



**Royal Conservatoire  
*of* Scotland**

**Programme Information  
2019/20**

## **OUR CURRICULUM:**

- Develops excellence alongside high levels of reflection in all of our discipline
- 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 Technology and Management has been written to produce Production Technicians, Managers and Designers who can turn their hand to any related role, making them both useful and employable in a range of contexts, whilst also being specialists in specific career pathways i.e. Stage Management, Stage Technology, Production Lighting and Sound, Lighting Design and Sound Design.

Our graduates will aspire to become the creative leaders and innovators of the future and will be encouraged to push accepted boundaries and create new standards of practice in the industry at large, especially in the area of health and safety practice. Working with both established practitioners and colleagues from all disciplines not only encourages you to develop a variety of approaches and attitudes to production practice but also exposes you to those professionals who may become future employers. It is our intention to help you develop as a self-motivated learner and an Independent, inter-dependent, collaborative, articulate, and reflective practitioner.

## **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, including the Programme Leader, on the programme team plus a tutor in each subject and venues staff 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 Production Technology and Management is a practice-based programme which develops skill, knowledge and understanding incrementally.

Students commence with a broad introduction to the concept and practice of 'production' but this builds quickly into a practical hands on training in the core skills, knowledge and understanding required to engage fully and in a meaningful and productive way with the production process. Most learning happens on RCS productions but there are key 'non production' blocks where the focus is on specific skills development.

There are four core areas of assessment in the programme; **Stagecraft, Communication, Management and Personal & Professional Development**. These are based in long thin modules across the year taking in all learning opportunities encountered including classes, production work and independent reflective study.

In brief, **level one**, ensures all students are able to function at general technician level in all four core subjects. This is done through initial classes and junior production roles across the year. Personal development seminars build awareness in areas such as sustainability, equality and diversity, knowledge exchange and reflective practice.

In **level two**, the students enter their specialist subject full time. Show allocations are interrupted midway by a block of further specialist teaching followed by more senior roles on productions.

**Level three** allows for a more autonomous pathway working on senior technical and creative roles shows as negotiated between staff and student and including industry experience and masterclasses.

The key concepts, histories, and practices in areas such as collaboration, communication, health and safety, management practices, cultural & historical context, employability, entrepreneurship and business planning are also introduced and developed across the three years.

Collaboration is key to the delivery of all modules with the student's learning journey beginning alongside colleagues from across the Conservatoire in first year and embedded and supported throughout the programme.

### **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 etc.

### **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.

### **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. 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.

## ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK:

As an ordinary degree there is no final classification and all so modules are assessed with a pass or fail outcome. Emphasis is instead placed on the mutually constructed feedback tutorials that take place for each production allocation and at the end of the year. These are opportunities for staff and students to share and document their feedback together ensure a more meaningful dialogue and mutual understanding of development requirements.

## YEAR ONE MODULES:

The first year of the programme is based on experiential learning and skills acquisition focusing on the context of 'production'. Students engage with a broad-based introduction to the production environment and standard practices both in core subject areas and more broadly in production arts and design subjects. The production and design process is deconstructed and examined through a range of classroom, workshop and venue based experiences culminating in allocated junior roles on Conservatoire productions.

Personal development and an awareness of history and culture are introduced and embedded in year one alongside health and safety best practice. Collaborative practices are also key to the learning journey at this stage.

<b>Production Technology and Management Level One</b>				
<b>Module Title</b>	<b>SCQF(EU) Credits</b>	<b>Core Delivery</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Learning to Collaborate (All UG level one students)	10 (5)	Monday Workshops only Term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lectures and workshops</li><li>• Group discussions on collaboration and working practices of degree courses at the RCS</li><li>• Development of proposals for pitching cross discipline collaborations for year 2</li><li>• Classroom sharing of proposals and peer feedback</li></ul>	Presentation to Group & Project Proposal  (Pass/Fail)

Personal and Professional Development 1 (with BAPAD1)	30 (15)	Monday Workshops only All year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Safety Awareness</li> <li>• Creative and Cultural Awareness</li> <li>• Equality and Diversity Awareness</li> <li>• Reflective Practice</li> <li>• Goals Setting</li> </ul>	Reflective summary incl Goal Statement & Group Presentation  (Pass/Fail)
Production 1	40 (20)	Tues – Sat Terms 1&2 Production/Classroom based (as called)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Production Process</li> <li>• Production Technology &amp; Management Skills</li> <li>• Production Art &amp; Design Awareness</li> <li>• Design Project</li> <li>• Health &amp; Safety</li> <li>• Production Experience</li> </ul>	Written examinations and practical projects in core Production Technology and Management subjects  (Pass/Fail)
Stagecraft 1	20 (10)	Tues - Sat Terms 2&3 Production based (as called)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Junior Production Technology and Management roles over a number of RCS projects.</li> <li>• Introduction to Vectorworks</li> </ul>	Observation of Practice  (Pass/Fail)
Communication 1	20 (10)	Tues - Sat Terms 2&3 Production based (as called)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Junior Production Technology and Management roles over a number of RCS projects.</li> </ul>	Observation of Practice  (Pass/Fail)

## YEAR TWO IN BRIEF

The second year aims to consolidate fundamental skills and knowledge and to introduce more advanced approaches and techniques including management and self-promotion. Students engage with practice-based work on Conservatoire productions as part of a collaborative production with final year students to establish a flexible and responsible work ethic.

Term two brings a return to the 'classroom' and specialist studies through which the student will equip themselves to continue their learning journey and ultimately undertake more complex, senior roles. This begins the individual pathway for each student, as negotiated with their Lecturer, where learning is designed to promote development and achievement for the individual. This negotiated pathway incorporates the opportunity to take 20 (SCQF) credits on 'options' modules delivered by other programmes across the Conservatoire.

Year two also includes a further look at health and safety management practices, practical management techniques such as budgeting and scheduling, personal development and promotional tools such as CVs, websites and interview technique.

<b>Production Technology and Management Level Two</b>				
<b>Module Title</b>	<b>SCQF(EU) Credits</b>	<b>Delivery</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Personal and Professional Development 2	20 (10)	Monday Workshops only All year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management skills such as budgeting, scheduling, risk assessment, health and safety legislation, licensing, copyright</li> <li>• Unions &amp; trade associations;</li> <li>• Self-promotional tools such as CVs, interview technique, vocal awareness and body language.</li> </ul>	Health and Safety & Management Project assignments & Reflective Summary and Goals Statement
Stagecraft 2	30 (15)	Tues – Sat All year Production/Classroom based (as called)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production allocations in specialist roles.</li> <li>• Senior production allocations.</li> <li>• Formal taught classes in specialist areas</li> </ul>	Observation of Practice  (Pass/Fail)

Communication 2	30 (15)	Tues – Sat All year Production/Classroom based (as called)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production allocations in specialist roles.</li> <li>• Senior production allocations.</li> <li>• Formal taught classes in specialist areas</li> </ul>	Observation of Practice  (Pass/Fail)
Management 2	20 (15)	Tues – Sat All year Production/Classroom based (as called)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production allocations in specialist roles.</li> <li>• Senior production allocations.</li> <li>• Formal taught classes in specialist areas</li> </ul>	Observation of Practice  (Pass/Fail)
Options	20 (10)	Monday afternoons all year plus intensive Options week in Term 2 Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose a one or two classes from a list offered from across the Conservatoire to achieve 20 credits over the year</li> </ul>	Depending on module

### YEAR THREE IN BRIEF

Final year enables consolidation of all prior learning and exploration and development of specialist skills in autonomous situations. Students undertake agreed production allocations offering the opportunity to explore more managerial roles as well as undertaking complex operational responsibilities during which all knowledge, skill and understanding developed on the programme can be applied. This enables the student's skills base to develop to the highest possible standards as well as providing an opportunity to reflect on leadership strategies.

Personal and Professional Development includes an industry work placement and a final reflective presentation analyzing the students journey across their three years of study and setting goals for the future.

Options modules include the opportunity to undertake a Negotiated Project enable students to develop further in a particular area or to fill any potential perceived gaps in their learning.

<b>Production Technology and Management Level Three</b>				
<b>Module Title</b>	<b>SCQF Credits</b>	<b>Delivery</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Personal and Professional Development 3	20 (10)	Monday Workshops only All year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflective practice including e-portfolio and evaluation</li> <li>• Continued Professional Development planning including risk management;</li> <li>• Business start-up skills;</li> <li>• Other relevant associations/organisations</li> <li>• Networking &amp; self-promotional tools.</li> <li>• Work Placement</li> </ul>	Presentation  (Pass/Fail)
Stagecraft 3	20 (10)	Tues – Sat All year Production based (as called)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior production role allocations, working autonomously and without intervention as far as is reasonably practicable, in a live production environment.</li> </ul>	Observation of Practice  (Pass/Fail)
Communication 3	30 (15)	Tues – Sat All year Production based (as called)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior production role allocations, working autonomously and without intervention as far as is reasonably practicable, in a live production environment.</li> </ul>	Observation of Practice  (Pass/Fail)
Management 3	30 (15)	Tues – Sat All year Production based (as called)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior production role allocations, working autonomously and without intervention as far as is reasonably practicable, in a live production environment.</li> </ul>	Observation of Practice  (Pass/Fail)
Options	20 (10)	Monday afternoons all year plus intensive Options week in Term 2 Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose a one or two classes from a list offered from across the Conservatoire to achieve 20 credits over the year</li> </ul>	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

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

If you are interested in more information about the BA Production Technology and Management or would like to apply to the programme please contact Ros Maddison, Head of Production at [r.maddison@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:r.maddison@rcs.ac.uk) or +44 141 2708326.

Applications are made through CUKAS ([www.cukas.ac.uk](http://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](http://www.rcs.ac.uk)