

Programme	MA PLAYWRITING		
Awarding Institution	King's College London		
Teaching Institution	RADA		
Location of study	Gower Street/ Chenies Street		
Mode	Full time		
Duration	13 Months (September – October)		
UK Credits	180	ECTS	90

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

This new MA in Playwriting has the ambition to offer the very best aspiring playwrights excellent training for them to become the most exceptional professional playwrights they can be.

You will study past playwrights, contemporary playwrights, and begin the journey of finding what is unique about your own voice to forge a path as a playwrights of the future.

The course will also offer integration with other RADA students studying acting, technical, stage management, and costume. You will be taught via a range of masterclasses, workshops, seminars, readings, one-on-one feedback sessions, guest speakers, and the development of a strategic career plan. You will also study transferable skills in relation to musical theatre, adaptation, film, TV, and audio drama. The course will also include theatre trips, and prioritise an understanding of access, diversity, and inclusion.

MA – 13 Months

- **Module 1** Craft of Writing for the Stage (1)
- **Module 2** Writing for the Stage (2)
- **Module 3** One Act Play (3)

Module 4 Professional Development & Production: Taking this course will enable you to fully understand your craft and its application in a professional setting. You will learn to be intellectually, aesthetically, creatively confident, and to be wholly yourself in your writing.

This programme has been designed with reference to the relevant [qualification descriptor](#).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Learning Outcomes for each award can be determined in the Curriculum Map, depending on the relevant modules the students have completed to make up each award. On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- Critically evaluate the playwriting techniques fundamental to the art of writing for the stage. (A1)
- Confidently recognise, interpret, and implement the skills necessary to develop an original idea for a stage play from conception to production. (A2)

- Systematically identify and apply strategies for securing production opportunities for your work. (A3)
- Study a range of plays in detail, supplementing this knowledge with information about their historical background, their theatrical history, and current critical debates. (A4)

Skills and abilities

- Build, augment, and take responsibility for your writing by seeing your work through to production. (B1)
- Demonstrate an ability to self-motivate and work autonomously as a writer as well as work collaboratively in the production process. (B2)
- Investigate, analyse, and calculate the necessary steps to achieve your goals as a playwright. (B3)

Professional values and competencies

- Methodical application of inductive and deductive processes and problem solving in playwriting to create an original stage play. (C1)
- Systematically and creatively dealing with complex issues around the development, rehearsal, and production of original work. (C2)
- Take responsibility for your work, demonstrate self-motivation, an ability to make decisions, an ability to work on your own and in collaboration, and the confidence to show a professional, proactive attitude to the industry. (C3)

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

On completion of this programme students would be expected to have:

- A comprehensive understanding of the craft of writing for the stage.
- The confidence to take themselves seriously as a playwright.
- An informed and professional attitude to working as a playwright.
- The ambition to be the future of playwriting.
- A comprehensive understanding of skills that are transferable to other dramatic media.
- Developed the skills to enable lifelong learning.
- The ability to work constructively in a team environment fulfilling different roles as required.
- Highly effective communication skills that can be utilised in different environments.

RADA

CURRICULUM

Structure

MA (13 months) Level 7

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4 (July-Oct)
Module 1 Craft of writing for the Stage (1) [30 credits]	Module 2 Writing for the Stage (2) [45 credits]	Module 3 One Act Play (3) [45 credits]	Module 4 Professional Development & Showcase [60 credits]

Total: 180 credits

Key Progression Points (if applicable)

An assessment will be responsible for making progress decisions and will be made at the end of term 3 on progression (at PG Diploma Stage) to module 4.

Pre and Co-requisites (if applicable)

Not applicable as all modules are core and must be passed. Learning and Teaching

Total contact hours: 180

[where possible break contact hours down by type e.g. one-to-one, lectures, seminars, tutorials]

Seminars	80
Workshops	60
Guest Speakers	8
One to One	12
Rehearsals	10
Production	10

Total self-directed study hours: 1620 hours

Seminar preparation	380
Reading	300
Report Writing	140
Writing (revision of workshop exercises)	290
Playwriting	250
Theatre Visits	80
Rehearsals	180

Total learning and teaching hours: 1800

Learning and teaching methods

This is a vocational MA, so the emphasis on this programme will be on learning by doing. You will write two plays; a one act play for a showcase reading and the first draft of a full-length play for

submission to professional production companies. Seminar study, reading, and report writing will also be supplemented by practical playwriting workshops. One-to-one tuition will be largely focussed on your original writing. Guest speakers, and theatre visits will all be designed to enhance your professional knowledge.

Classes will mainly take place bi-weekly and will include two evening weekday and Saturday sessions.

The rehearsal and showcase process may require your attendance as per the production schedule which could be up to six days a week which would include daytime and evening sessions.

Detailed termly timetables will be provided which are subject to change for instances for theatre visits and professional development guest lectures.

Placements and Exchanges

N/A

ASSESSMENT

Overview

Formative assessment will be through attendance and continuous assessment of contribution to classes, discussions, workshops, readings, seminars, and rehearsals.

Summative assessment will be through submission of written reports on set reading, writing exercises, a *Vision Statement*, a *Strategic Career Plan*, an original one-act play, the showcase reading of your one act play, and the first draft of a full-length play.

What do I have to do to pass?

In order to pass the programme, you must pass each module with an overall mark of 50.

There is no provision for condonement for any modules, awards

This programme can lead to one of three awards:

On successful completion of 60 credits at level 7, the Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)

On successful completion of 120 credits at level 7, the Postgraduate Diploma (PgD)

On successful completion of 180 credits at level 7, the Master of Arts (MA)

The minimum percentage in the overall aggregate of module marks for classification of the PgCert, PgD and MA award shall be:

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With Distinction	Minimum 70%
With Merit	Minimum 60%
Without classification	Minimum 50%

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Applicants for this programme are expected to hold a degree qualification (2.2 or above) or equivalent qualification in a related subject or discipline, and/or be able to demonstrate professional or practical experience at a level commensurate with Master's level study.

Applicants will be asked to demonstrate their suitability for the course based on previous education, qualifications held and/or experience.

All applicants must submit a portfolio of original dramatic writing of about 40 minutes playing time – approximately 35-40 pages. This can be a one-act play, a section from a full-length play, or extracts from more than one work. Extracts from the book for a musical, an adaptation, screen or audio drama can also be included, but only as extracts accompanying a longer piece of original writing for the stage.

Applicants whose portfolio is judged to be of suitable potential will be invited for interview

CURRICULUM MAP

Programme learning outcomes mapped to the modules in which they are assessed.

MA PLAYWRITING	Level 7 modules			
	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4
Knowledge and understanding				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically evaluate the playwriting techniques fundamental to the art of writing for the stage. (A1) 	x	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidently recognise, interpret, and implement the skills necessary to develop an original idea for a stage play from conception to production. (A2) 		x	x	x
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematically identify and apply strategies for securing production opportunities for your work. (A3) 			x	x
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study a range of plays in detail, supplementing this knowledge with information about their historical background, their theatrical history, and current critical debates. (A4) 		x		
Skills and abilities				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build, augment, and take responsibility for your writing by seeing your work through to production. (B1) 				x
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate an ability to self-motivate and work autonomously as a writer as well as work collaboratively in the production process. (B2) 		x	x	x
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate, analyse, and calculate the necessary steps to achieve your goals as a playwright. (B3) 			x	x
Professional values and competencies				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methodical application of inductive and deductive processes and problem solving in playwriting to create an original stage play. (C1) 			x	x
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematically and creatively dealing with complex issues around the development, rehearsal, and production of original work. (C2) 			x	x
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take responsibility for your work, demonstrate self-motivation, an ability to make decisions, an ability to work on your own and in collaboration, and the confidence to show a professional, proactive attitude to the industry. (C3) 	x	x	x	x

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