

## Programme Specification

Programme	CertHE in Acting Foundation
Awarding Institution	City St George's, University of London
Teaching Institution	The Arts Educational Schools
Location	Lyric Hammersmith
Type of study	Full time
UK Credits	120
ECTS	60

### Outline

The CertHE in Acting Foundation is a 1-year full-time training programme designed to give you an insight into life at drama school, and to prepare you for vocational training at Honours level. The programme is validated by City St George's, University of London and you will receive a City St Georges, University of London award.

Acceptance onto the CertHE Acting Foundation does not guarantee entry to the BA (Hons) Acting programme.

The foundation year is normally 30 weeks, divided into three terms of approximately 13 weeks, 11 weeks and 6 weeks respectively. On average there are a minimum of 30 hours of timetabled teaching per week. Since a core aim of the course is to prepare you for entry to 3-year Honours programmes, most of which complete their audition cycle in the Spring of each year, teaching is top-loaded into terms 1 and 2 to maximise teaching time before the majority of auditions take place.

## Programme Aims

The programme aims to:

- Help you decide whether actor training at degree level will suit you
- Aid transition to higher education tuition styles
- Prepare you for drama school auditions and other higher education applications
- Establish a foundation level of acting, voice and movement skills
- Develop your communication and presentation skills

## What will I be expected to achieve?

Through participation and engagement with the training on the CertHE in Acting you will be expected to demonstrate:

### Knowledge and Understanding

- The range of actor training available in the UK
- The key foundations of current theatre practice
- Which area of higher education would best support your continued development

### Skills

- The ability to reflect on your own developing practice
- Progress in emerging acting techniques utilising the core skills of imagination, expressivity, play and collaboration

### Values and Attitudes

- Collaborative attitude to the creative process
- Personal values and qualities which will enhance personal life and attitude to study and training

## How will I learn?

This section describes the range of learning formats you may experience at ArtsEd. If you are not sure about your role in a learning situation, please speak to the lecturer or to the Course Leader.

### Technique Classes

Technique Classes are designed to develop a foundation in the technical and practical skills of acting, movement and voice. These classes will require a certain amount of repetition as you practice control and gain an understanding of how your body works. You will often work as individuals within a group all performing the same task. Although the lecturer will give personal attention and correction, it is your own commitment to the exercises that will pay the biggest dividends.

## Assessment Regulations

The lecturer will be looking for concentrated effort; commitment to the work; growth in your understanding of the techniques and the development of control.

### **Examples:**

*Foundation technique classes include:*

*Movement*

*Voice*

*Audition technique*

*Dance*

*Singing*

*Fitness training*

## **Workshop Classes**

Workshops offer a way for you to express your own ideas, skills and creativity within a group. The lecturer will have an area of work they wish to explore, and they may start the session with games and/or exercises that will prepare the group to focus on that particular area of work. Different lecturers will have different methods of working.

You may be asked to work in small groups to explore and create as a group with guidance from the lecturer, or you may work one to one with the lecturer, exploring ways to approach a variety of material. Guidance from the lecturer will only be given when necessary.

Groups and/or individuals will usually be asked to show the results of their work during or at the end of the session. It is important to note that the **exploration** of ideas and skills is the prime objective of workshops. They are designed to help you grow as creative performers and to understand that both success and failure are part of the creative process.

Lecturers will be looking for openness to new techniques and a positive exploration of them; imagination; risk taking; hard work, energy and commitment, and generosity of spirit towards the other students.

### **Examples:**

*Acting*

*Improvisation*

*Approach to text*

*Devising*

*Acting for Camera*

*Audition Workshops*

## **Seminars and Tutorials**

<b>Seminars</b>	Interactive sessions where the speaker may give a short presentation to introduce a topic or a number of topics. The students may then discuss these topics in small groups and be asked to share a summary of their discussion with the rest of the groups towards the end of the session. <i>Eg. Fitness, health &amp; safety, nutrition and injury prevention, careers advice, Inclusivity and diversity.</i>
<b>Tutorials</b>	Provide an opportunity for the Course Leader to offer support and advice to students, and to provide information to the students as a group. Group tutorials take place weekly throughout the course and provide a forum for discussion of any aspect of the training, as well as support for students in preparation for written work. <i>Eg. Company Meetings.</i>

## **Reflective writing**

You will be encouraged to write journals for all your classes. Journal writing gives you the opportunity to reflect, to think through challenges and record breakthroughs. These journals are primarily for you, but lecturers will regularly ask to see them to ensure you have recorded and understood the feedback you have been given.

## **Fitness, Health and Safety**

The planning, implementing and maintaining of personal health and fitness is an intrinsic part of the Foundation course. Students are instructed on all aspects of theatre discipline, health and safety and best practice. Learning takes place during timetabled classes.

## **Acting and Audition Preparation**

Theatre practice including Health & Safety is taught as part of acting and audition preparation classes.

## **Voice and Singing**

You are given instruction on how to explore your voice safely, and emphasis is placed on the individual's responsibility for the voice, its development and care. The safe use of the voice is central to all voice classes, whether spoken voice or singing. Problems which you might experience include chronic tonsillitis, chronic sore throats and early stages of nodules. If any such problems arise, the student is encouraged to see his or her doctor without delay, and, if necessary, referred to an ENT specialist and/or a Speech Therapist.

## **Movement and Dance**

You will learn how to avoid injury, develop fitness, stamina and expressivity, and become aware of how to maintain your own and others' health and safety.

### **Pre-requisite modules, co-requisite modules and upgrades**

All modules on the programme are compulsory. There are no pre-requisite or co-requisite modules, and upgrades from one programme to another are not available.

### **Learning hours and credits**

The programme is delivered over one year. Each year comprises 30 teaching weeks, divided into three terms. Contact hours are very high: a minimum of 30 hours per week. The module specifications outline the units and teaching pattern for each module.

<b>Module</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Lecturer-led hours</b>	<b>Self-directed study</b>	<b>Total learning hours</b>
FACT1: Acting Skills	35	234	96	330
FACT2: Acting Projects	25	186	54	240
FACT3: Core Skills	25	207	23	230
FACT4: Audition Preparation and Pathways	25	201	49	250
FACT5: Additional Skills	10	72	8	80
	<b>120</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>1130</b>

### **How will I be assessed?**

#### **Rehearsal and Performance**

There are three key assessment points for rehearsal and performance in the CertHE in Acting Foundation.

- At the end of term 1, you will rehearse and perform in a mock audition for a panel of in-house lecturers
- At the end of term 2, you will rehearse and perform a contemporary duologue for an audience of students and staff, and devise a piece of theatre, rehearse it and perform it for an audience of staff and invited guests
- At the end of term 3, you will rehearse and perform in a play at an external venue for an audience of students, staff, friends and family, and members of the public

## Assessment Regulations

Each performance will be marked by a panel of at least three in-house lecturers and your rehearsal process will be marked by the director of each project.

### **Classwork**

Towards the end of the course your lecturers in Acting, Voice and Movement will mark your classwork. This mark incorporates effort and attendance as well as the level of attainment reached. Assessment is made with reference to the unit-specific learning outcomes described in the relevant module and the following general criteria based on the standards required for acceptance onto conservatoire training programmes:

- Commitment, preparedness for work; self-directed study
- Concentration; application; personal motivation
- Receptiveness to the process
- Ability to accept, and act on, notes and corrections
- Ability to work within group (listening; sensitivity; responsiveness generosity; co-operation)
- Progression: growth and development of skills and knowledge
- Development of flexibility and spontaneity
- Capacity to experiment and take risks
- Development of awareness of the working process
- Quality of reflective/critical understanding and expression

### **Written Assignments**

You will prepare a portfolio containing notes on your lectures and seminars, mock auditions and audition technique classes, and detailed research and reflection on the direction you wish to take upon successful completion of the course. The Portfolio is marked pass/fail, but it is a requirement of the course that this element be passed. The module specifications outline the other journals you are required to keep during your progress through the course. Your lecturers will carry out 'spot checks' of these journals at regular intervals, but the journals are not marked.

### **What do I have to do to pass?**

To pass the CertHE in Acting, you must have acquired 120 credits and passed each module in accordance with the requirements as set out in the module specifications and summarised below under 'Module Specifications'.

Work is assessed on the evidence of the extent to which you have met the learning outcomes.

## **Compensation**

The assessment regulations for ArtsEd's CertHE programmes allow you to gain your certificate when you have not passed all of your modules, but the Assessment Board confirms you have met all of the following criteria pertaining to your level of study. This is known as compensation. To be eligible for compensation you must have:

- Passed modules to the value of at least 95 credits and
- Obtained a mark of at least 30% in any failed module up to 25 credits and
- Obtained an average mark of 40% or greater for the whole level (across all 120 credits studied)

Compensation is only applied when the full profile of marks covering all 120 credits is available to the Assessment Board. If compensation is applied, you will not be offered any further reassessment opportunities for the compensated module.

## **Resits**

If you do not meet the criteria for compensation, resits may be available. A resit is a second attempt at an initial failed assessment without having to repeat the original period of teaching and learning. The resit mode may vary depending on the nature of the initial assessment. The student may be required to carry out a separate piece of work if the assessment was a project, a showcase performance or their classwork in the event that the course has finished.

Students normally have two attempts at an assessment (first attempt and resit). If you do not have approved Extenuating Circumstances, your mark will be capped at 40. Please refer to City St George's, University of London Assessment Regulations for further information.

A resit is granted by the Assessment Board which also makes the final decision on resit arrangements. Where there is more than one assessment unit in a module, an Assessment Board will need to make clear which assessment units a student is required to resit.

## What degree can I get?

To qualify for the award of Certificate of Higher Education in Acting Foundation, you must satisfy the pass requirements for all modules within the programme and achieve 120 credits overall. The overall aggregate degree marks will be weighted as follows:

Module	Classification Weighting
Average of the percentage marks achieved for Acting Skills	30%
Average of the percentage marks achieved for Acting Projects	20%
Average of the percentage marks achieved for Audition and Progression Preparation	20%
Average of the percentage marks achieved for Core Skills	30%

The class of the award of the CertHE will normally be:

CertHE in Musical Theatre Foundation	Minimum Overall Aggregate Mark
Distinction	70%
Merit	60%
Pass	40%

## Careers

The aim of the CertHE is to prepare you for progression to conservatoire training at Honours level. The Foundation course is also designed to help you decide whether a career in acting is right for you. The skills and personal qualities developed on the course equip you for work in a huge variety of sectors, and lecturers are skilled at supporting you towards alternative pathways, both in HE and professional work.

## Study Abroad/Work Placements

Study abroad and work placements are not available on this programme.

### Accreditation

In 2017 ArtsEd joined a group of 20 small, specialist providers in creating the Federation of Drama Schools, which provides a forum for discussion across the sector and hosts a website providing information about each school's courses for potential students.

<http://www.federationofdramaschools.co.uk/>