

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MFA Professional Voice Practice
2	Course Code	Full Time: PT1258
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	This course is a member of the Federation of Drama Schools and of Conservatoires UK. The course has been designed with reference to the QAA Benchmarks for Dance, Drama and Performance.

6	Course Description
	<p>The course, originally set up with support from the Voice Department of the Royal Shakespeare Company, aims to provide an intensive grounding in the key areas, practical and theoretical, of voice practice in order to enable its graduates to pursue their professional and research interests.</p> <p>The foundation of the course is rooted in the principles of healthy vocal use. We advocate a physiological and imaginative approach to voice work that develops the “practical, physical and emotional skills of students in an atmosphere that is enabling, supportive and empowering.” (Federation of Drama Schools Core Principles.) Based on clarity about how the voice works, imaginative intention fuels the development of personal artistry.</p> <p>The starting point is work on yourself: your voice and its source in your body and breath. It is the experiential understanding of this process in yourself, and listening to your colleagues on the course, that informs your own pedagogy. Through reading, discussion, reflective writing and practising as a coach or a teacher, you will relate theory and practice and learn the ways of thinking and working of a professional voice practitioner. Through full engagement with the opportunities the course provides, you will be prepared for work as a voice practitioner in private practice, in Further or Higher Education, in business, in theatre, film or television or the field of performing arts.</p> <p>This course also offers opportunities to work with the singing voice. This area of work enables students to explore the relationship between the disciplines of singing and speaking as an ability to work with both sung and spoken texts is becoming an increasingly important area for the voice professional.</p> <p>MA and MFA students work together during the first year of the MFA. The second year of study for MFA students is designed to provide greater opportunities for critical evaluation, self-reflection and development, deeper pedagogical understanding and practice, and further opportunities to deepen the acquisition of practical skills in Voice, Voice and Text or Singing.</p> <p>In entering the second year of the course, MFA students elect to specialise in Singing or Voice and Text.</p>

	<p>Students are supported through this highly intensive course by a robust pastoral system led by personal tutors who will support students throughout the course. Students can seek tutorials with specific tutors or their course director at any time.</p> <p>Students are also given more formal opportunities to feedback on their course through the formal BCU structures. In addition to these, the Course Director holds a termly meeting in which the cohort can express any areas of concern they may have about the course and its delivery.</p>
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	MFA Professional Voice Practice	Level 7	300
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	MA Professional Voice Practice	Level 7	180
	PGDip Professional Voice Practice	Level 7	120
	PGCert Professional Voice Practice	Level 7	60

8	Derogation from the University Regulations		
	N/A		

9	Delivery Patterns		
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study
	MFA Full Time	Ruskin Hall in Bournville	2 Years
			Code(s)
			PT1258

10	Entry Requirements		
	<p>The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/ or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.</p>		

11	Course Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge and Understanding
1	Evaluate a systematic understanding and knowledge of voice and voice practice and apply a range of theoretical and technical knowledge with regard to healthy voice practice.
2	Apply established techniques of practice, interpretation and enquiry.
3	Apply a range of methodologies and pedagogical thinking to your own practice.
4	Illustrate practice and pedagogy through the ability to engage in reflective practice.
5	Critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in professional voice practice.
6	Evaluate existing pedagogies and develop your personal pedagogical approach to voice work.
	Skills and Other Attributes
7	Apply a sound physiological and pedagogical understanding to the teaching of voice subjects, at a professional level, demonstrating imagination and creativity within a chosen setting.
8	Apply, develop and maintain your own vocal skills to an advanced level.
9	Embody and teach an understanding of the relationship between body, breath and voice.
10	Apply physical and vocal skills in order to communicate effectively in relation to the interpretive challenges posed by complex poetic, dramatic and sung texts.
11	Integrate processes of research in autonomous professional development.
12	Facilitate and enable the physical/vocal use of others in a professional manner.

12	Course Requirements																																		
12a	Level 7 <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 280 credits):</i>																																		
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>ACT7115</td><td>Voice Theory</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>ACT7116</td><td>Practical Voice 1</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>ACT7117</td><td>Voice and Text 1</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>ACT7118</td><td>Singing 1</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>ACT7119</td><td>Pedagogy and Placement 1</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>ACT7120</td><td>Major Project</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>ACT7121</td><td>Practical Voice 2</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>ACT7122</td><td>Pedagogy and Placement 2</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>ACT7123</td><td>Pedagogy and Placement 3</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>ACT7124</td><td>Professional Portfolio</td><td>20</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	ACT7115	Voice Theory	40	ACT7116	Practical Voice 1	20	ACT7117	Voice and Text 1	20	ACT7118	Singing 1	20	ACT7119	Pedagogy and Placement 1	20	ACT7120	Major Project	60	ACT7121	Practical Voice 2	40	ACT7122	Pedagogy and Placement 2	20	ACT7123	Pedagogy and Placement 3	20	ACT7124	Professional Portfolio	20	
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	<i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.</i>																																		
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12b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only as modules will only run if selected by 15 or more students. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

Level 7 (Year 1)

Core
Voice Theory (40 credits)
Terms 1, 2 and 3
Practical Voice 1 (20 credits)
Terms 1, 2 and 3
Voice and Text 1 (20 credits)
Terms 1, 2 and 3
Singing 1 (20 credits)
Terms 1, 2 and 3
Pedagogy and Placement 1 (20 credits)
Terms 1, 2 and 3
Major Project (60 credits)
Terms 1, 2 and 3

Level 7 (Year 2)

Core
Practical Voice 2 (40 credits)
Terms 1, 2 and 3
Pedagogy and Placement 2 (20 credits)
Term 2
Pedagogy and Placement 3 (20 credits)
Term 2
Professional Portfolio (20 credits)
Terms 2 and 3
Optional
Voice and Text (20 credits)
Terms 1, 2 and 3
Singing 2 (20 credits)

Terms 1 and 2

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7 MFA Workload

Time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	790
Directed Learning	150
Private Study	1420
Total Hours	2260

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	75%
Exam	0%
In-Person	25%