

BA(Hons) Musical Theatre and Dance - Course Specification

Full Title of the Course & Award	BA(Hons) Musical Theatre and Dance
Mode of Attendance	Full-Time
Length of course	This course is taught as a three-year course at levels 4, 5 and 6.
Start date	September 2021
Awarding Institution	BIMM Institute
Teaching Institution	Performers College
UCAS Code	W500
Language of Study	English
Final Award	Certificate of Higher Education (exit award only at level 4) Diploma of Higher Education (exit award only at level 5) Bachelor's Degree with Honours
FHEQ Level	120 credits at Level 4 120 credits at Level 5 120 credits at Level 6
Reference Points	QAA Subject Benchmark Statement in Dance, Drama and Performance (July 2015) FHEQ (2008) QAA Quality Code (2018)
Minimum Period of Registration	3 years
Maximum Period of Registration	6 years
Admissions Criteria	Normally 80 UCAS Points, which equates to three A Levels grades CCD, plus five GCSEs grade C or above including English. Candidates will be required to demonstrate, during an audition, ability in dance, singing and acting. Applicants with high levels of performance skills may be considered for entry with a lower UCAS point requirement. For applicants with significant prior professional experience offers may be made under BIMM Institute Recognition of Prior Practice Policy.
Date of Course Specification Revisions	Last revised 2020

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Course Structure

Core Modules				Available Options				
Semester 1	The Creative Industries & You 1: Finding Your Path 15 credits	Dance Fundamentals 1 30 credits	Musical Theatre Fundamentals 1					
Semester 2	Context & Culture of the Creative Industries 15 credits	Dance Fundamentals 2 30 credits	Musical Theatre Fundamentals 2 15 credits					
Core Modules				Available Options				
Semester 1	The Creative Industries & You 2: Creative Collaboration 15 credits	Dance Development 30 credits	Musical Theatre Development 15 credits					
Semester 2	Creativity, Identity & Agency 15 credits	Devised Performance 15 credits	Tutor led Performance 15 credits	Acting for Camera	Applied Choreography	Applied Musical Theatre	Working in the Creative Industries	Practical Learning and Teaching in the Creative Arts
Core Modules				Available Options				
Semester 1	Final Project 30 credits	Devised Professional Performance 15 credits	Advanced Dance, Singing and Acting 30 credits					
Semester 2		The Creative Industries & You 3: Professional Portfolio 15 credits	Final Showcase 30 credits					

Students take 120 credits each year and will be required to have passed 360 credits to receive the full degree. Students must pass 120 credits each year to progress. The overall degree classification is based on grades achieved in year 2 and year 3.

At level 2 students choose one option module in semester 2.

Not all option modules will run, and this will be based on student demand and resource availability. Modifications may be made to the course in line with our [Course Approval and Modification Policy](#).

Covid-19 Adjustments

Due to the current situation some modules may be taught online. This may affect contact hours noted in this document and some assessments may be adapted for online delivery. More details can be found via our [applicant web pages](#).

Timetables

Timetables are made available during induction week. Classes could be timetabled any time between 8am-7pm, Monday – Friday.

On average, full time students will have around 27 contact hours per week.

Year Structure

The academic year is divided into two 15-week semesters are dedicated to core skill teaching and assessments, followed by 4 weeks for annual show preparation and performance. The academic year usually starts late September/early October and runs until the beginning of July.

Workload

	Average Number of Assessments	Average Expected Hours of Student Effort Per Assessment
Year 1: Semester 1	7	20
Year 1: Semester 2	7	20
Year 2: Semester 1	6	20
Year 2: Semester 2	4	20
Year 3: Semester 1	7	40
Year 3: Semester 2	4	40

	Average Contact Time (Hours Per Year)	Average Self-Directed Study Time (Hours Per Year)
Year 1 (Level 4)	597.75	602.25
Year 2 (Level 5)	528	672
Year 3 (Level 6)	594.5	599.5

All details above are provided for guidance only but are believed to be accurate at the time of writing. Average figures will differ from course to course and will depend on the option modules chosen.

Assessments

Practical Exams

Practical exams ask you to demonstrate a practical skill under exam conditions. These practical skills could include things such as your ability to perform a variety of dance genres, your ability to perform in an ensemble setting or your ability to produce and/ or perform in a production. The skill being tested will depend on the module and course being taken. Many practical assessments also contain a viva voce where the examiner will ask you questions regarding your exam and the related subject area.

Written exams

Many students will be familiar with this type of assessment. Written exams at BIMM Institute are often used for theory and listening modules and are sat under exam conditions. For more details on exam conditions please refer to Section 4 of the [Academic Regulations](#).

Practical coursework

Practical coursework often asks you to demonstrate a practical skill but, unlike practical exams, you work on the assessment piece in self-directed study time and hand in the final assessment for marking. Examples of this type of assessment include devising a production or solo piece or writing a journal/ log book.

Multimedia coursework/ Portfolio Assessments

Multimedia coursework contains a mixture of elements some written and some practical. An example of this type of assessment is creating a 3-page newspaper layout containing text and visual elements. On some courses, you may have to do portfolio assessments in which you compile a mixture of audio/visual and written elements together. This is usually done using online portfolio software.

Written coursework

Written course work is used in all BIMM Institute courses and can take several forms:

- Research essays – in these assessments you will be expected to conduct research into the chosen topic. This could include secondary research (reading) or primary research (conducting original research such as focus groups/questionnaires etc.). You will then be required to write an essay based on this research, putting forward clear and concise arguments.
- Reflective essays – in these assessments you are required to reflect on your professional practice or development activities and identify areas for improvement.

These essays do require you to engage in adequate research which will depend on what the subject of the reflective essay is.

- Dissertation/ Final year project – most courses have a large final year project which is double weighted. This is usually a combination of detailed research and reflective elements. Most courses require you to undertake an active project as the subject of your dissertation and this project is normally agreed with your tutor.
- Blog assessments – these assessments require you to submit regular written tasks normally to an online blog which are then combined to form the final assessment submission. These written tasks contain a mixture of reflective and research elements.
- Patchwork Text Assessments – these assessments are constructed from smaller written tasks given to the student throughout the year. The student then combines these smaller written tasks and submits them along with a final piece of writing that links the tasks together. These written tasks could be research or reflection based.
- Case Study – these assessments require you to research and write about a specific entity or section of the industry related to your course. For example, a case study of a theatre company would require you to look at how the company works, what has made them successful etc.

In some cases, an assessment may combine two or more of these types of written work.

Presentations

In these assessments, you will be asked to make a planned presentation to an assessor or panel of assessors. Some presentation assignments ask you to reflect on your practice on the course while others are more academically focused and require you to engage in rigorous research.

Learning and Teaching

Teaching

BIMM Institute encourages its staff to employ a wide range of learning and teaching techniques. We provide training for new staff and many of our tutors are qualified teachers as well as industry professionals.

Most lessons will be in classes of 10-25 students however this will depend on the number of students that apply for a course and the resources that are available at the BIMM Institute College you are applying to.

There are some larger lectures for bigger modules which are shared across multiple courses. These classes are delivered in a more traditional university lecture style to large groups of students.

For more detail on the Learning and Teaching methods BIMM Institute employs please see our [Learning and Teaching Strategy](#).

Self-directed study

All courses at BIMM Institute have self-directed study hours associated with them. During this time, you are expected to be engaging in appropriate learning activities for your course. This could include practicing your instrument, conducting research, writing assignments and preparing for upcoming classes.

Formative Assessment

BIMM Institute has a number of mechanisms for formative assessment which allow you to gain feedback before the final exam or coursework deadline.

Many modules have formative assignments built into them. In some cases, these are ungraded and are there purely so you can improve your final submission. Some modules use graded formative assessment, in these cases the formative assessment is only worth a small percentage of your final mark.

In-class activities are also used as an opportunity to provide feedback to students. During lessons, there are often opportunities to receive feedback from peers as well as the tutors and some lessons are heavily focused toward providing students who perform or present their work with feedback to help them improve.

Students can also take advantage of BIMM Institute's tutorial system to gain additional feedback. The tutorial system allows you to book 1 to 1 sessions with tutors. You can use these sessions to gain specific feedback on any aspect of your work.

Work-based Learning

Every undergraduate student at BIMM has the option to choose a placement module called *Working in the Creative Industries* as part of their course. This will require you to undertake at least 30 hours of work-based learning.

Whatever your chosen path, the Careers Team will help you to explore, research and secure a placement, or develop your own entrepreneurial project.

If you choose a placement that is not local, you may incur travel costs. Most internships in the creative industries are unpaid but you may be able to negotiate the paying of travel expenses.

Staff

BIMM Institute is proud of its long history of employing industry professionals to teach at all our colleges. We believe that through this practice we provide the best opportunities to our students to learn from tutors who understand their goals and have the knowledge and experience necessary to help make them a reality.

More information can be found regarding our tutors on our [tutors page](#).

Unfortunately, BIMM cannot guarantee which tutor will be teaching on individual modules as this will depend on tutor availability and when classes are timetabled.

Sometimes tutors are granted leave to engage in industry activities such as going on tour, conducting research or other professional development activities. This is vital to ensure that our tutors can give students the most current information, and share recent experiences, regarding an industry that is constantly evolving and expanding into new areas.

Whenever a tutor goes on leave, whether it is due to industry activities or unavoidable factors such as illness or maternity leave, BIMM Institute endeavours to ensure that lessons are covered by an industry professional with relevant experience in the subject. Through this practice, we aim to provide high quality learning opportunities throughout your course of study at BIMM Institute.

Language

All qualifications at BIMM Institute are taught and assessed in English.

Costs

Tuition fees

Accurate tuition fees information can be found on our [website](#).

Proof of Student Loan or other funding body's acceptance of funding for the tuition fees, together with extent of funding provided must be received by BIMM Institute on or before 15th August. If such funding does not cover the full cost of your course of study a payment for the outstanding amount must be received by 15th August.

If you do not intend to apply for or are not eligible for a student loan/grant fees must be paid in full by 15th August.

Payment can be paid via debit/credit card using [BIMM Payment Portal](#) or via bank transfer.

Any queries related to finance can be directed towards Financeenquiries@bimm.co.uk.

Additional Costs

Students who are thinking of applying to Performers College should read the [Uniform and Equipment list](#) which outlines what is required to successfully study for this degree programme.

Most BIMM Institute Colleges provide a limited number of rehearsal rooms, and free access to rehearsal facilities on campus. Unfortunately these can become fully booked at peak times and, at some colleges, are not available outside BIMM Institute opening hours.

Accommodation and Living Costs

Information regarding accommodation and living costs in Essex for Performers College can be obtained by emailing admissions@performerscollege.co.uk or calling 01375 672053.

Disabled Access

Performers College is fully accessible for wheelchair users. The building contains a lift, disabled toilet facilities and a hearing loop. For more information, please see our [Accessibility Information](#).