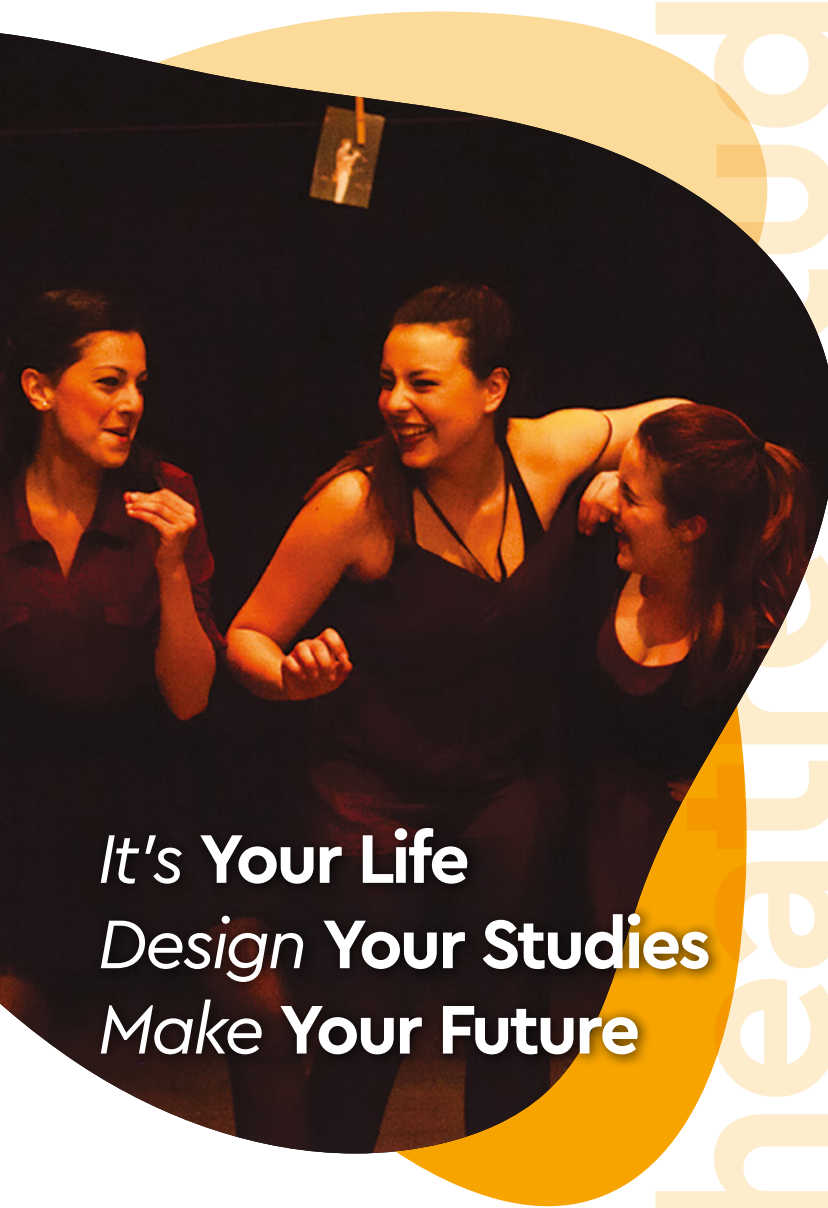




L-Università
ta' Malta



It's Your Life
Design Your Studies
Make Your Future

Department of Theatre Studies
School of Performing Arts

Theatre Studies Courses



YOUR CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

The University of Malta's Theatre Studies course offers an exciting and innovative programme of studies that is up to date with twenty-first-century developments in education, culture, and employability. Combining the study of traditional theatre and theoretical perspectives with contemporary performance and cultural practices, we give you the skills and the creative vision for careers in education, the theatre profession, and in the arts and cultural sectors.

Photo by Darrin Zammit Lupi



VISION TO SUCCEED

We think well beyond our classroom and studio spaces and have our eyes firmly set on theatre in its various forms, from traditional theatre and scholarship to cutting-edge performance practice (including the use of digital media), from arts management to applied performance and community theatre. In a balanced mix of seminar room-based and studio-based study-units, we examine the histories, concepts, and contexts of theatre forms from classical Greek theatre to experimental contemporary performance, while also relating to current theatre production around the world and in Malta.

Many study-units include theatre visits, watching live performances, and fieldwork and placements within important cultural institutions. Theatre practitioners and international scholars regularly contribute to lectures and workshops. We want our students to develop the competence to succeed in a future career in the cultural, creative, and educational sectors as well as various other sectors where interdisciplinarity, quick thinking, and organisational skills are an asset.

Photo by Kathryn Bianco

RANGE OF TEACHING

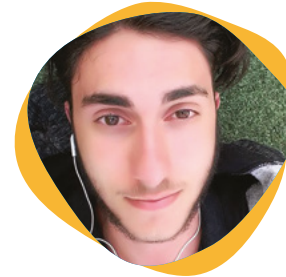
You benefit from a diverse range of lecturers in terms of both research interests and professional backgrounds. The expertise we offer is varied: our staff is made up of both traditional academics, who have years of experience in university teaching and research, to arts and cultural professionals working in the cultural and creative sectors doing anything from acting to directing, community work, festival organisation, policy making and arts funding.

We use a variety of teaching methods including practical workshops, tutorials, seminars, lectures, screenings, and one-to-one tuition. Our assessment methods are designed to be an integral part of the learning process, to reflect your achievements, and to match the content of our study-units. Study-units are continuously assessed, and are based on performances, practical projects, fieldwork, presentations, and portfolios, in addition to essays, tests, examinations, and dissertations.

CHOICE OF PROGRAMMES

Our main programmes are the B.Theatre (Hons) and the long-standing BA (Hons) in Theatre Studies. This is where you benefit from the full range of our study-units on offer. Other programmes include the Theatre Studies option in a BA (General). Additional programmes include Theatre Studies as a Subsidiary Area in a BA (Hons), as well as the Theatre Studies option in the following degrees: European Studies (Hons), Theology (Hons), and Knowledge and Information Management (Hons).

Our study-units are frequently chosen as optional units by students following other degrees and regularly attract visiting and exchange students, making the learning experience more diverse. All Theatre Studies students, irrespective of their programme of study, benefit equally from our professional ethos.



After having been active in the Maltese theatre scene for a number of years, my intention was to invest seriously in a future career in the arts as a theatre practitioner. To this end I wanted to get a wider perspective of theatre, especially in terms of the combination between theory and practice. The B.Theatre programme at the University of Malta is giving me this opportunity. It combines performance work with technical staging skills within an academic framework which allows me to understand better the dynamics of theatre making. In my first year alone I was involved in the creation of three fully-fledged performances: Wander, Revolution and Anansi-8. I now look forward to my second year during which I will broaden my horizons by studying abroad through the Erasmus+ exchange programme.

Daniel Formosa (Malta) - 1st Year B.Theatre Student



Photo by Michela Cuschieri



Photo by Andrii Zmievskiy



Photo by Elisa von Brockdorff

THEATRE IN PRACTICE

We challenge the unhelpful distinction between practical and theoretical study. We are convinced that a production cannot be created without thinking, and that you cannot study theatre without experiencing it. Therefore, many of our study-units include both written and performance-related assessments. Our students learn how to develop analytical and critical skills, tackle funding applications, and engage with practical skills for future careers. They also undertake other innovative assignments, while creating a range of exciting productions.

BA & BA (Hons) in Theatre Studies

In the first year, alongside the study of histories of theatre, you are introduced to basic performance skills, and learn how to work creatively and present performances within a festival context. The choice of performance style in the festival is up to you: from conventional acting to physical theatre, comedy to devised performance. In the second year, you develop your practical and creative techniques to apply them in a showcase production. In the third year, you have the opportunity to work on more specialised and research-based practical projects, which range from performances to demonstrations and other forms of presentation.



Photo by Dylan Odom

B.Theatre (Hons)

The B.Theatre (Hons) includes all the study-units currently available to students studying Theatre at university. It differs from the other Theatre Studies courses in having more practice-based study-units, giving you the opportunity to focus on essential knowledge and a range of basic skills necessary in staging practices, such as lighting, sound, and stage design, scenography, costumes, promotion, as well as health and safety awareness. Through specialised lectures, information seminars, practical workshops, demonstrations, and performance work, you are exposed to skills and processes involved in the staging of performance events such as those for theatre, dance, and music concerts.



Photo by Dylan Odom



Photo by Sergio Muscat

LIFE BEYOND UNIVERSITY

We expect great things of our students and we are confident that our graduates will shape the creative arts and educational sectors of the future. We work hard to maintain strong links with professionals throughout the industry, in Malta and abroad. Our study-units are designed and taught to international standards of excellence, as evidenced by the teaching staff's qualifications and experience, as well as by the input and academic auditing of international professionals. We believe that the range and quality of the study-units we offer give our students an advantage in a competitive world.

Former Theatre Studies students have found jobs at universities (in Malta and abroad), in various schools and sixth forms, in the media, as well as in the cultural and creative sectors, including government agencies in education and culture, Arts Council Malta, Teatru Manoel, Spazju Kreattiv, Teatru Malta, Drama Centre, Drama Unit, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, Valletta 2018 Foundation, and in major festivals including Žigužajg International Arts Festival for Children and Young Adults and the Malta International Arts Festival.

Other graduates have used skills and knowledge learnt during their course to develop careers in diplomacy, management, and private enterprise. A good number of our students have continued with their studies at postgraduate level, including PhDs, in Malta and abroad.



Theatre Studies raised many curtains for me. I discovered so much more than I thought could happen on stage, behind it, and everywhere around it. What theatre can be, what theatre can do, how and why. The BA (Hons) which I followed revealed a number of paths and helped me determine which ones I wanted to pursue. Theatre Studies taught me that you cannot fake loving what you do. You cannot fake a genuine interest. My engagement as a student kept growing day after day to eventually lead me to build a career out of it all, including performing as an actor and directing plays. My studies of theatre were definitely crucial in allowing me to shape theatrical ideas that I can now develop further in my current role as artistic director of Teatru Malta, Malta's first National theatre company.

Sean Buhagiar (Malta) - graduated 2007



The decision to pursue a degree in Theatre Studies came from a genuine and personal interest in the arts combined with a desire to develop organisational skills related to arts management and cultural policy that could lead me to pursue a career in the cultural sector. The department's support, the structure of the course itself, and the endless opportunities for personal and professional development, allowed me to achieve this. The staff's encouragement went beyond the academic sphere and supported us students to initiate the University Students of Performing Arts Association which was an excellent opportunity to discover the opportunities and challenges that exist in the field. Upon graduating, I was equipped with the knowledge, relevant skills, and motivation that are proving to be essential in my current professional engagements with public cultural organisations and private entities in the field of arts and cultural management.

Stephanie Bonnici (Malta) - graduated 2017



My undergraduate and postgraduate studies in theatre at the University of Malta provided me with the necessary tools to develop my aptitude for artistic appreciation and understanding. Moreover, the experience gave me the opportunity to meet new people whilst learning from experts in the field. The programmes are designed around the various needs required by whoever is seeking a professional career in the cultural sector. My years spent as a Theatre Studies student equipped me with the appropriate skills to fulfill my duties at Spazju Kreattiv where I am currently employed as Programme Manager for Fondazzjoni Kreattivita.

Daniel Azzopardi (Malta) - graduated 2008 & 2010



Looking back, I can safely say that my decision to read for a BA (Hons) in Theatre Studies was one of the best I could have made. In the three years spent as students, my colleagues and I were given the freedom and skills to have frank discussions about current issues related to the performing arts and to research those areas which were of interest to us as individuals. All this occurred within a carefully structured programme designed by a team of dedicated lecturers. Following my graduation, I worked as a freelancer in events management with Arts Council Malta, and am now working as administrative manager within a performing arts school. It is very satisfying to see myself apply in my work not only the knowledge of theatre, but also skills related to critical thinking and analysis which are two fundamental pillars of this degree.

Maria Cuschieri (Malta) - graduated 2017



As a young soprano with a passion for singing and opera, reading for a BA (Hons) degree in Theatre Studies allowed me to transform my passions into proper academic studies. The course provided me with the ideal platform to develop further my knowledge and skills in perfecting my art as an opera singer and also to develop a sense of discipline and self-awareness that are fundamental when working within the performing arts sector. Theatre Studies also equipped me with skills in human relations that proved to be hugely beneficial to my current activity as a director in a family business within the hospitality industry which branches across hospitality, property management, and project finishing.

Dorothy Baldacchino (Malta) - graduated 2005



Although my main degree is in Communications, Theatre Studies was my secondary area of studies. Initially unsure of what to expect, it became clear that the theatre programme was meticulously packed with insights into the world of the arts, human cultures, theatre theory, and practices related to theatrical skills and performance techniques. This contributed to my development as an artist and filmmaker, widening my understanding of the creative industries and their importance to society. As owner/director of The Bigger Picture and Stargate Studios Malta, today I operate as Producer, Director of Photography, and Visual Effects Supervisor and have contributed to multiple local and foreign award winning productions.

David Serge (Malta) - graduated 2004



YOUR VERY OWN THEATRE STUDIES COURSE

We offer an exceptional breadth of study-units. Building on the foundations laid in your first year, you are encouraged, during your second and third years, to select study-units and specialise following your own interests. This will allow you to discover new areas of knowledge while building and enhancing your CV in the pursuit of a career.

Your YEAR 1 Studies

The study-units available in Year 1 lay the foundations for more in-depth study later in the course. The following study-units cover historical, theoretical, and practical approaches:

- ⊗ Histories of Theatre
- ⊗ Practical Units in Performance Skills, Staging Skills, and Training
- ⊗ Theatre Festival
- ⊗ Studying Performance

Your YEAR 2 Studies

Building on the essential skills and knowledge acquired in the first year, in Year 2 you discover and explore further historical and creative aspects of theatre and culture. Year 2 aims to reinforce your knowledge of the history, theory, and practice of theatre, as well as to broaden the opportunity of studying theatre at university to include cultural, applied, and interdisciplinary skills and practices:

- ⊗ Development of Theatre Texts
- ⊗ Theories of Performance
- ⊗ Performance Laboratory and Production
- ⊗ Applied Performance: Skills
- ⊗ Arts and Cultural Management: Theories and Perspectives
- ⊗ Popular Performance
- ⊗ Theatre and Performance in Malta
- ⊗ Modern and Contemporary Theatre and Performance
- ⊗ Interdisciplinary Practices
- ⊗ Performance and Scientific Perspectives

Second year students also have the opportunity to study abroad at one of our ERASMUS partner institutions.

Your YEAR 3 Studies

In Year 3, your final year, you are encouraged to specialise in areas you are passionate about in preparation for a career or postgraduate study. Specialist knowledge in the research and methodology of theatre, culture, and the arts is complemented with pre-professional level hands-on experience:

- ⊗ Practice as Research
- ⊗ Applied Performance: Community Project
- ⊗ Arts and Cultural Management: Placement
- ⊗ Musicality in Theatre and Performance
- ⊗ World and Intercultural Performance
- ⊗ Shakespeare in Performance
- ⊗ Tradition and Transmission in Performance

Students reading for a B.Theatre (Hons) or a BA (Hons) degree will also have the opportunity of tailoring their dissertation study-unit to suit their preferred topic and/or to cater for their career needs.





Photo by Jacob Farrugia



Photo by Baskal Mallia

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students choosing Theatre Studies need to satisfy the University of Malta's General Entry Requirements which are meant to ensure that candidates have an adequate general educational background appropriate for tertiary studies. These consist of the following:

- ① the Matriculation Certificate (which includes six subjects, two of which taken at Advanced Level and four subjects taken at Intermediate Level including Systems of Knowledge); **AND**
- ② passes in the Secondary Education Certificate at Grade 5 or better in Maltese, English Language and Mathematics.*

***Overseas Applicants:** Normally qualifications that give access to education in the country of origin are favourably considered as long as it is ascertained that they are of comparable standard to the General Entry Requirements of the University of Malta. In some instances, applicants may be advised to follow a one year Foundation Studies Course. Maltese is not a requisite for overseas applicants. The language of instruction at the University of Malta is English.

For full details visit um.edu.mt/registrar/prospective/admissions or email admissions@um.edu.mt.

Mature students

The University of Malta also welcomes applications from mature students, that is, persons over the age of 23 years. Theatre Studies is often a popular choice for such students who want to learn new skills to broaden their career options or simply to engage with a stimulating subject in a stimulating manner.



The BA (Hons) in Theatre Studies at University of Malta gives students a broad perspective of the performing arts sector from a practical and theoretical point of view. Apart from the possibility to be involved in performance work as performer and technical assistant as part of my programme of studies, the Theatre department also gave me the opportunity to spend a whole semester of my second year at Bishop's University in Quebec, Canada. Theatre Studies also provided me with a good foundation in Arts and Culture Management including a placement with Teatru Malta which gave me the unique opportunity of first-hand experience in theatre management. Thanks to this I am now in a position to further my studies with an MA degree in Cultural Management as from next year.

Melissa Sambugaro (Italy) - 3rd Year Theatre Studies Student



I decided to move to Malta to read for my undergraduate degree after the University of Malta provided me with the opportunity to combine theatre with psychology. The Theatre Studies programme is designed in a stimulating way which caters for theory and practice in equal measure. The department provides students with theatre facilities at the University's Valletta Campus situated in a most beautiful historic building where students are engaged in devising performances as part of their studies. Further to this, apart from the highly committed staff, we are given the opportunity to work with leading international scholars and practitioners.

Karolina Mielczarek (Poland) -

2nd Year BA in Theatre Studies and Psychology

MA in Theatre & Performance

C21 Studies and Perspectives

Performing Histories
Performance Practices
Theories for Performance

Photos by Jeremy de Maria
Montage by Jean Claude Vancell

Postgraduate Options

A Bachelor's degree in Theatre Studies enables you to further your studies at postgraduate level, providing you with the appropriate knowledge and necessary skills to specialise and conduct research-based work. You can read for MA (by research or taught) and PhD degrees in Theatre Studies at the University of Malta. The range of staff expertise offers you a wide choice of research topics, and their publication record provides you with international standard supervision.

Postgraduate students benefit also from activities and projects by the following research groupings within the School of Performing Arts:

- ⊗ P21: 21st Century Studies in Performance
- ⊗ Culture and Performance
- ⊗ Performing Arts Histories and Historiographies

MA in Theatre & Performance (C21 Studies and Perspectives)

The MA in Theatre & Performance (C21 Studies and Perspectives) is a taught programme that gives you the opportunity to survey and rethink the study of theatre and performance in the twenty-first century. It focuses on studies and perspectives that are mainly emergent in the new century, but which have links and applications that are related and relevant to other historical periods.

The M.A. includes sessions by international experts (scholars and/or practitioners), as well as scope for practical research, tailor-made to the students' interests.



As a former Erasmus student, I completed the second year of my undergraduate course at the University of Malta. The experienced and dedicated professors and diverse range of modules made the University of Malta my first choice when deciding to read for a Master's degree. I have been performing theatre for many years and later became interested in directing. The MA in Theatre Studies (by research) offered a Practice as Research route which allowed me to use my practical experience to investigate relevant academic topics. The theoretical modules helped me acquire research skills and exposed me to appropriate theoretical frameworks which guided my research. I would highly recommend this course for any theatre practitioner who wishes to conduct research via practice in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Rachael Smyth (Ireland) -

MA in Theatre Studies by Research (Practice as Research)



The MA in Theatre and Performance (C21 Studies and Perspectives) is a brilliant course, one which I found enriching in its diverse areas of contemporary performance while still addressing issues pertinent to historic and social implications. The taught structure was crucial to help me diversify in areas of research that I might not have previously considered. The result was a holistic and expansive research that opened doors for future research and equipped me with the necessary tools to further my studies at doctoral level. Other experiences, beyond academia, also presented themselves. As an actor, I found myself experimenting theoretical frameworks in my practice. A crucial part of it all was the unwavering support I found from the whole department, who were always ready to clear any self-imposed barricades, pushing boundaries that I wouldn't have thought were there in the first place.

Chris Galea (Malta) - graduated 2017

RESEARCH

Research Specialisations:

- ⊗ Histories of Theatre
- ⊗ Theories of Performance
- ⊗ Actor and Performer Training
- ⊗ Practice as Research
- ⊗ Devised Performance
- ⊗ Maltese Theatre
- ⊗ Carnival and Popular Performance
- ⊗ Musicality and Performance
- ⊗ Musical Theatre
- ⊗ Transmission of Embodied Practices
- ⊗ Postcolonial Theatre
- ⊗ Physical Theatre
- ⊗ Technology and Performance
- ⊗ Critical and Cultural Theory

Collaborations and Networks:

- ⊗ Dù Theatre (Malta)
- ⊗ Icarus Performance Project (Malta)
- ⊗ LabPerm: Laboratorio Permanente di Ricerca sull'Arte dell'Attore (Italy)
- ⊗ Odin Teatret (Denmark)
- ⊗ Opening Doors (Malta)
- ⊗ Rubberbodies Collective (Malta)
- ⊗ Grotowski Institute (Poland)

Schools and Institutions:

- ⊗ Drama Centre (Malta)
- ⊗ Drama Unit (Malta)
- ⊗ MADC (Malta)
- ⊗ ARC Research & Consultancy (Malta)
- ⊗ Arts Council Malta (Malta)
- ⊗ Teatru Manoel (Malta)
- ⊗ Masquerade (Malta)
- ⊗ Stagecoach (Malta)
- ⊗ Helen O'Grady Drama Academy (Malta)
- ⊗ Spazju Kreattiv (Malta)
- ⊗ Valletta 2018 Foundation (Malta)
- ⊗ Teatru Malta (Malta)
- ⊗ Adam Mickiewicz University – Poznań (Poland)
- ⊗ International Theatre Research Federation (IFRT)
- ⊗ Performance Training, Preparation, and Pedagogy Research Group, University of Leeds (UK)

**Explore New Ideas
Create New Opportunities
Perform New Experiences
... join Theatre Studies**



Photo by Elisa von Brockdorff

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

The University of Malta traces its origins to the founding of the Collegium Melitense which was set up in 1592. Today, it hosts over 11,000 students following full-time and part-time degree and diploma courses. The University of Malta is the highest teaching institution in Malta. It is publicly funded and its structures are in line with the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area. It strives to provide courses that are relevant to contemporary needs of the industry and employers.

SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

The School of Performing Arts brings together the disciplines of Dance, Music, and Theatre. Our innovative and engaging programmes highlight the performance dimension of the respective disciplines, integrating the interplay between technical and artistic aspects, and the ability to reflect critically on performance. We guide students to develop skills, knowledge, and expertise pertinent to 21st-century needs that will allow them to embark on relevant research projects and shape successful future careers. A whole range of professional opportunities exist today, locally and internationally, and it is crucial that students can graduate and work creatively in performance, education, community, research, and cultural management. We believe that growth in cultural development will further enhance the School's impact on a variety of socio-cultural spheres.

Cover Photo by Elisa von Brockdorff



**L-Università
ta' Malta**

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