



Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland

Programme Information Sheet

2019/20

OUR CURRICULUM:

- Develops excellence alongside high levels of reflection in all of our disciplines
- Fosters the creative attitudes and skills needed for collaborative learning in and through practice
- Enables students to take responsibility for managing and evaluating their own learning
- Provides students with insight into a diversity of artistic fields and experience of what is required to succeed in their individual arts practice
- Develops the ability to use theoretical understanding to inform practice and practice to inform theory
- Enables students to make a contribution in the world as artists, educators, advocates and active citizens

We're the only Conservatoire in the UK and one of few in the world to offer such a rich range of art forms – music, drama, dance, production, and screen.

PROGRAMME AIMS:

The BA Production Arts and Design has been written to facilitate the need for Production Artists and Designers who are highly skilled in their own discipline but who also understand and engage with the production and design process as collaborative and creative contributors. It is our intention to help students develop as self-motivated learners and as independent, inter-dependent, collaborative, articulate, and reflective practitioners.

The Programme aims to provide creative, professional and innovative Higher Education training for those talented and dedicated students who wish to pursue a specialist and intensive education in one of the production arts or in set/costume design, and who look to the Programme to focus this aspiration in a way that will enable them to pursue a meaningful career in the creative and cultural industries.

MAJOR STUDY SUBJECTS: (One to be declared at application)

Set/Costume Design; Scenic Art; Costume Construction; Scenery Construction; Props Construction.

During year one students also select a minor subject from this list to complement their major study.

STRUCTURE:

The academic year is divided into four terms with the undergraduate programmes being delivered in terms one, two and three only.

The terms are broadly delivered as follows;

T1 Late September – mid December (12 weeks)

T2 Early January – late March (12 weeks)

T3 Mid-April – mid-June (10 weeks)

T4 Late June – late September (Post Graduate only)

The normal working week for production students is from 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday, however it is usual for production work and student generated work to continue into the evening and over the weekends. It is expected that students will attend all production calls as required.

STAFF:

There are five full time lecturers on the programme team plus a range of tutors from within the Central Production Unit who support and mentor students in the workshops and on production allocations. Specialist external staff are employed on shorter contracts to deliver master classes and specific mentoring as well as for certain production & design roles.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

The BA in Production Arts and Design is a practice based programme which incrementally develops skills, knowledge and understanding. There are five major study subjects split into two module pathways; Design (Set & Costume Design) and Production Arts (Scenic Art, Prop Making, Costume Construction, Set Construction).

The Design pathway incorporates a large amount of directed investigation and independent study through personal projects as relevant to the development of a designer, whereas the Production Arts pathway uses staff led workshops and practical production work, primarily on Conservatoire productions, as its main approach.

In brief, **level one** consolidates existing skills and introduces new approaches through workshops, projects and (for Production Artists) production work. Personal development seminars build awareness in areas such as sustainability, equality and diversity, knowledge exchange and reflective practice.

Level two is based on project and production work with contextualised exercises in areas such as management and self-promotion along with focused skills classes in each subject area. Reflective practice continues with a greater emphasis on career planning and goals setting.

Level three gives an opportunity for a more individual pathway, with one major study module and a range of other modules from which to choose including personal projects, management opportunities and a work placement.

The two pathways provide opportunities within them for contextualised learning both with each other and with other programmes. This, combined with two Conservatoire wide modules, promotes the development of high levels of collaboration and communication skills.

Reflection underpins the approach to learning, and reflective journals and summary statements take into consideration the whole student journey as part of a wider personal and professional development agenda rather than being assigned to shorter project based modules.

Collaboration and choice is consolidated in discrete cross-conservatoire experiences in levels one and two and in options modules in levels two and three in order to consolidate and/or broaden both interests and abilities.

INDEPENDENT LEARNING:

RCS Production students are responsible for their own progress.

It is stressed from the outset, and throughout the programme, that individual development will require the systematic pursuit of self-determined study. Students will need, and are expected, to undertake **Independent Learning** to support and develop lecturer-led work initiated in classes.

REFLECTIVE PRACTICE:

Throughout their time on this programme, students are required to begin and maintain a process of actively reflecting on their learning. This reflection will take many forms and will be assessed in a number of ways including goal setting and reflective summaries.

PEER LEARNING:

There is an element of peer to peer learning on the programme - across subject specialisms or across year groups. We encourage students to be open and receptive to what other students have to say and to learn to listen. Peer to peer learning works both ways. The more you explain something to someone else, the more you will consolidate those skills for yourself.

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS:

The programme prepares students for work in the entertainment industry by teaching the core knowledge, skills and understanding of traditional stage production but this learning is transferable into a range of disciplines. Through their time at RCS, students might also engage with areas such as devised theatre, site specific performances, parades, film making, TV programmes, videos, theme parks, festivals or concerts. The skills learned on the programme will be transferable across these experiences and many more.

Students are encouraged to be self-motivated learners and to seek out new opportunities, approaches and experiences so that after graduation, even if you have never done something before you should be able to work out what is required, based on that core knowledge and understanding.

YEAR ONE IN BRIEF:

Level one of the Programme is based on experiential learning and skills acquisition, mainly focused on the collaborative nature of production, and an examination of the various practitioners' roles within this. Students engage with a broad based introduction to the production arts and design environment and standard practices both in core subject areas and more broadly in management and technology subjects. The production arts and design process is deconstructed and examined through a range of classes, workshop rotations and collaborative projects culminating in the choice of a minor subject as a key component of their individual learning pathway.

Production Arts and Design Level One				
Module Title	SCQF(ECTS) Credits	Delivery	Content	Assessment
Learning to Collaborate (All UG level one students)	10 (5)	Monday Workshops only Term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures and workshops • Group discussions on collaboration and working practices of degree courses at the RCS • Development of proposals for pitching cross discipline collaborations for year 2 • Classroom sharing of proposals and peer feedback 	Presentation to Group & Project Proposal (Pass/Fail)
Personal and Professional Development 1 (with BAPAD1)	10 (5)	Monday Classes only All year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety Awareness • Creative and Cultural Awareness • Equality and Diversity Awareness • Reflective Practice • Goals Setting 	Reflective summary incl Goal Statement & Group Presentation (Pass/Fail)
Introduction to the Production Processes	50 (25)	9am – 5pm Mon – Fri Term 1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the production process • Rotations in the production arts workshops • Experience of Production Technology and Management practice • Design project • Venue & workshop health and safety 	Written & practical examination of workshop studies & Design Project (Pass/Fail)

Major Subject Allocation 1	30 (15)	9am – 5pm Mon – Fri Terms 2 & 3	<i>For Production Arts Majors only</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation in major study • Personal project • Working as a team Health and safety practice as relevant to level and department	Observation of Practice, Including Personal Project (Pass/Fail)
Fundamentals of Design		9am – 5pm Mon – Fri Terms 2 & 3	<i>For Design Majors only</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop based conceptual investigation into the designers tools and processes • Short play design project • Collaborative project • Risk assessment for design 	Presentation & Visual Communication skills (Pass/Fail)
Minor Subject Allocation 1	20 (10)	9am – 5pm Mon – Fri Term 3 (5 weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation in minor study • Working as a team • Health and safety practice as relevant to level and department 	Observation of Practice (Pass/Fail)

YEAR TWO IN BRIEF:

Level two aims to consolidate fundamental skills and knowledge and then to introduce more advanced approaches and techniques including visual communication skills and self-promotion.

Production Arts Students begin by continuing their major study in practice based work on Conservatoire productions as part of a collaborative team with colleagues from Level Three. Design students undertake projects focussing on the role of the Designer in the context of the production process. Both of these modules can either be extended to the end of January or completed by the winter break leaving time for minor study work in January. Term two engages the Production Arts students with more production work but introduces the role of the manager and the related paperwork and planning. Design students either begin the initial research and model making process for a realised production or undertake one more project to final presentation stage as well as developing visual communication skills and understanding of period style. Level two also incorporates the opportunity to take 20 (SCQF) credits on 'choice' modules delivered by other programmes across the Conservatoire.

Production Arts and Design Level Two				
Module Title	SCQF(ECTS) Credits	Delivery	Content	Assessment
Major Subject Allocation 2	30 (15)	9am – 5pm Mon – Fri Term 1	For Production Arts Majors only <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistant role on a realised production in major subject• Research project in major subject• Health and safety practice as relevant to level and department	Observation of Practice & Research Project (Graded)
The Production Context		9am – 5pm Mon – Fri Term 1	For Design Majors only <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design Projects• Visual Communications Project• Practical Research• Health & Safety practice as relevant to production realisation	Design Project, Research Project & Group Project (Graded)

Visual Communication Skills	10 (5)	Weekly Classes Terms 1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vectorworks • Hand drafted technical drawing • Technical sketching • Photoshop rendering • Life drawing 	Portfolio of Drawings (Pass/Fail)
PPD2 Self-Awareness and Promotion	10 (5)	Classes / Independent study All year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of portfolio and self-promotion requirements • Self-directed process of developing a foundation level portfolio • Group presentations • Introduction to self-employment/ entrepreneurship • Reflective Practice 	Online portfolio & CV & Reflective Summary & Goals Statement (Pass/Fail)
Major Subject Allocation 3	40 (20)	9am – 5pm Mon – Fri Terms 2 & 3	For Production Arts Majors only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation in major study workshop • Working as a team • Management written assignment • Health and safety practice as relevant to level and department 	Observation of practice & Management assignment (Graded)
Design in Practice		9am – 5pm Mon – Fri Terms 2 & 3	For Design Majors only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design project • Period styles • Reflective practice including goals statement • Health and safety as applied to design proposals 	Design Project, & Portfolio of Drawings (Graded)
Minor Subject Allocation 2 (or extended major)	10 (5)	9am – 5pm Mon – Fri Term 2 (4 weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor study allocation • Assistant role on a realized production/project in minor subject 	Observation of practice (Graded)
Options Modules	20 (10)	Monday afternoons plus intensive choice week (Wk12 term 2) All year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose a one or two classes from a list offered from across the Conservatoire to achieve 20 credits over the year 	Depending on module (Graded)

YEAR THREE IN BRIEF

Level three enables consolidation of all prior learning and exploration and development of specialist skills in autonomous situations.

Each student negotiates their individual pathway in the third year in order to take effectively take advantage of a range of core elective modules as well as a final allocation in their major subject. For production artists this could mean undertaking a management role whereas designers will undertake a fully realised design on an RCS production. An industry secondment is a required option and the emerging professional is also investigated through online portfolios and other self-employment skills. Once again this level incorporates the opportunity to take 20 (SCQF) credits on 'options' modules delivered by other programmes across the Conservatoire.

Production Arts and Design Level Three				
Module Title	SCQF(ECTS) Credits	Delivery	Content	Assessment
Major Subject Allocation 4	50 (25)	14 weeks 9am – 5pm Mon – Fri based on allocation	For Production Arts Majors only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior level role in Production Arts department, working on a production(s), collaborating with designer(s) and other departments 	Observation of Practice (Graded)
The Designer		14 weeks. As required for allocation	For Design Majors only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and presentation of completed designs • Collaboration with director, production manager, production teams, Production Technology and Management teams • Risk assessing designs 	Observation of Practice & Documentation of Process (Graded)
PPD3 - The Emerging Professional	10 (5)	Initial Classes / Independent study Term 2 & 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online portfolios and promotional requirements of self-employed artist • Self-directed development of portfolio • Group presentations 	Online Portfolio, CV & Reflective Summary

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External networking and self-promotion • Mock interview • Reflective Practice • Goals statement 	(Pass/Fail)
Workshop Management	30(15)	Electives to add up to 40 (20) (This must include a work placement)	8 weeks. As required for allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending production meetings • Producing costings • Planning work schedules • Goal-setting • Managing resources • Assuring quality of work • Leading a team 	Observation of Practice & Documentation of Process (Graded)
Workshop Management	20(10)		6 weeks. As required for allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending production meetings • Producing costings • Planning work schedules • Goal-setting • Managing resources • Assuring quality of work • Leading a team 	Observation of Practice & Documentation of Process (Graded)
Work Placement	20(10)		4-5 weeks or equivalent. As negotiated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify research and fulfil a four-five week placement within a chosen professional environment. • Research into professional standards and practices, key industry practitioners and the professional environment in which your employer operates. • Documentation of learning and reflection. 	Verbal, written or recorded report (Pass/Fail)
Work Placement	10(5)		2-3 weeks or equivalent. As negotiated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify research and fulfil a two-week placement within a chosen professional environment. • Research into professional standards and practices, key industry practitioners and the 	Verbal, written or recorded report (Pass/Fail)

				professional environment in which your employer operates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of learning and reflection. 	
Negotiated Personal Project	20(10)		4-5 weeks or equivalent. As negotiated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To research, develop, negotiate and undertake a project that will allow you to progress your knowledge and skills in a context relevant your chosen specialist area 	As negotiated (Graded)
Negotiated Personal Project	10(5)		2-3 weeks or equivalent. As negotiated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To research, develop, negotiate and undertake a project that will allow you to progress your knowledge and skills in a context relevant your chosen specialist area 	As negotiated (Graded)
Minor Subject (Production Arts)	30(15)		8 weeks. As required for allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant role in Production Arts department, collaborating with designer(s) and other departments in the realisation of a small-medium scale realised production(s) 	Observation of Practice (Graded)
Minor Subject (Production Arts)	20(10)		6 weeks. As required for allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant role in Production Arts department, collaborating with designer(s) and other departments in the realisation of a small-medium scale realised production(s) 	Observation of Practice (Graded)
Minor Subject (Design) 20	20(10)		6 weeks. As required for allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant designer role on a realised production collaborating with relevant production departments • Reflective practice 	Documentation of Process & Observation of Practice (Graded)
Options Modules		20 (10)	Monday afternoons plus intensive choice week (Wk12 term 2) All year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose a one or two classes from a list offered from across the Conservatoire to achieve 20 credits over the year 	Depending on module

EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

The programme currently has exchange agreements with the California Institute for the Arts (Calarts), the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts (HKAPA), University of the Arts, Philadelphia (UArts) and Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne and students can apply for an exchange semester at any of these institutions. The programme also currently offers and welcomes ERAMUS exchanges with a range of European partner institutions.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING – TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Throughout their studies, students are constantly reminded that their ultimate goal is to gain successful employment in the industry of their chosen specialist field. The graduate employment percentage rate from the Conservatoire's production programmes is traditionally very high, consistently in the high nineties, but we believe this is no reason to be dilatory in an approach to job seeking. This record has partly been achieved by previous students actively chasing, and sometimes creating, the opportunities for themselves.

Throughout the programme students they are encouraged to develop their own professional contacts and C.V. so that on graduation they are well placed to pursue a diversity of employment opportunities. They are required to actively engage in the Personal Development Planning (PDP) process throughout the programme.

We develop their autonomy and offer them clear guidance for their career as a professional through specific programme modules, contact with visiting practitioners, secondments within the industry, links with local and national organisations, advertising job opportunities, continuing professional development support.

At the end of their final year all PAD students are invited to take part in a **Graduation Showcase** of their work, to which a broad range of employers and industry practitioners are invited.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you are interested in more information about the BA Production Arts and Design or would like to apply to the programme please contact Ros Maddison, Head of Production at r.maddison@rcs.ac.uk or +44 141 2708326.

Applications are made through CUKAS (www.cukas.ac.uk) and interviews commence in late January for entry in September of that year. Candidates are required to fulfil certain tasks in advance of the interview to demonstrate their suitability for the programme.

For more information about the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland please visit us at www.rcs.ac.uk

Ros Maddison

July 2019