

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

Year 4 Student Handbook (4BA DTP) 2025-2026



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



Discipline of Drama and Theatre Studies,
School of English, Media and Creative Arts,
O'Donoghue Centre, University of Galway

This handbook contains an overview of your modules for Fourth Year in Drama and Theatre Studies and some key dates. For full information on Drama and Theatre Studies policies and guidelines, please refer to the general undergraduate student handbook.

Who to contact

Head of Undergraduate Studies: Dr Ian R. Walsh
ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie

FINAL YEAR DRAMA, THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE 2024-2025

Term and Exam Dates 2025-2026

First Semester	
Orientations:	Fourth Years: Monday September 8, Studio 2, 11AM (<i>in place of first session of "DT4403 Arts and Cultural Producing"</i>)
Arts in Action	Will typically be Thursday at 1PM during teaching term in semesters one and two Full programme to be launched in September All events free and open to students and may be integrated as part of your modules
Teaching – all years:	Monday, 8 th September – Friday, 28 th November (12 weeks of teaching)
Bank Holiday:	Monday, 27 th October (NO CLASSES)
Study Week:	Monday, 1 st December –Friday, 5 th December

Semester 1 Exams:	Monday, 8 th December – Friday, 19 th December (10 days of exams)
Christmas Holidays:	Saturday, 20 th December
Second Semester	
Teaching:	Monday, 12 th January – Thursday, 2 nd April (12 weeks of teaching)
Arts in Action	Continues Thursdays at 1PM during teaching with some special performances.
Bank Holiday:	Monday, 2 nd February (NO CLASSES)
Third Year Production	Thursday 12 th March to Thursday 19 th March
St. Patrick's Day:	Tuesday, 17 th March (NO CLASSES)
Easter Holidays:	Good Friday, 3 rd April - Easter Monday, 6 th April
Field Trip:	Tuesday, 7 th April to Friday, 10 th April (if applicable)
Study Week:	Friday, 13 th April – Friday, 17 th April
Bank Holiday:	Monday, 4 th May
Semester 2 Exams:	Tuesday, 21 st April – Friday, 8 th May (13 days of exams)
Autumn Exams 2026	
Autumn Repeat Exams:	Tuesday, 4 th August to Friday, 14 th August (9 days of exams)
Bank Holiday:	Monday, 3 rd August
Repeat assignments due for continuous assessment modules	Friday, 14 th August <i>This deadline applies to those who have failed drama modules and have to repeat them during summer.</i>

Course Structure

In the first semester, all students take DT4402 Practice-Based Research Methods: Theories and DT4403 Arts and Cultural Producing

In the second semester all students take DT4107 Practice-Based Research Project and DT4404 Professional Development in Drama, Theatre and Performance.

TIMETABLE

CLASS	Semester	Day & Time	Venue	ECTS
DT4402 Practice-Based Research Methods: Theories and Practical	1	Thursday 3-5pm	Studio 1	10
DT4403 Arts and Cultural Producing	1	Monday 11-12 Tuesday 3-4	Studio 1 Studio 1	5
DT4107 Practice Based Research Project	2	Thursday 3-5	Studio 2 / Sem1/ Mezzanine	10
DT4404 Professional Development	2	Monday 1—12 Tuesday 3-4	Studio 1 Studio 1	5

Staff Contacts and Office Hours

Staff in Drama aim to be approachable and responsive to students' needs, insofar as possible in the context of their other professional obligations, and while bearing in mind that we can often assist students best by referring them to other professionals within the university, such as the counselling service or the College of Arts office.

Students can also communicate with staff by email (see below for information about email contacts). In general, if your query is complicated or personal, it is better to discuss it with the lecturer during a scheduled online slot.

Many lecturers will also make time to answer individual queries at the end of classes, but please note that it may not always be possible to do this (for example, a lecturer may have another class to get to).

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES STAFF CONTACTS FOR 2025-2026

•

- Ian R Walsh, Lecturer [Full-time], Head of Discipline DTS, Head of Undergraduate Studies in DTS ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie
- Finian Gorman, Lecturer [full-time] finian.ogorman@universityofgalway.ie
- Charlotte McIvor, Senior Lecturer [full-time], Head of Postgraduate Studies in DTS, charlotte.mcivor@universityofgalway.ie
- Marianne Kennedy, Lecturer [full-time], Artistic Director, O'Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance, DTS, marianne.nichinneide@universityofgalway.ie
- Patrick Lonergan Professor [full-time], (On sabbatical until Week 7 Semester 2) patrick.lonergan@universityofgalway.ie
- Miriam Haughton Lecturer [full-time], on research leave IRC Laureate 2023-2025 until Semester 2), miriam.haughton@universityofgalway.ie
- Máiréad Ní Chróinín , Druid Lecturer [part-time], Druid Academy Coordinator, mairead.nichroinin@universityofgalway.ie
- Michael O'Halloran, Technical Officer [part-time], DTS, michael.ohalloran@universityofgalway.ie
- Teresa O'Donovan- Administrator [part-time], DTS, drama@universityofgalway.ie

STAFF OFFICES

Staff offices are in the O'Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance.

Teaching Staff

Please find below contact details of most of your lecturers throughout the year, this list is not yet complete and is subject to change:

MODULE	LECTURER	EMAIL
DT4402 Practice-Based Research Methods: Theories and Practical	Ian R. Walsh	ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie
DT4403 Arts and Cultural Producing	Máiréad Ní Chróinín	mairead.nichroinin@universityofgalway.ie
DT4107 Practice-Based Research Project	Ian R. Walsh & Mike O'Halloran	ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie michael.ohalloran@universityofgalway.ie
DT4404 Professional Development	Máiréad Ní Chróinín	mairead.nichroinin@universityofgalway.ie

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS 2025-2026

NOTE: Full module outlines will be available on Canvas.

Semester 1

DT4402 Practice-Based Research Methods: Theories and Practical Strategies (10 ECT)

Thursday 3-5 pm Studio 1

Instructor: Ian R. Walsh

Module Description

This module introduces practice-based research methodologies used within the field of Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies. We investigate these methods at the intersection of theory and practice to explore together how to build compelling research questions and projects focused on specific areas of theatre and performance craft (acting, directing, playwriting, devising, stagecraft/design) as well as a broader understanding of performance as a critical lens for analysing the world and human behaviour/society. This module also addresses the role of identifying artistic lineages of practice and building deep critical bibliographies in the workshopping and development of practice-based research projects.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, a learner will be able to do:

1. Identify and define key practice-based research methods and terminologies used within Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies
2. Create and hone original practice-based research questions both within groups and individually
3. Demonstrate ability to plan and execute practice-based research experiments including creation and implementation of basic data-gathering tools like audience surveys
4. Balance real-time analysis of practical outcomes of practice-based research experiments with critical analysis of secondary literatures and lineages of practice that inform the work

Assessment

- **Practice-Based Research Question Pilot Essay -20%**

This essay will include a clearly formulated focused research question, identify and name theoretical frameworks, locate the question within a relevant lineage of practice and propose potential outcomes of the practice-based research as well as its value. Due Week 7

- **Group Practice-Based Research Question Pilot Experiment I (Practical) -30%**

Practice-Based Research Pilot Experiment I requires groups to craft and test a practice-based research question involving a key concept, theme or practice related to theatre and performance introduced through module readings. This will result in the creation of a 10-15-minute experiment (e.g. event, activity, or game) that must actively involve all or most of the class. In-class in week 7.

- **Research Proposal Presentation 20% - in-class week 11 and 12**

In-class presentation of proposed practice-based research project

- **Written up detailed research proposal 30%**

This proposal will include a research question, theoretical frameworks, lineage of practice, potential outcomes of the practice-based research as well as its value, anticipated challenges.

DT4403: Arts & Cultural Producing (5 ECT)

Monday 11-12 Studio 1

Tuesday 3-4 Studio 1

Instructor: Máiréad Ní Chróinín

Module Description

This module focuses on preparing the student to enter the arts and cultural sector, taking the concept of 'producing' as its focus. 'Producing' describes the work of getting a show or event made, including - putting together a team; obtaining finance and funding; organizing the production phase; and ensuring audiences and ticket sales.

Producing skills are an essential element of any artist's toolkit, whether they are focused on creating their own work, or working for an arts and cultural organization. This module will focus particularly on the work of the Producer across two stages: Stage 1: initiation of the idea for a show or event, and Stage 2: overseeing the production of a specific show or event. As students will be positioned as 'emerging artists' when they enter the industry, both these producing stages will be discussed from the perspective of a young artist/producer.

'Producer' is a leadership role that coordinates creative, technical, and promotional efforts towards a common goal. Accordingly, this module also builds transferable skills that will support students who wish to pursue careers in conjunction with, or outside of, the arts and cultural sectors.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, a learner will be able to:

- Break down a creative idea and identify the key producing elements of the idea: vision; context; team; partners; budget; audience; activities
- Present confidently on their own artistic ideas and work
- Understand the current context of producing in Ireland and connect this context to their own proposed work
- Identify potential partners and funders for their work
- Use software such as Excel to create basic budgets, schedules, etc.
- Design a marketing and audience engagement strategy
- Describe the key HR, finance and production deliverables involved in producing a show / event
- Identify and utilize relevant producing resources

Assessment

1. Artistic Presentation (15%)

Students will prepare a short presentation on their own inspirations, ideas and work that communicates who they are as an emerging artist and producer. Presentations will be given in class.

2. Producer Pitch – Group Work (40%)

Students will work together in groups to develop a detailed Producer Pitch. This pitch will be developed through short exercises based on the work in Weeks 3-9. Together the pitch will comprise:

- Detailed description of an artistic idea
- Information on key collaborators, partners and potential funders
- A show / event budget
- Target audience strategy
- Project management plan

Critical Essay (45%)

Students will analyse producing case studies, reflect on their significance in the wider context of arts and culture in Ireland, and relate them to their own artistic ideas and goals.

Semester 2

DT4107 Practice Based Research Project (10 ECT)

Thursday 3-5 pm Studio 1

Teaching Team: Dr Ian R. Walsh and Mike O'Halloran

Course Description

In this module students will draw together the knowledge, skills and experience they have gathered in the previous three years of study to develop and present an independent practice-based research project. Each student will formulate a research question that they will develop through scholarly research and practical tasks. They will present their ideas and process within a series of iterations of practice culminating in a fully realised presentation. After the final presentation students will write up their project as a research case study. The process will also be documented through short assessed written critical reflections on Weeks 5-8.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop and complete an independent research project.
2. Test theoretical ideas through practice.
3. Create a new practice piece that can be used as the basis for future activities.
4. Evaluate research and practice through critical reflection.
5. Learn to work independently as a research scholar.
6. Apply acquired analytical and performance skills.

Assessment:

Work in Progress Performance 20% - Week 7

Critical Reflection Worksheets 20% (4 x 5%)

Research Project 60% (30% - performance /30% written submission)

- written submission (3,000 words)

- Performance in-class – Week 11 and 12

Professional Development for Drama, Theatre and Performance (5 ECT)

Monday 1—12 Studio 1, Tuesday 3-4 Studio 1

Instructor: Máiréad Ní Chróinín

This module examines the practical aspects of how young artists can build and sustain their careers. Students will prepare CVs, portfolios and showreels depending on their chosen area of interest as well as personal development and care plans. The module also places the practical aspects of making a life as an artist in Ireland in the context of wider Irish and international debates and discussions in the field of arts with guest practitioners talking to students about their careers.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop skills in professional self-care
2. Understand how to write an effective artist's cv
3. Create a portfolio to showcase their work
4. Study and reflect upon a successful artistic career

Assessment

- Self-Care Plan: 25%
- CV:25%
- Portfolio/Showreel: 25%
- Career Case Study: 25%