Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	MFA Acting
2	**Course Code**	PT1267
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 school 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**
	The MFA Acting course is designed for graduates who wish to undertake advanced studies to further their knowledge and widen their experience of acting in order to take up a professional acting career upon graduation. The delivery of the course is based on the conservatoire model which requires an intensive taught delivery of a minimum of thirty to forty hours per week over a minimum of thirty weeks per year. Its focus is practice-based learning through which the student is enabled to develop the requisite intellectual, imaginative and physical skills of the professional actor. During the course, students form an acting company and each exercise, workshop or production is designed to challenge the student actor and to progressively develop the imaginative, intellectual and creative skills required for acting. The course seeks to create independently minded practitioners who are able to apply a variety of methodologies to their creative work. Its aim is to inculcate forward thinking practitioners able to create real employment opportunities for themselves, both in finding work and creating work. The MFA Acting course, specifically designed with international students in mind, is a full-time programme delivered intensively over two years. The focus of work is European, with an emphasis on texts from within the British tradition. In the first year, studies focus on the ensemble, the tools of Psychological Realism, the demands of classical texts, professional preparation, and the foundations for personal research. Initially, in the first two terms of the first year, MA and MFA students have the opportunity to work together in classes and in workshops. In the third term, MFA students form their own company and undertake an extended Shakespeare workshop, which provides an opportunity to investigate the demands of classical acting in greater depth. In the second year, MFA students have opportunities to deepen their learning and to further develop their abilities. They undertake research in the form of a Major Project which provides opportunities for personal evaluation and creative development. They also perform in three

	productions each selected in order to challenge and further develop the ensemble and the work of the individual. The course also includes acting for the camera and voice over work. Graduating American students are eligible to take part in the Federation of Drama Schools American Showcase. Students graduating from the course who have the right to live and work in the UK may take part in the school's postgraduate London Showcase

7	**Course Awards**		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	MFA Acting	Level 7	300 credits
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	MA Acting Studies	Level 7	180 credits
	Postgraduate Diploma in Acting Studies	Level 7	120 credits
	Postgraduate Certificate in Acting Studies (Must successfully complete Acting module and Acting Skills module)	Level 7	60 credits

8	**Derogation from the University Regulations**
	N/A

9	**Delivery Patterns**		
Mode(s) of Study	**Location(s) of Study**	**Duration of Study**	**Code(s)**
Full-Time	Ruskin Hall in Bournville	MFA 2 years (6 Terms)	PT1267

10	**Entry Requirements**
	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.

11	**Course Learning Outcomes**
	Knowledge and Understanding
1	Analyse a range of forms of theatre and respond to a range of theatrical genres and styles.
2	Evaluate the demands of naturalistic and non-naturalistic dramatic texts.
3	Express critical knowledge and understanding of key acting practices.
4	Devise strategies to solve technical, interpretive and scholarly problems in performance arising from the complex relationship between the performer, the performance space and the audience.
5	Identify and apply research skills in the field of acting.
	Skills and Other Attributes
6	Employ a body of core technical skills in order to apply these to professional practice to an advanced level.
7	Employ acting skills to an advanced level.
8	Evaluate your own practice as a basis for ongoing professional development.
9	Conduct practice-based research relevant to the discipline.
10	Work collaboratively as a member of an acting ensemble.
11	Synthesise the theory and practice of key acting processes in performance in theatre spaces and in recorded media industries.
12	Employ self-reliance and a pro-active attitude to seek out and/or create varied employment opportunities

12	**Course Requirements**
12a	**MFA Level 7:** ***In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 300 credits):***

Module Code	**Module Name**	**Credit Value**
ACT7127	Acting Exercises	40
ACT7128	Acting Skills 1 (Acting, Movement, Singing and Voice)	20
ACT7129	Workshops 1 and 2	20
ACT7130	Professional Studies	20
ACT7131	Workshop 3	20
ACT7132	Research Methods	20
ACT7133	Major Project	40
ACT7134	Production 1	20
ACT7135	Acting Skills 2 (Acting, Movement and Voice)	40
ACT7136	Productions 2 and 3	60

12b Structure Diagram

Level 7 MFA (Year 1)

Core
Acting Exercises (40 credits)
(Semester 1, Term 1)
Workshop 1 and 2 (20 credits)
(Term 2)
Acting Skills 1 (20 credits)
(Semester 1 and 2)
Workshop 3 (20 credits)
(Term 3)
Professional Studies (20 credits)
(Terms 1, 2 and 3)
Research Methods (20 credits)

Level 7 MFA (Year 2)

Core
Major Project (40 credits)
(Terms 1, 2, 3 and 4)
Acting Skills 2 (40 credits)
(Term 1)
Production 1 (20 credits)
(Term 3)
Production 2 and 3 (60 credits)
Term 1

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	2120
Directed Learning	0
Private Study	1380
Total Hours	3500

Balance of Assessment

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