

MA Musical Theatre

Programme specification

1. Programme details

Item	Information
a) Programme name (incl. pathways):	MA Musical Theatre
b) Programme code(s)	TBC
c) Programme credit value(s)	180 CATS 90 ECTS
d) Programme author(s)	Robert Gordon, Annie Guo and Philippa Burt
e) Entry requirements	2.2 (or international equivalent) in relevant/related subject
f) Academic year effective from	2026-27

2. Programme Aims & Overview

Aims

The programme aims to provide a context for you to develop your own thinking about the musical theatre sector in an environment in which you will receive expert academic and professional supervision. You will engage with the key issues of the discipline and also develop a portfolio of work that can be used to build a career as a writer, composer, producer or performer of musical theatre.

Through course work and individual tutorials on the creative/research project, you will acquire knowledge and skills that will benefit your own creative process as writer, composer, producer or performer. The overview that the programme provides of the current state of the industry will enhance an understanding of the position of the freelance practitioner. The subject maintains direct links with the industry; these links will form the basis for interaction between the industry and the academy that will enable graduates to act as agents of change within the industry. Group based work, with colleagues from a diversity of cultures/countries enables the development of an understanding and practice of communication and leadership skills for an increasingly globalised industry.

The programme's learning outcomes build upon your increasing familiarity and confidence with the diverse range of musical theatre structures and languages.

Overview

This MA programme combines practice and theory in a way that serves the needs of both you, the student, and the creative arts industries. Over the last few decades, developments in Sociology and

Cultural Studies have stimulated the widespread academic study of popular culture, so your study of musical theatre at Masters level benefits from the expanding discipline of musical theatre scholarship.

Musicals account for by far the major share of box office revenue in the West End too, so the employability prospects and socio-economic contexts of this degree will be a stimulus to your practical work, in addition to the technical and aesthetic understandings you acquire while studying with us. The programme promotes an informed understanding of the musical as genre and of musical theatre production as the core of the British commercial theatre sector. If you are a producer, you may produce an original musical created by fellow students on the MA degree. If you are a writer or composer you may collaborate on a creative project which culminates in the writing of a short original musical script or score to be performed to a public audience. If you are a performer, the programme will prepare you for performance opportunities in an expanded global practice of stage musical performance.

3. External reference

Item	Information
a) FHEQ Level of Award:	7
b) UCAS Code(s):	Not applicable
c) HECoS Code(s):	(100035) Musical Theatre
d) QAA Benchmark group:	Not applicable

4. Awards

Item	Information
g) Awarding institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
h) Teaching institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London (Subject area: Theatre, Music and Performance)
i) Home School:	Music, English & Theatre
j) School(s) also involved in teaching of the programme:	1. None 2. None 3. None If other, name here: N/A
k) Entry awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input type="checkbox"/> PGDip
l) Interim exit awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGDip
m) Final awards:	MA

5. Delivery

Item	Information
a) Language of study:	English
b) Valid intake points in year:	<input type="checkbox"/> January <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sept/Oct <input type="checkbox"/> Other

Item	Information	
	If other, specify: Click or tap here to enter text.	
c) Mode of study:	On Campus Indicate the overall balance of teaching modes in the table below.	
d) Total hours directed learning/year	250	
e) In-person hours	250	100%
f) Online hours	0	0%
g) Pace of study:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part time	
h) Duration of programme	Full time: 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months Part time: 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months	
i) External accreditation:	Not applicable	
j) Apprenticeship Standard:	Not applicable	

6. Programme Learning Outcomes

Also, see the [curriculum map](#) at the end of document.

For UG exit awards, Learning Outcomes must be achieved in the level indicated below:

- CertHE = Level 4
- DipHE = Level 5

Learning outcomes are grouped in categories of:

- **Declarative learning** - knowledge, thinking & facts (D1-3)
- **Functional learning** - application of knowledge, thinking & facts (F1-3)
- **Professional and transferable skills and behaviours** (P1-3)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

	Learning Outcome	Level	Graduate Attribute
D1	Critically analyse the historical development of the stage musical as an entertainment form and the industrial and economic factors that determine its production and reception	7	Diversity of perspective
D2	Critically appraise a range of musical theatre styles and genres in relation to the sociopolitical and cultural contexts from which they arise	7	Diversity of perspective

D3	Demonstrate an expanded practical knowledge of the key theoretical and practical approaches that underpin your chosen specialism	7	Political in the personal
F1	Utilise advanced skill in your chosen specialism and in the integration of different components and techniques of musical theatre (book, music, lyrics, acting, scenography and dance) to effectively stage a coherent production	7	Responsible agency
F2	Demonstrate an advanced ability to analyse and examine musical theatre texts as scenarios for performance and adaptation	7	Responsible agency
F3	Evaluate critically your practical and creative work and reflect on your professional development as a performer, writer, composer or producer	7	Political in the personal
P1	Employ appropriate professional conduct, awareness and consideration when working both as an individual and as part of a collective in the staging of a piece of musical theatre	7	Collaboration
P2	Collaborate effectively in the creation of an original piece of performance work	7	Collaboration
P3	Identify and deploy a range of skills appropriate to your chosen specialism in the creation and presentation of a performance piece to a public-facing audience	7	Responsible agency

7. Programme Structure

For Undergraduate programmes (UG), each level must amount to at least **120 CATS** (60 ECTS).

Postgraduate (PGT) programmes must amount to at least 180 CATS (90ECTS), with exception to interim exit awards.

Compulsory modules must be taken by all students.

Option modules – you must choose one or more of the options available to this programme at this level and point. The option modules available from this list may vary from year to year, depending on student numbers and staff availability. Selection takes place during your studies, not before.

Also, see [curriculum structure grid](#).

Academic year 1 (FT)

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Genre Study	DR71034	30	7	Compulsory	1	1	N/A
Creative Workshop	DR71036	60	7	Compulsory	1-2	1	N/A

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Musicals in Adaptation	DR71049	30	7	Compulsory	2	2	N/A
Creative Production	DR7XXX	60	7	Compulsory	2-3	2	N/A

8. Learning, Teaching & Assessment

Learning & Teaching methods

Teaching will be via a range of formats to be as relevant as possible to the topic and learning outcomes. This may be through workshops, practical labs, lectures and seminars. It may have a mix of in-person and online activities, designed to give you the best learning experience and to make the most out of your time on campus. You are expected to attend all your timetabled learning activities.

Specifically, this programme will be taught in the following ways:

Practical workshops and sessions to introduce you to the core skills required for your chosen specialism, including dance and singing technique classes (for students on the Performer pathway), classes on composition and libretto writing (for Writers/Composers), and sessions on production management, budgeting and accessibility (for Producers). In addition, you will undertake staff-led and/or staff-supervised rehearsals as well as lectures and seminars to develop critical awareness and knowledge of both the historical development of musical theatre as a distinct genre and the economic, social, political and aesthetic factors that continue to shape it.

Assessment modes and approaches

You will be assessed in a range of ways throughout your course. These will be both Formative (for feedback and development), and Summative (required to pass and progress to the next level). Summative assessments are compulsory.

Feedback is a crucial part of your learning and development in this programme. You will receive feedback both on your Formative (work in progress) tasks/assessments, and your Summative (graded) assessments. This feedback will help the assessment to be a part of your learning, not just a test. It may be verbal, written or video based. Please engage with this feedback to improve your future work.

Specifically, this programme will be assessed in the following ways:

- Written essays
- Performance presentations
- Oral presentations and papers

- Large-scale musical theatre performance
- Workshop sharing and practical demonstrations

Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules)

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
Coursework	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Live	0	0	0	0	1	1
Portfolio (multi-modal)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Practical / multimedia	0	0	0	0	1	1
Written	0	0	0	0	2	2
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0	4	4
Of which...	Individual:	3	Group:	3		

9. Other information

Item	Information
a) Assessment regulations	https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/
b) Placement opportunities	Students following the Producers pathway have the opportunity to undertake a placement as part of their work on DR71036 Creative Workshop.
c) Programme-specific requirements	N/A
d) Programme specific costs and resources	N/A
e) Employability and potential career opportunities	<p>Graduates from the programme typically go on to work as employable performers, facilitators and researchers, cultural leaders and programmers, as well as innovators and collaborators in the performance field both in the UK and internationally.</p> <p>Some make their own productions and form their own companies, sometimes formed with peers at Goldsmiths, whilst some develop independent careers in the sector. Some teach at school, college and University level as well as provide freelance workshops, and some continue their practice-based research at PhD level, several returning to the School for this after graduation. Many find work in related areas of the field, including as facilitators, programmers, venue directors, project leaders, market development directors, dramaturges and directors.</p> <p>Those who come on the MA to refresh an existing professional career return to this with new skills and, above all, the ability to articulate the direction in which they wish to develop their work.</p>

Item	Information
	Above all the programme assumes self-motivation and self-management. It aims to provide the basic tools for independent and resourceful strategies for working in an unpredictable world and students graduate with an informed awareness of their own capabilities as performance initiators, collaborators and leaders as well as the experience of realising their own ideas in practice.

10. Academic support

There is a range of support available to you to give you the best possible chance of success in this programme.

Please see your tutors and student portal/VLE for details of what's available and how to access this support.

11. Curriculum map

Programme Learning Outcomes assessed by each module:

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Genre Study	DR7103 4	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creative Workshop	DR7103 6	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Musicals in Adaptation	DR7104 9	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creative Production	DR7XXX	Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Programme Structure Grid

These grids provide a visual overview of the programme, especially each pathway, showing the make up and positions of each Compulsory and Option module.

Postgraduate Programme

Pathway 1: Full Time

Year – Term	Compulsory Modules				Option Modules Available – Level 7								
	1-1	Genre Study	Creative Workshop	Click or tap here to enter text.	Module name	<i>No Options in Term 1 for PGT</i>							
	1-2	Musicals in Adaptation	Creative Workshop	Creative Production	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	
	1-3	Module name	Click or tap here to enter text.	Creative Production	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	
					Option Modules Available – Level 7								

Pathway 2: Part Time

Year – Term	Compulsory Modules				Option Modules Available – Level 7								
	1-1	Genre Study	Creative Workshop	Module name	Module name	<i>No Options in Term 1 for PGT</i>							
	1-2	Creative Workshop	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	
	1-3	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	
						Option Modules Available – Level 7							
2-1	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name		

	2-2	Musicals in Adaptation	Creative Production	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name
	2-3	Creative Production	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name	Module name