

DSA Study Needs Assessment

Course information for assessors: BA (Hons) Actor Musician

Course Overview

The BA Actor Musician programme provides practical training for actors with musical skill. Through practical skills training and individualised artistic development, students acquire the skills to sustain a career as a highly employable, multi-disciplinary artist.

The programme runs over three years, students develop skills in acting, music, movement, voice and performance-based research; enabling them to work in theatre, television, film and recorded media. The skills training is intensive, averaging 30 Hours per week. Students need to quickly develop the physical stamina to manage this commitment as well as the skills associated with planning, independent study and time management.

Through the artistic development strand of the programme, students continuously explore and challenge their potential as artists, deepening their understanding of the industry and developing practical means of engaging with it. This strand involves a significant amount of documented reflective practice and includes business management/professional practice skills in Years 2 & 3.

Methods of Assessment

Performance and presentation are the primary modes of assessment, solo and ensemble depending on the task. Written submissions include portfolios of research, personal development plans and summative statements at year end. The statements require regular engagement with the students reflective practice journal as they draw on this work to arrive at conclusions about their learning across the year.

IT Hardware and Software

Some teaching could be delivered as a lecture hosted on Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Students will be expected to use the colleges online Virtual Learning Environment: Space throughout their training to access module information, resources and assessment briefs. Students will be required to film materials to upload and will maintain an online journal which hosts multi-media entries.

Students with learning difficulties/conditions that affect their working memory, co-ordination, focus or information processing speed often experience extra difficulty in sight reading scripts, reading and notating musical scores, take additional time to learn dialogue & movements, which are all core parts of the course and things that they will be required to do regularly after graduation. This is similar to the difficulties experienced when producing word processed written work. The process of working with music goes alongside working with other written information as a core part of

the learning process on this course.

For notetaking and lecture recording purposes, particularly 1-1 instrumental and Music Ensemble classes, a digital recording device with a built-in two-way microphone is recommended as a useful aid to learning to enable the recording of music excerpts used alongside orally and visually presented information in lectures.

It is useful for the student to have access to a tablet with e-reader quality screen, so that they can apply any coloured films, make text larger and be sent virtual materials in advance for pre-reading play texts and notes where possible.

All course information and lecture notes are accessed only via Space, the online Virtual Learning Environment. The majority of assignments are submitted online via the VLE, and use of the internet for research is also required.

Further information on the support available at Leeds Conservatoire is available on our website: <https://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/student-life/student-support/disability-support/>

Location and facilities

BA (Hons) Actor Musician will be taught in Playhouse Square (5th Floor) studios, with state-of-the-art specialist facilities.

Students will also use the library and occasionally teaching spaces in the St. Peter's Square building, alongside external partner venues (LLC Theatre or Leeds Playhouse rehearsal spaces as examples).

Contact information

The Disability Support Team is located in the Student Support room (4th floor) of the Leeds Conservatoire St Peter's Square building.

Email: disability@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk