



Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2026 Entry

MA Dramaturgy

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The application process is your opportunity to demonstrate your skills as a Dramaturg, in particular working with and analysing dramatic writing and working with other creatives. It is also our opportunity to assess your skill and suitability for the programme. We are excited to meet students who come from both theoretical drama training as well as practical experience as a storyteller or maker.

We are proud to have removed all audition fees for our programmes at the conservatoire. If you have an interest in applying for our programmes, we don't want finances to be a barrier to you gaining access to our audition process.

STAGE 1: Online Portfolio Submission

We use an online system called Acceptd which you will need to use to upload your portfolio. Full details on how to access Accept'd will be sent to you following your application.

Personal Statement

Please submit a 500 word statement or a video recording of no more than 4 minutes about who you are and what you hope to achieve through this MA.

We are particularly interested in learning about what skills you wish to improve and the kinds of work you want to make, rather than your previous experiences.

Textual Analysis

Please upload a critical examination of a piece of theatre or play text. This can be submitted as either a 800-1000 word essay, or a video recording of you articulating your critical examination.

There are two main things we are looking for. Firstly, your skills interrogating text and its components (character, structure, form, language etc) showing us any academic or theoretical knowledge of drama you may have. Secondly, we want to get a sense of your own instinctive voice as an artist/practitioner, forming and articulating both personal and objective opinion on the piece.

We recommend choosing a piece that interests you and is reflective of the kind of theatre you like to watch /make.

Guidance

- Please specify whether you are working from a specific recording/performance, or if you are analysing the source material (script/book).
- You can choose whether you focus on one section of text in relation to the wider piece, or if you discuss wider themes and elements of the piece, referring to several specific moments.
- We are not looking for an examination of the performances. We are interested in hearing both your own personal response to the piece, and your objective detailed analysis of the elements that give the piece meaning and why.
- Your response can be about any play, musical, play text, dance piece, spoken word or another form of art that you are drawn to.

STAGE 2: Presentation and Interview [In-Person or Online]

If successful at stage one we will invite you to book and attend an interview in-person or online, where you will be asked to present an idea for a project that speaks directly to you as an audience member.

The presentation should last no more than 2-3 minutes, and should explore the content of this story as well how it would be told and why you want to tell it.

We will then discuss with you your written critical interrogation and talk to you about your process and approach as well as your areas of interest.

FAQs:

What is a Dramaturg?

There are many meanings, but the core meaning is someone involved in the making of theatre, helping the writers and directors tell the story they want to tell. Dramaturgy in the UK and US is primarily focused on text-based work, and physical dramaturgy (shaping stories through movement) is much more prominent across Europe. There is often cross-over with Directing - dramaturgs who work with the writers on bringing their stories to life onstage. Our Dramaturgy course will expose you to all meanings, giving you experience of how this skill is used as freelance practitioner, for a theatre literary department, or as a script developer in other forms. It may be you are a creative operating in another discipline who wants to work on a more robust understanding of story structure and creating narrative to inform your practice.

What does the interview entail?

The interview is a brief opportunity for the programme team to get to know the person behind the personal statement and the work presented. It is a relaxed and informal discussion in which you will be asked questions about your interests, passions, experiences, and you are given the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the programme, team or life at Leeds Conservatoire. Try not to overthink the interview or try to give the 'right' answer. The team genuinely just want to know who you are and why you think you would benefit from training here at Leeds Conservatoire.

I want to be a writer, is this the course for me?

During your training you will create and tell your own stories, writing and presenting them in play form, however, this is not the main focus of the course. Dramaturgy is much more about working collaboratively to shape stories, by understanding the components and how they work together. There is, of course, huge crossover with writing, and we encourage students to think of themselves as a theatre maker, rather than purely defining themselves and their craft as one thing. This course will give you both the individual and collaborative skills to tell new stories in a multitude of ways and finesse your own craft as a practitioner.

Will I receive feedback?

Unfortunately, due to the number of applicants for the MA programmes, we are unable to provide feedback for first stage applicants. At the second stage audition, applicants are able to discuss their suitability for the programme and feedback will be built into the interview.

