terms</b>	9
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<b>QAA Subject Benchmark</b>	Art and Design, Dance, drama and performance
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<b>Course Credits</b>	360
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<b>Term Duration</b>	1 Week(s)
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<b>Valid From</b>	September 1st 2018 ( June 2018 )
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<b>Programme</b>	Wimbledon Theatre and Screen Programme (L009)
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<b>JACS Code</b>	W460 - Theatre design
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<b>UCAS Code</b>	<b>Code</b> W463
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<b>Work placement offered</b>	Yes
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**Collaboration**

No collaboration

<b>Course Entry Requirements</b>	<p>Applicants will have, or are expected to achieve, either: 2 A levels, grade C or higher or equivalent e.g. International Baccalaureat 24 points.</p> <p>All classes are conducted in English. If English isn't a students' first language they must provide evidence at enrolment of the following: IELTS level 6.0 or above, with at least 5.5 in reading, writing, listening and speaking.</p>
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<b>Selection Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An interest, commitment and motivation for studying the subject.</li> <li>• An ability to work imaginatively and creatively in 2D and 3D visual media, materials and processes.</li> <li>• An ability to create and develop new ideas.</li> <li>• A desire to learn and an ability to investigate and develop ideas independently.</li> <li>• An ability to communicate your ideas visually, verbally and in writing.</li> <li>• Potential for creative problem solving.</li> <li>• An ability to self-direct and evaluate your own work.</li> <li>• An ability to engage with the idea of character in the context of a dramatic situation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Portfolio Advice:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of visual recording, such as drawing, life drawing, photography.</li> <li>• Experimentation which demonstrates idea generation and development.</li> <li>• Visual work which uses form, structure, colour, texture and space.</li> <li>• Design development showing how problems are solved.</li> </ul>
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- Any previous experience of theatre work.
- Include your sketchbooks and notebooks.

**At Interview applicants will be expected to demonstrate the following:**

- Visual awareness and an understanding of the creative process.
- Cultural and historical awareness of theatre design and performance.
- Motivation for working in theatre related industries.
- A desire to succeed.

## Distinctive Features

	Distinctive Features
1	The Theatre Design course at Wimbledon that all students are given opportunities to collaborate as designers with young directors and choreographers thereby ensuring that students create networks of future collaborators whilst studying at UAL.
2	Course works closely in live projects with educational and professional organisations such as London Contemporary Dance School, East 15 Theatre School, Middlesex University and Birkbeck's MA Directing course
3	Drawing as central to the Theatre Design process, reflected in collaborations with Wimbledon's MA Drawing course and other WCA Fine Art courses.
4	The relationship of theory, ideas and practice is key to the ethos of the Theatre Design course's use of researchers and integration of current research projects into the curriculum.
5	Staff Member is a Director of The Society of British Theatre Designers.
6	Student Work Placements with Industry
7	Member of European Association of Theatre and Performance Design Education.
8	Member of Association of Courses in Theatre Design
9	New Directions project brings emerging directors to WCA.
10	The Course Leader's performance design practice brings evidence of new digital design practices and ideas to the students.

## Exit Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

<b>Year 1</b>			
<b>Credits</b>	120	<b>Percentage of Scheduled Learning</b>	19
<b>Exit Awards</b>	Certificate in Higher Education (Exit Only)		
<b>Year 2</b>			
<b>Credits</b>	240	<b>Percentage of Scheduled Learning</b>	7
<b>Exit Awards</b>	Diploma in Higher Education (Exit Only)		
<b>Year 3</b>			
<b>Credits</b>	360	<b>Percentage of Scheduled Learning</b>	3
<b>Exit Awards</b>	Bachelor of Arts		

## Aims and Outcomes

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	Place the study of theatre design at the centre of a course that enables students to graduate with knowledge and attributes that will lead them to a rich mix of careers.
Aim	Establish a learning community and environment where creative and critical discussion about all aspects of theatre design can flourish.
Aim	Promote the use and understanding of drawing, both by hand and digitally, and its role in the development and realisation of theatre design ideas.
Aim	Offer all students opportunities to collaborate with other theatre makers to realise their designs.
Aim	Enable students, from all backgrounds, to fully investigate and gain knowledge of the theory and practice of contemporary theatre design.
Outcome	Demonstrate specialist knowledge and skills in theatre design that support practice within the professional field.
Outcome	Apply research methods and critical skills to comprehend and support your practice, synthesising your knowledge and skills to make theatre design work.
Outcome	Be curious, creative thinkers and practitioners seeking out new perspectives and building on your existing knowledge of theatre design.
Outcome	Work independently and professionally on self-generated and collaborative projects, demonstrating the potential to innovate, evaluate, adapt and deal with uncertainty.
Outcome	Demonstrate attributes that enable practice within the broader creative and cultural industries.

## **Introduction to Course**

The BA (Hons) Theatre Design course at Wimbledon College of Arts covers both set and costume design. We prepare our students to enter the world of contemporary theatre and performance design with all the skills, knowledge and sensibilities that professional designers require. The rich mix of practice and theory that each student will encounter on the course ensures that experimentation and critical thinking are valued equally. This mix enables our students to produce inventive and imaginative design work underpinned by strong practical attributes.

The course is also known for its collaborations with other courses and institutions, including London Contemporary Dance School, MA Directing at Birkbeck and BA Contemporary Theatre Practice at East 15 Acting School. All students collaborate with other young theatre makers, which ensures that they graduate as productive and effective professional designers. They also build a strong network through these links and many of our graduates continue to work with their student collaborators for years to come.

The theatre designer of today, and tomorrow, must be a confident communicator and collaborator in order that they can work productively with a wide range of theatre-makers. They must be able to reveal their ideas swiftly and effectively so that design becomes a core motivating force in the development of the performance as a whole. Increasingly designers are instigating the making of performance work, not just responding to the concepts of others, so it is vital that our graduates are resourceful, imaginative and self-assured. This course supports them, intellectually and practically, as they face the challenges that will enable them to gather these essential skills.

The course has run at Wimbledon College of Arts since 1932 and graduates have designed for theatres and opera companies across the globe. It is a world-renowned course, located close to central London and all that it offers, in a college with a strong sense of community combined with a long standing commitment to experimentation and innovation.

The fact that Wimbledon College of Arts runs two complementary programmes, Fine Art and Theatre and Screen, means that the BA Theatre Design students are, from the very beginning of their course, immersed in an incredibly exciting artistic environment; they come into contact with a rich mix of ideas, events, discussions and performances every day. The annual Acts-React Festival, which combines Performance and Fine Art, and the course's focus on Drawing and Performance are two examples of the cross-disciplinary work happening at Wimbledon College of Arts which makes it such an inspiring and provocative place to study.

## **Outline of Curriculum**

Courses are divided into units, which are standard across the programme to ensure parity and flexibility. Each stage of the course consists of some units that are cross the programme and others that are course specific. Course specific units may be subdivided into projects (or components) to maximise your learning experience. There will be opportunities to develop increasingly independent approaches to your subject as you progress through the three stages of the course.

Cross-programme units include Unit 1: Introduction to Study in Theatre & Screen, Unit 6: Collaboration and its Connections and Unit 8: You Think What? which is a critical and

contextual studies unit. Drawing, in all its different forms, is also regarded as a course wide activity and provides opportunities for debate with students in other areas of the college such as Fine Art. These units give the context for all your learning and work across the subject areas, giving a broad base of knowledge, practice and skills and enabling discussions across the related areas. In this way you will also be able to develop a wide and rich network of contacts and experiences to draw upon in professional practice.

Stage 1 of the course can be regarded as a thorough introduction to your course's general subject area. You will work through a series of projects using established methods, techniques and materials used in theatre or screen production that will allow you to decide the direction of your chosen specialism. These experiences will form the foundations for your work within the course in the following two stages. Towards the end of the stage, projects will ask you to bring some of these methods together to consolidate your learning achievement.

Stage 2 of the course is a year of exploration, honing of the techniques for your chosen interests and contextualisation. Building upon the methods and interested introduced at Stage 1, your projects will be more sophisticated and give you the opportunity to experiment with ideas, materials and formats. There will also be opportunities to work outside of your subject area in collaborations and work placements, which will enhance your contextual knowledge of contemporary practice.

Stage 3 of the course is concentrated on your development as a creative practitioner. You will be required to bring together or synthesise all your knowledge and methods gained within your specialist study, to create a body of work which will include one or more pieces of finished work, supported by research, experimentation and technical information. This work will form the basis of your portfolio, enabling you to begin to move into professional practice or Masters level study.



## Course Units

### Year 1

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Unit 1: Introduction to Study in Theatre and Screen 20 Credits Value Starts: Week 1	Unit 4: Looking at Ideas: Debates in the Discipline 20 Credits Value Starts: Week 1	
Unit 2: Designing and Making: The Principles of Practice 20 Credits Value Starts: Week 1	Unit 5: Who Are You? Establishing a Specialism 40 Credits Value Starts: Week 1	
Unit 3: Designing and Making: Extending the Skill Set 20 Credits Value Starts: Week 1		

**Year 2**

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Unit 6: Collaboration and its Connections 20 Credits Value Starts: Week 1	Unit 10: Where in the World? - Extending Skills 20 Credits Value Starts: Week 1	
Unit 7: Practice as a Laboratory 40 Credits Value Starts: Week 1	Unit 8: You Think What? How to Research and Review Work 20 Credits Value (1 of 2) Starts: Week 1	Unit 8: You Think What? How to Research and Review Work 20 Credits Value (2 of 2)
	Unit 9: Where in the World? - My Specialism in Context 20 Credits Value Starts: Week 1	

**Year 3**

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Unit 11: Finding your Voice: Portfolio Design, Crafting Research Skills and Career Planning 40 Credits Value Starts: Week 1		
Unit 12: Show your Work: Independent Practice 80 Credits Value Starts: Week 1		