

# Drama studies

## Essentials

At Sussex, you take drama studies alongside another subject as part of a joint degree

### What drama studies degrees are there?

Drama Studies and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish)  
Drama Studies and English  
Drama Studies and Film Studies

### What A levels/IB scores do I need?

(For other qualifications information, refer to pages 125-129)

Typical A level offer range: AAB-ABB

For Drama Studies and English, A levels (or equivalent) must include English, English Literature or the combined A level in English Language and Literature at grade A

For Drama Studies and a Language, A levels (or equivalent) must include the language you wish to study at grade B

Typical IB diploma offer range: 34-36 points

For Drama Studies and English, 34-36 points including 6 in Higher Level English

For Drama Studies and a Language, 34-36 points normally including your chosen language at Higher Level with a final grade of 5

### Fees

Refer to pages 137-138 for information on fees

### English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall and not less than 6.0 in both the Listening and Writing sections. Internet-based TOEFL with 90 overall, including at least 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 130

### How do I find out more?

For more information, contact:

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[www.sussex.ac.uk/drama](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/drama)

### When can I visit?

Our Open Day dates for 2011 are 11 June and 8 October. We also run regular campus tours.

Please book online at [www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors) or call 01273 876787



### Why drama studies?

Studying drama equips you with a broad range of skills, both practical and theoretical, that are transferable in a variety of cultural spheres and contexts.

### Why drama studies at Sussex?

• Drama studies at Sussex is ranked in the top 10 in the UK in *The Complete University Guide 2010-11*.

• In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 95 per cent of our drama research was rated as recognised internationally or higher, and over half rated as internationally excellent or higher.

• Throughout your degree, you will explore a range of ideas, issues and questions relating to theatre and performance, in particular how such practices relate to different social, political, aesthetic and cultural arenas. You will address these through a rigorous combination of theory and practice, and thus develop confidence and ability both as a creative practitioner and thinker.

• Specialist teaching from active practitioners and researchers in specific historical periods, as well as in international contemporary theatre practices and performance.

• Our curriculum explores the relationship between theory and practice in the seminar room, in studio workshops and with professional visiting artists and practitioners.

• Programme of study that moves from the introduction of first principles, via their more sophisticated application, to areas of research-led individual specialism.

• Strong relationships with local and national arts organisations (including the Brighton International Festival), and opportunities to work with these during your degree. We encourage you to gain valuable professional experience and thus develop your career prospects.

• Emphasis on group work and collaboration in teaching and assessment.

• Major performance projects (Years 2 and 3) to professional standard and for an invited public.

### What sort of career could I have?

• theatre and performing arts including directing, performing, producing, developing educational programmes, and arts administration

• media, film and journalistic professions

• further study at professional conservatoires and drama schools or in higher education (Masters, PhD)

• teaching

• other professions (law, accountancy) for which a good degree is necessary and where excellent communication skills are required.



## Tom's perspective

'Sussex is special for a number of reasons. The faculty have a very democratic, friendly and supportive way of teaching – they empower students with knowledge and do so to an impeccable standard and with infectious enthusiasm.

'Drama at Sussex is close knit – everyone knows everyone else, and can support each other and grow together. The Library resources are abundant and technical facilities excellent. Drama Studies at Sussex also has an element of flexibility so you can tailor your degree towards your own interests.

'My university experience has given me a greater understanding of the world around me, and I now have more confidence than ever before. This, I think, is what university is all about – taking advantage of the many different opportunities available (both inside and outside of the degree) to develop yourself as an individual.

'I graduated a few months ago, and now co-run Off the Cuff, a comedy improvisation group that I originally joined during Fresher's Week! The group is growing and recently went to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for the first time. It's still early days, but I'm excited about what the future offers.'

**Tom Verzyer**  
BA in Drama  
Studies and  
English





**Drama studies at Sussex develops your intellectual understanding of the role and function of drama in society by considering a wide range of performance practices and contexts. You develop a practical awareness – gained through exercises in writing, acting and performance – of how drama can be conceived and applied**

#### How will I learn?

You learn through a combination of seminars and practical workshops that often examine theoretical concepts, topics and methods you are researching. Some courses are taught through seminar only. You also spend sustained periods in the studio, rehearsing and preparing performance projects.

Your work is assessed by various means including seminar presentations, essays and longer dissertations, which train you in the academic disciplines of close reading and analysis, researching, writing, logical thought, critical evaluation of ideas, articulation of complex concepts, succinct expression, and meticulous verbal presentation. There is also scope within the degree to produce your own creative writing alongside development of specialist practical skills (eg devising, lighting, design, directing). Your practical work is assessed through performance, group work, and critical reflective essays.

#### What will I achieve?

- a detailed knowledge of the development of theatre from the Greeks to the present day
- exploration of practical and performative concepts in drama, staging and the writing of texts
- an understanding of theatre as a social construct and as a major form of communication. Its gestures, costumes, music and voices are constructions that provide rich sources of information on the way culture and society have developed
- intellectual understanding of the role of drama within society, as well as practical awareness – gained through exercises in writing, acting and performance – of how drama is enacted
- by studying drama alongside other related subjects such as film, English or a language, you are able to make interdisciplinary connections
- a wide range of skills relating to data analysis, research, bibliographic construction, presentation and articulation
- if the degree includes a language, the ability to speak and write the language to a high level, and to read dramatic texts in their original language.

#### Degrees

##### **Drama Studies and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish) BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: W4RX**

This degree combines drama and language studies, and offers the opportunity to acquire a foreign language and historical, dramatic and cultural knowledge in an integrated fashion. The degree allows you to develop language skills while spending a year at a university in a country where your chosen language is spoken.

Alongside your drama courses, you focus on a language in combination with courses on the culture of the country in which it is spoken, or of Europe generally.

Refer to the core courses list on the right for details of the drama studies courses; refer to the languages entry on page 85 for more information on these courses.

##### **Drama Studies and English BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: WQ43**

This degree is for students who are keen to focus upon drama in a wider literary context. The combination enables you to pursue drama both in relation to other literary genres such as the novel, poetry and non-fiction prose, and in relation to a wide spectrum of theoretical approaches to literature and culture.

The programme encourages the study of dramatic texts not simply as literature, but also as the basis for performance. From the Greeks to the present day, drama is taught in a variety of ways. You explore practical and performative concepts in the staging and writing of texts, in particular historical and cultural contexts. Drama core courses such as Writing for the Theatre, and English courses including a wide range of core courses and options, provide complementary fields of study that enrich your understanding of both subjects.

Refer to the core courses list on the right for details of the drama studies courses; refer to the English subject entry on page 67 for more information on these courses.

##### **Drama Studies and Film Studies BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: WP43**

This degree provides an approach that integrates two ways of presenting cultural narratives and explorations; film and dramatic performance. The film studies element of the programme offers a firm foundation in visual literacy, film genres and film theory by introducing you to a wide range of film-making and viewing across the globe.

As well as the drama studies core courses, first-year courses include Film Analysis, and Issues in Film Studies.

In Year 2 you look at issues of film theory and film genres in greater depth, before moving on to explore a range of cinematic practices.

In the final year, you take two thematic options from a range of film studies courses and complete a film studies dissertation.

You take all the drama studies core courses for the full three years, alongside film studies core courses.

Refer to the core courses list on the right for details of drama studies courses; refer to the film studies subject entry on page 73 for more information on these courses.

#### Core courses

#### Courses currently include:

##### Year 1

**Making Theatre • Reading Theatre Texts • Staging Text • Theories of Drama**

##### Year 2

**Approaches to Contemporary Performance • Modern and Postmodern Drama • Second-Year Performance Project • Writing for the Theatre**

##### Year 3

**Options: Early Modern Drama • Final-Year Performance Project • Independent Research Project • Making Theatre Politically • Performing the Body • Postdramatic Theatre • Theatre, Performance and Ethics**

#### Alice's perspective

'Drama at Sussex is diverse, challenging and a whole lot of fun. You're given the opportunity to study a wide range of topics, including writing for theatre, site-specific theatre, and approaches to contemporary performance. The theory courses provide you with a great basis for creating practical work, encouraging you to be creative and innovative in the pieces you devise.'

'By working in groups you quickly get to know everyone on the degree programme really well, and there are plenty of opportunities to go and see theatre together. By creating your own theatre practice, as well as critiquing a wide range of theatre texts and performance styles, you gain a broad knowledge of both theatre today and throughout history. The tutors are academically inspirational and have been supportive throughout my degree.'

'Three years on, I can honestly say that the Drama programme and the University of Sussex have provided me with valuable life experience and a spectacularly great time.'

**Alice Helps**  
BA in Drama  
Studies and  
English

