

Education plan

for

International Master's Programme in Performance Studies
Internationellt masterprogram i teatervetenskap och performance studies

120.0 Higher Education Credits
120.0 ECTS credits

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| Programme code: | HMTVP |
| Valid from: | Autumn 2024 |
| Date of approval: | 2021-09-24 |
| Changed: | 2023-05-10 |
| Department: | Department of Culture and Aesthetics |

Decision

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's degree in the Humanities or Social Sciences, including a degree project of at least 10 credits or equivalent. English 6 or equivalent.

Programme structure

The Master's Programme in Theatre and Performance Studies boasts an international and intercultural profile. The programme prepares for research at the doctoral level and work in the performing arts industry and cultural institutions.

The relationship between the performing arts and society is at the centre of the programme. The performing arts today constitute an increasingly critical activity where artists actively engage with and promote equality, diversity and inclusion. As a result of this development, professional areas related to Theatre Studies and the performing arts are changing and ask for a critical, intercultural and intersectional understanding of what performance means. The International MA Programme in Theatre and Performance Studies is a response to these developments and aims to give students the knowledge, competence and skills needed for a future professional role in academia, the cultural sector or the performing arts industry.

The programme broadens students' understanding of the concept of performance, which not only denotes the object of study for a theatrical analysis, but also functions as a theoretical and methodological tool to critically reflect on and interpret performing arts processes, bodily practices and social structures. The programme provides an in-depth and nuanced knowledge of performance theories and methodologies and discusses their relevance for the humanities.

The programme further thematizes how contemporary performing arts are characterized by new dramaturgies, which go beyond the structure and composition of a dramatic work and take into account questions about organization, financing, the audience's experience and the performative effect of a theatrical event on people, culture and society. Contemporary dramaturgies also thematize issues around social justice, decolonization, feminism, racialisation, migration, sustainability, the rights of LGBTQ+ people and children and young people.

At the centre of the education are critical readings of and reflections on performance studies texts, in-depth written analyses and interpretations of contemporary and historical theatrical events as well as group-based activities that train the students' skills for oral presentations. The programme culminates in a supervised

research project in the form of a written essay that stimulates the students' independent and creative thinking, ethical responsibility and ability to contribute to the development of knowledge in Theatre and Performance Studies.

The programme has several concrete connections to the labour market. Students are offered the opportunity to do an internship at a theatre or a cultural institution; they gain a deeper understanding of cultural policy and management; the education includes regular study visits to Stockholm's rich performing arts landscape as well as institutions such as the Dance Museum, the Performing Arts Museum, the Theatre Library and Drottningholm's Castle Theatre; and regular guest speakers with direct connections to the performing arts industry are invited to the programme.

The Master's Programme comprises four terms of full-time studies (120 credits) and consists of both compulsory and optional courses. A term normally consists of four courses à 7.5 credits each. The master's thesis takes up one full term (30 credits). The teaching is in English. Elective courses outside the main area of Theatre Studies must be chosen in consultation with the Director of Studies.

Goals

To acquire a Master's degree students must

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main area of the education, concerning both a broad knowledge within the field and a significantly deeper knowledge within specific parts of the field as well as an in-depth knowledge of recent research and developments;
- demonstrate in-depth methodological competencies in the discipline;
- demonstrate the capacity to systematically and critically integrate knowledge and to analyse, evaluate and investigate complex objects of study, research questions and scholarly challenges, even with limited information;
- demonstrate the skills to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate research questions, to plan and, with adequate methods, execute qualified tasks in a given timeframe and thereby contribute to generating knowledge within the field, including an evaluation of this work;
- demonstrate the skills to present their research in oral and written form in national and international contexts, to discuss their arguments and conclusions in dialogue with various groups;
- demonstrate the skills of participation in research and development of the field in order to independently work in another qualified occupation;
- demonstrate the skills to evaluate relevant scholarly, social and ethical aspects in the discipline and show an awareness concerning ethical aspects in research and development;
- demonstrate an insight concerning the potentials and limits of scholarly work, its role in society and human responsibilities for its application;
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for the development of knowledge.

Courses

Term 1

- Critical performance theories I (7.5 credits; compulsory; area: Theatre Studies)
- Critical performance theories II (7.5 credits; compulsory; area: Theatre Studies)
- Performativity, bodily practices and diversity onstage (7.5 credits; compulsory; area: Theatre Studies)
- Performance, activism and social movements (7.5 credits; compulsory; area: Theatre Studies)

Term 2

- New dramaturgies I, (7.5 credits; compulsory; main area: Theatre Studies)
- New dramaturgies II, (7.5 credits; compulsory; main area: Theatre Studies)
- Cultural policy and management (7.5 credits; compulsory; main area: Theatre Studies)
- Elective course (7.5 credits; compulsory; main area: Humanities or Social Sciences). This elective course may consist of an internship.

Term 3

- Epistemology of the Humanities (7.5 credits; compulsory; area: History of Ideas)
- English for Academic Research (7.5 credits; compulsory; area: Department of English)
- Elective course (7.5 credits; compulsory; main area: Humanities or Social Sciences).
- Advanced research methodologies in performance studies (7.5 credits; compulsory; main area: Theatre Studies)

Term 4

- Master course and thesis (30 credits; compulsory; main area: Theatre Studies)

N.B.: The scope of courses at bachelor level is limited to a maximum of 15 credits.

Degree

The programme qualifies for a Master's degree in Theatre Studies.