First-class facilities
Our department is home to the Wickham Theatre, one of the country’s best-equipped university performance venues, as well as a 24-hour rehearsal space, sound and design studios, carpentry and costume workshops, and one of the largest theatre archives in the UK.

History of innovation
We have a long history in the innovative study of theatre and performance. Bristol is the home of theatre studies in the UK: our department was the first in the country to offer a degree in the subject in 1947.

Industry experience
Bristol is a hub for creative industry. You’ll benefit from partnerships with the historic Bristol Old Vic, as well as other leading Bristol arts organisations such as Watershed, Travelling Light and Tobacco Factory Theatres.
Why study theatre and performance at Bristol?

Theatre and performance studies at Bristol is distinctive for blending study of historical contexts and theoretical perspectives with practice-based activities and investigations. You’ll study with innovative and enthusiastic pioneers in everything from Shakespeare to contemporary performance practices.

Working between the theatre, the classroom and the city, you’ll learn how to bring history to life through performance and use theatre as a powerful means of interrogating our most pressing social issues. Our degrees are wide-ranging, allowing you to develop knowledge and skills across a range of areas.

In the first year you will learn how to analyse performance and work with play texts, as well as developing your practical skills in theatre production. In the second and final years you will take a series of units designed to deepen your analytical, critical, practical and historical expertise and skills – as well as exciting optional units.

As part of the final year you will complete a group or individual practical project, an extended essay or dissertation, or an industrial placement with a local or national partner or even an overseas company.

You can combine theatre studies with film, English or innovation, or study theatre and a modern language to spend your third year abroad.

Sample units may include:
- Clowning Through History
- Decolonising the Stage
- Site-Specific and Immersive Performance
- Early Modern Theatre Practice
- Applied Theatre.

Find out more
Entry requirements, course structure and units
bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-theatre

‘This has been my dream course for years. It still doesn’t feel real being here! I like the integration between the course material and the city itself, and the passion and personal care that each tutor puts into their work.’
Eleanor (BA Theatre and English)

Bristol is an exciting place to be a theatre student. Theatres, venues and festivals around the city stage a huge variety of performances of every genre, enhancing and broadening your studies with access to cutting-edge drama.

There is a huge range of student societies to get involved in, from theatre department drama society InterAct, to the established DramSoc and Spotlights, Bristol Improv, PantoSoc, Music Theatre Bristol, and the Stage Technicians’ Association.

Alumni include Simon Pegg, David Walliams, Mark Ravenhill, Sarah Kane, Laura Wade, Pearl Mackie, and Royal Shakespeare Company artistic director Gregory Doran.

You’ll find Bristol theatre alumni throughout the creative industries, with successful careers as performers, directors, writers, producers, stage managers and designers. Graduates also apply their wide-ranging transferable skills in broadcasting, arts administration, education and business, as well as further study and research.

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Eleanor (BA Theatre and English)
Courses

BA Theatre and Performance Studies
BA Theatre and English
BA Theatre and Film
BA Theatre and French / German / Italian / Portuguese / Spanish
MArts Theatre with Innovation

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2021. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2020). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study for the latest updates. Any sample units listed are indicative and offerings may change due to developments in the relevant academic field. Unit availability varies depending on staffing, student choice and timetabling constraints.