London's
International
Drama School

**Rose
Bruford
College**

of Theatre
& Performance

School of Design, Management and Technical Arts

MA Light in Performance

Programme Specification

February 2020

Programme Specification

The following information for students, adapted from QAA guidance to students in understanding programmes, prefaces all Rose Bruford College programme specifications.

> *Programme specifications focus on single programmes of study (or courses), and outline the intended knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes of a student completing that course. A programme specification also gives details of teaching and assessment methods as well as linking the course to the framework for Higher Education qualifications and any subsequent professional qualification and career path.*
>
> *Programme specifications form one part of a set of different types of documents about a programme and its components, which include prospectus, programme handbook, module specifications and information on websites. The Programme Specification is published on the College's website.*
>
> *There may be concern that 'specifying' what a student will have learnt at the end of the course or programme might inhibit innovation within that course. For this reason it is important not to see programme specifications as 'tick lists'. They offer broad indications of the types of things students might be expected to learn and the types of skills and abilities they might be expected to gain.*

The College norm is to address the student directly and in all programme and module specifications, the second person is used.

Award	Programme Title	Duration	Mode of study
MA	**Light in Performance**	13 months	FT

Institution	Rose Bruford College
School	School of DMTA
Awarding Institution	Rose Bruford College
External Examiner	Prof Anna Furse, Goldsmiths University of London
Programme Accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA benchmark(s)	N/A

2. Aims of the Programme

The nature and presentation of live performance is undergoing fundamental change. Performance is now made everywhere, by small and dynamic groups of artists often working across disciplines and specialisms. Changes in technology have allowed for often sophisticated lighting to be part of any aspect of performance making. Light and visual communication is omnipresent, in our physical and digital environments. The MA Light in Performance aims to offer students opportunities to explore the richness of this field through a taught masters programme.

The programme is built on a belief that light can be a primary element within performance, not simply providing a supporting or secondary function. The artistic practice of working with light should be interdisciplinary in nature, engaging with a complex and rich field of ideas and values in a range of social, cultural and creative contexts. The programme offers you the opportunity to develop a practice of working with light as a principal agent for communication and expression, within a collaborative creative environment.

The programme is delivered in partnership with professional lighting designers whose work is at the leading edge of the field, and whose approach to lighting design as an arts practice is rich, complex and profound. These designers have in common a distinct and process-focused approach to their work, which is framed by their

strong belief in the importance and value of interdisciplinary practice. As such their approach mirrors closely the ethos and pedagogy of the programme.

Working through small groups of practitioners and students, the programme aims to nurture and embed interdisciplinary working as a key aspect of the design of lighting, so light can become an integral aspect of a performance. You may join the programme with pre-existing experience in lighting, or as a performance maker with a developing interest in light as a tool for creating and shaping performance. You may not have an academic background but you will have considerable practical experience.

Research is at the heart of the programme, and you will carefully explore the creation of visual works through a range of research-led, process-driven working methods. Practical work is in constant dialogue with this research-led approach; workshops and seminars allow you apply and test ideas in a laboratory setting, using light as the leading element. Working through a range of different processes and with practitioners from diverse disciplines, you will investigate and activate narratives, spatial forms, political, historical, cultural and social contexts to generate work that is original, individual, meaningful and socially responsible.

On graduation, you will be able to work in a wide variety of performance and lighting related roles, depending on your own specialisms and interests. These might include: working as an independent lighting designer or artist in your chosen field, becoming a powerful and vocal member of a performance making ensemble, returning to your own practice with the confidence to use light boldly and meaningfully, or working as an associate or assistant lighting designer or senior technician, with a sophisticated ability to facilitate a visual design.

3. Programme intended learning outcomes

Your success on the MA Light in Performance will be assessed based on the extent to which you:

LO1   Independently utilise knowledge and apply a range of skills and methodologies to work effectively as a designer and performance-maker in diverse professional situations.

LO2   Articulate and create practice that reflects, embodies and embraces complex aesthetic, social, political, and cultural values and perspectives.

LO3   Demonstrate an effective and original practice of research, investigation, experimentation and critical evaluation that is integral to your work.

LO4   Implement a range of skills and competencies which enable you to articulate, structure and present your ideas and practice to expert as well as non-specialist audiences.

LO5   Identify and develop an area of personal specialised design-related practice, showing initiative, self-direction and originality.

LO6   Employ your skills and knowledge as a designer to be an effective agent for professional performance making, artistic enterprise, or social change.

4. Learning and teaching

With a commitment to research-led, interdisciplinary learning and teaching, the programme is designed to develop working methods that encourage collaboration, creativity, responsibility for learning, critical reflection and self-evaluation. You are expected to play an active part in determining and shaping your independent learning individually as well as learning through being a member of an ensemble.

Learning

Your learning is supported by: workshops, performances, online resources (including use of the College Virtual Learning Environment), library resources, student-led presentations, lectures, seminars, self-directed study, progress reviews, group and individual tutorials, feedback tutorials, discussions, ensemble work, exercises, research and enquiry, critical reflection and work based learning.

Teaching

Classes, workshops and lectures will be conducted by senior academic and practitioner members of College staff and a range of external expert specialists in both academic and practice fields.

5. The structure of the programme

MA Light in Performance comprises four overlapping modules (see the programme schedule below). Module MALIP701 provides all students on the programme with a shared foundation of ways of looking and working with light. You will examine the work of a range of practitioners and their approaches, develop methods of research and experimentation, and learn to work as an ensemble. You will start to ask a series of questions about light as an expressive material in performance, and begin to formulate the change or development you want to make to your current practice through your learning on the programme.

Module MALIP702 introduces the work of a series of professional lighting designers who share the ethos of the programme, setting up a dialogue between your continuing explorative learning in module 701 and the practical constraints and demands of a structured creative process and outcomes. Following an initial series of workshop intensives with professional lighting designers, you will start planning the placements and other industry engagement you will undertake in module MALP703. Module 702 concludes with a further series of workshop intensives.

Module 703 will extend and deepen your understanding of creative practice, giving you an insight into how expert lighting practitioners maintain a high level of artistic practice in the midst of real-world constraints and challenges. You will have the opportunity to choose from a range of placements in professional or academic environments. You will also begin to plan your final project for module MALP704, drawing on all your learning and experience from the programme up to this point.

Module 704 provides you with an opportunity to undertake an extended, research-led creative project working with or in response to light. You will develop your project informed by the ongoing enquiry into light in performance that has characterised your studies so far, and by your personal ambitions for the future of your practice.

Programme modules and credits:

Provisional module code	Module title	Credits	ETCs	Study hours
MALIP701	Ways of Looking	40	20	400
MALIP702	Ways of Lighting	40	20	400
MALIP703	Ways of Working	40	20	400
MALIP700	Independent Research Project	60	30	600
		180	**90**	**1800**

Indicative programme schedule (the schedule may vary for operational reasons):

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
MALIP701												
	MALIP702											
		MALIP703										
								MALIP700				

6. Student induction, support and development

The College's experience in teaching postgraduate students has informed the support systems which have been instituted to assist you and other postgraduate students through your studies.

An induction event is arranged at the Sidcup campus at the beginning of the academic year at which you are introduced to the teaching team, to the campus, and to the librarian and programme administrator.

The Programme Director has responsibility for leading the programme and for your academic and professional development with the support of programme administration. You will be encouraged to discuss module-related issues with your tutor.

At the start of the academic year, you will be introduced to the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) where you can find a course outline and module specifications and briefs. The module specifications detail the syllabus, teaching and learning arrangements, assessment requirements with clearly articulated assessment criteria.

Student representation from the programme will be sought in order to participate in a number of appropriate committees, ranging from Programme Committees to the School Board and various other College-wide panels and committees.

The services available within the College's Student Services include general, health and financial advice, accommodation options, counselling, study abroad programmes and a range of support for disabled students.

At the programme level:

- You receive a Student Handbook at Registration;
- Each module throughout the programme is introduced with a briefing by the programme director;
- Peer learning and mentoring are intrinsic to the programme's learning and teaching strategy;
- You will receive written feedback on all assessment tasks, and will be debriefed in a tutorial following the majority of practical projects, to encourage reflection on practice and to help you identify future learning goals.

At the College level:

- Welfare advice and counselling is available to all students.
- A Specialist Support and Equality Officer is available. (You are contacted at the admissions stage and invited to disclose any disabilities/medical conditions);
- Dyslexia and general study support is available;
- At key points during the programme, you will discuss your personal and professional development with a programme tutor, and plan future action;
- You will be introduced to the Learning Resources Centre at induction, and receive both targeted and ongoing research skills and information literacy instruction and support during the remainder of your programme;
- Ongoing academic support is available through the specialist Academic Support Team, and through online support materials;
- Placements operate within the College's Placement Policy, to ensure that you, placement hosts and tutors have a common understanding of the purpose of the placement and of your various responsibilities.

7. Curriculum map of modules against programme intended learning outcomes

Module Title and Code	Programme learning outcomes					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
MALIP701 Ways of Looking	x	x	x	x	x	
MALIP702 Ways of Lighting		x	x	x	x	
MALIP703 Ways of Working	x	x	x	x		x
MALIP700 Independent Research Project	x	x	x	x	x	x

x = intended learning outcomes of the programme are assessed within this module.

8. Categorisation of programme intended learning outcomes

Categorisation of Programme Intended Learning Outcome	Programme learning outcomes					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Practice	x	x	x		x	x
Informed critical reflection		x	x	x		
Transferable and personal qualities			x	x	x	x

9. Criteria for Admission

9.1 Applications

An applicant wishing to join a postgraduate taught degree programme at Rose Bruford College should satisfy or expect to meet the College's general requirements for entry outlined in our postgraduate degree regulations.

Applications for the **MA Light in Performance** are made directly to the College. As part of the application process, you will be required to make a statement (written or oral), outlining your interest in the subject area and the programme, and any previous

relevant experience. In all cases, the selection panel will look for a deep and sustained knowledge of performance, and for self-motivation and criticism with an informed enthusiasm capable of sustaining you within the more rigorous and challenging conditions of the MA programme.

You will normally be expected to hold a first-degree qualification (2.2 or above), hold an equivalent qualification or be able to demonstrate considerable professional or practical experience at a level commensurate with Masters' level study. The award should be in a discipline which underpins your proposed programme of study, or which can be shown to have provided appropriate practical or conceptual skills to contribute to the study.

9.2 Recognition of prior learning

The College operates a policy for recognising prior learning (RPL) which may be certificated or experiential. Requests for recognition of prior learning must be accompanied by the appropriate documentary evidence outlined in the College's policy, which is available on application.

A maximum of 60 credits, excluding the MALP704 Final Project module, may be certified in this way. All applications for RPL are considered by an academic panel on their own merits and are not automatic.

9.3 Selection

Selection is by interview and/or a practical workshop, which is intended to ascertain whether the applicant will benefit from the programme and whether the demands of the programme are likely to be fulfilled by the applicant. The interview panel consists of programme tutors and may include professional mentors.

9.3 Additional requirements for non-UK/EU applicants

All teaching and examination is carried out in English and consequently competence in written and spoken English is a requirement. Non-EU/UK applicants are required to hold an IELTS[1] with an overall minimum score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component.

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[1] IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is now the only Secure English language Test (SELT) recognised by UK Visas and Immigration for student requiring a Tier 4 visa.

To comply with UK immigration legislation, successful non-UK/EU candidates will be required to be in receipt of a Tier 4 visa, (or such documentation required by the UK Government in force at the time), before they can commence their studies.

10. Progression and Assessment Regulations

Progression

You are registered at the College at the beginning of the academic year. This is followed by a period of induction where you are introduced to the academic community, the details of the programme, the College's facilities, and its links with the industry.

Attendance is compulsory for all classes, workshops and projects. During project and production periods the detailed schedule is designed to allow time for research and reflection.

You will have regular feedback sessions on all areas of the programme and you will be made aware, therefore, of your academic progress and personal development.

The **MA Light in Performance** comprises four taught modules (including one 60 credit module). Students completing the first three modules may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in **Light in Performance.** This is an exit award only.

Assessment Schedule

Assessment takes place within or at the completion of each module. Once your work is marked, you are advised through tutorials with the tutor and/or Programme Director of the *indicative* grade. You cannot receive your final mark until completion of the degree and following confirmation of those marks by the relevant Examination Board.

Marking Categories for the MA:

70 – 100%	Distinction
60 – 69%	Merit
50 – 59%	Pass
0 – 49%	Fail

Marks and Classification of Awards

To qualify for the award of the MA degree (180 credits from all modules) or Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits from modules 701, 702 and 703), you must complete all of the programme requirements and must pass all modules.

(The Postgraduate Diploma is an exit award only. The **MA Light in Performance** does not have a Postgraduate Certificate option).

Classification	MA/MFA
Distinction	Aggregate average mark of all modules of 70-100 including a mark of 70 or more in the Final Project module
Merit	Aggregate average of all modules of 60-69 including a mark of 60 or more in the Final Project module
Pass	50-59

Performance in work for which an award of credit for prior learning has been made is not taken into account in the calculation of the final award.

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