



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

MA Theatre: Socially Engaged Practice

**Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships
Department of Student and Academic Administration**

July 2021

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

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| Course Title | <i>MA Theatre: Socially Engaged Practice</i> |
| Final Award | <i>MA</i> |
| Exit Awards | <i>PgDip PgCERT</i> |
| Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable) | <i>P3097FTC, P3097PTC</i> |
| Mode of study | <i>Full Time / Part Time</i> |
| Mode of delivery | <i>Campus</i> |
| Normal length of course | <i>1 year FT / 2 years PT</i> |
| Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies | <i>From September 2021 intake onwards</i> |
| Awarding Body | <i>University of Portsmouth</i> |
| Teaching Institution | <i>University of Portsmouth</i> |
| Faculty | <i>Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries</i> |
| School/Department/Subject Group | <i>School of Art, Design and Performance</i> |
| School/Department/Subject Group webpage | <u><i>School of Art, Design and Performance</i></u> |
| Course webpage including entry criteria | <u><i>MA Theatre: Socially Engaged Practice</i></u> |
| Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations | <i>N/A</i> |
| <u>Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</u> | <i>Level 7</i> |

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

The MA Theatre: Socially Engaged Practice is aimed at developing established professionals working in the cultural, charity or education sectors. The course focuses on the ways that theatre and performance can be a powerful tool for social change. The course supports students to explore methods and techniques when using drama and theatre in community settings such as youth groups, mental health settings and centres for older people or people with illnesses, schools and early years settings, museums, civic sites, etc. The course focuses on theatre as a community-building tool and will enable students to develop their own reflective community arts practice.

The MA Theatre: Socially Engaged Practice aims to:

- Provide students with a challenging and stimulating environment in which to engage in advanced study of socially engaged theatre practices
- Equip students with the tools to facilitate community and civic engagement through theatre
- Provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career opportunities in socially engaged performance and arts practices
- Equip socially engaged theatre students with the necessary transferrable skills for lifelong learning and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

| LO number | Graduates will have a critical awareness of techniques, strategies, approaches, and challenges to facilitating socially engaged theatre with community partners | Learning and Teaching methods | Assessment methods |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| A1 | Demonstrate a critical awareness of arts-based community engagement techniques, focusing on theatre practice. | Teaching and learning are delivered by lectures and seminars, supplemented by practical sessions and workshops. Lectures together with online materials provide theoretical/conceptual foundations. Seminars, practical sessions and workshops build on and develop further knowledge and understanding. Learning is supported with directed study. | Assessment is via a mix of coursework and examination. Coursework includes individual and group work, presentations, case studies, live work with community collaborators, and assessments. |
| A2 | Work effectively with theoretical knowledge at the forefront of the discipline. | Teaching and learning are delivered by lectures and seminars, supplemented by practical sessions and workshops. Lectures together with online materials provide theoretical/conceptual foundations. Seminars, practical sessions and workshops build on and develop further knowledge and understanding. Learning is supported with directed study. | Assessment is via a mix of coursework and examination. Coursework includes individual and group work, presentations, case studies, live work with community collaborators, and assessments. |

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

| LO number | Graduates will be developed critical thinkers | Learning and Teaching methods | Assessment methods |
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| B1 | Demonstrate a critical awareness of ethical and socially specific concerns and considerations relating to working within and collaborating with community organizations and underserved populations. | The teaching and learning of how to evaluate and analyse problems and synthesise solutions is signposted in lectures, developed in seminars and practiced in assessments. Learning is supported through formative feedback. | Reports, essays, simulations and class-based activities are used to assess analysis and synthesis. |
| B2 | Synthesise information in a way that utilises knowledge or processes from the forefront of the discipline. | The teaching and learning of how to evaluate and analyse problems and synthesise solutions is signposted in lectures, developed in seminars and practiced in assessments. Learning is supported through formative feedback. | Reports, essays, simulations and class-based activities are used to assess analysis and synthesis. |

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

| LO number | Graduates will have an entrepreneurial mind-set that allows them to apply their knowledge to solve real life problems in their field, working independently and with originality | Learning and Teaching methods | Assessment methods |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| C1 | With minimal support, establish community partnerships, oversee and facilitate community-based theatre and arts engagement activities | <p>Seminars, workshops and other practical activities across the course will provide the primary mechanisms for application of knowledge and the development of key practical skills. Student learning is supported with directed study and supervision.</p> <p>Students are provided with an opportunity to establish their own professional identity as socially engaged theatre practitioners and work with local or national community partners.</p> | A range of assessments including community collaborative work, case studies, and presentations are used to assess practical skills. |

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| C2 | With minimal support, critically evaluate the issues in a problem | <p>Seminars, workshops and other practical activities across the course will provide the primary mechanisms for application of knowledge and the development of key practical skills. Student learning is supported with directed study and supervision.</p> <p>Students are provided with an opportunity to establish their own professional identity as socially engaged theatre practitioners and work with local or national community partners.</p> | A range of assessments including community collaborative work, case studies, and presentations are used to assess practical skills. |
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| C3 | Show originality of thinking in proposing credible, workable solutions to a problem | <p>Seminars, workshops and other practical activities across the course will provide the primary mechanisms for application of knowledge and the development of key practical skills. Student learning is supported with directed study and supervision.</p> <p>Students are provided with an opportunity to establish their own professional identity as socially engaged theatre practitioners and work with local or national community partners.</p> | A range of assessments including community collaborative work, case studies, and presentations are used to assess practical skills. |
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D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

| LO number | <p>Graduates will be effective communicators.</p> <p>Graduates will be adept at community organizing, event managing, establishing partnerships, fostering and developing relationships with community partners, and facilitating conflict resolution</p> | Learning and Teaching methods | Assessment methods |
|-----------|---|--|---|
| D1 | Communicate their conclusions on complex issues so that they can be clearly understood by experts in the field of theatre practice | Seminars, workshops and other practical activities across the course will provide the primary mechanisms for the development of key transferable skills. | Transferable skills are assessed throughout the course using specific assessment activities including community engagement work, case studies, portfolios, presentations, student lead symposia, contextual report and independent project. |

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| D2 | Communicate their critical understanding of issues in the field such that they could be clearly understood, even by non-experts | Seminars, workshops and other practical activities across the course will provide the primary mechanisms for the development of key transferable skills. Seminars, workshops and other practical activities across the course will provide the primary mechanisms for the development of key transferable skills. Seminars, workshops and other practical activities across the course will provide the primary mechanisms for the development of key transferable skills. | Transferable skills are assessed throughout the course using specific assessment activities including community engagement work, case studies, portfolios, presentations, student lead symposia, contextual report and independent project. |
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| D3 | Critically discuss the impact of intercultural perspectives | Seminars, workshops and other practical activities across the course will provide the primary mechanisms for the development of key transferable skills. | Transferable skills are assessed throughout the course using specific assessment activities including community engagement work, case studies, portfolios, presentations, student lead symposia, contextual report and independent project. |
| D4 | Identify ethical issues and evaluate appropriate ways to resolve them | Seminars, workshops and other practical activities across the course will provide the primary mechanisms for the development of key transferable skills. | Transferable skills are assessed throughout the course using specific assessment activities including community engagement work, case studies, portfolios, presentations, student lead symposia, contextual report and independent project. |

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides:

CCI Creative Skills: One to one support sessions and group tutorials in creative software and skills relevant to CCI courses and future careers.

CCI Academic Skills: Access to resources to support learning strategies and techniques through one to one tutorials or group workshops.

CCI Student Support Advisor: Help to find appropriate academic, pastoral or practical support.

Specialist equipment and facilities relevant to the course.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Strategy](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Dance, Drama and Performance](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **N/A**
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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