Get to know DRAMA

The Dan School of Drama and Music emphasizes a balanced approach in which theory informs practice and practice informs theory. In Drama you can study all aspects of theatre, from acting and directing to theatre history and dramatic literature, and there are many different opportunities to become involved with productions. Productions have been described as “intriguing work that meets a high level of accomplishment”.

Drama is taught at Queen’s within the Dan School of Drama and Music, which affords close collaboration between Drama and Music in most activities. A new example is the involvement of both disciplines in Queen’s Musical Theatre.

Popular course offerings include Music Theatre, Acting, Technical Production and summer courses in Medieval Theatre at Herstmonceux Castle in England. Internship opportunities with professional theatre companies are also available. Drama graduates are broadly resourceful thinkers and practitioners able to work comfortably and confidently in a wide range of professions.

Studying Drama at Queen’s can take place in three main locations – Theological Hall, one of Queen’s oldest buildings; the Herstmonceux Castle in England or at the new, world-class Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts (theisabel.ca).

“From the oldest building on campus to the newest performing arts centre, Drama at Queen’s is rooted in traditional beginnings and future potential.”

A Common START

Students in Arts and Science are admitted into Arts, Science or Computing but the focus is on a common first year. Through self-exploration, and while you settle into university life, you have the opportunity to work with advisors and faculty to discover your real interests and identify opportunities for success. Sometimes that discovery happens fairly quickly, and for other students it takes some work and time before the “ah-ha!” happens – either way your first year at Queen’s will be a great experience.

Degree OPTIONS

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
- Major / Medial / Minor in Drama
- Specializations in Stage and Screen, Specialization in Computing and the Creative Arts (COCA)
- Bachelor of Music Theatre
- Bachelor of Arts (General)
- Internship option available

Queen’s ADMISSION

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). Secondary School prerequisites include six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENG4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

There is a vast array of courses for those interested in all of selected areas of theatre such as Theatre for Young Audiences, Acting for Stage and Screen, Scene Study at the Shaw Festival and all things behind the stage such as Theatre Design, Playwriting and Dramaturgy, Directing and Music Theatre Practicum.

That is a degree from Queen’s.
1ST YEAR

Explore the role of theatre in contemporary culture by taking DRAM100 or BISC 100 and 101 at Herstmonceux Castle. This course includes a weekly lab focused on devised theatre exercises. Interested in exploring both Drama and Film and Media? Look into the interdisciplinary Stage and Screen specialization. If interested, take FILM 110.

Each Plan will have at least one required first year course, including minors. It is important to take a variety of first year courses to keep as many pathways open as possible for you going into second year. For details see the Arts and Science Academic Calendar.

2ND YEAR

Take core courses in Theatre History (DRAM 200), Dramaturgy (DRAM 220) and Technical Production (DRAM 240).

Choose up to 9.0 units in options including acting, playwriting, design, and musical theatre.

Please see the Academic Calendar to ensure you are taking the correct courses.

Want to enhance your degree? Consider a certificate in Media Studies or explore other certificates available.

3RD YEAR

Complete 3rd year core requirements: take DRAM 300.

Choose from advanced options in acting, playwriting, design and technical production.

Immerse yourself in great plays by participating in our Shaw Festival summer program (DRAM 371 and DRAM 373).

Need help mapping all of your core, option, supporting and elective courses (including those not listed above) to make sure you will have what you need to complete your degree? Use the Course Mapping Tool on the Arts and Science website.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

Join with the graduating class to tie your learning together with the capstone experience of DRAM 400.

Take the opportunity to pursue your interests with independent projects at an advanced level.

By fourth year you should be working on your remaining core, option, and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and / or certificate(s) as well.

Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

Where could I go after graduation?

Acting
Arts administration
Arts advocacy
Choreographer
Communications and media relations
Corporate trainer
Costume / set / lighting / sound design
Development director
Directing
Drama therapy
Early childhood education
Educational outreach
Event planning
Human resources
Journalism
Law
Marketing director
Musician
Playwriting / screenwriting
Producer
Public relations
Publishing
Research
Social media coordinator
Stage management
Talent representation
Teaching
Theatre production
Tourism
TV/Radio broadcasting
Vocal coach

Some careers may require additional training.

Consider a 12-16 month QUIP internship

Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, grad school applications, or other decisions.

Apply in the fall for SSHRC and OGS scholarships if applying to grad school in Ontario.

CONSIDER A 12-16 MONTH QUIP INTERNSHIP

Assess what experience you’re lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services internship for help.

Be a designer, crew head, stage manager or production manager. Take a leadership role in the Departmental Major Productions.

Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Drama or the Drama department alumni Facebook group.

Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIP’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.

International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormap.html for the online version with links!
Drama MAJOR MAP

How to use this map
Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

A balanced approach leads to long-term success. While you will learn a lot from your studies, taking time to get relevant experience outside of the classroom, build your network, and gain international experience, will position you to be more competitive in your job search or grad school applications.

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need
Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally, and Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Succeed in the workplace

What employers want
The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:
1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

What can I learn studying DRAMA?
• Technical production and design skills
• Oral and written communication
• Resource and time management to manage multiple long-term projects
• Real world problem solving to focus on effective processes
• Critical thinking for comprehensive analysis of issues and ideas before coming to conclusions
• Creative thinking to connect, synthesize, and transform material to generate new forms and solutions
• Intercultural knowledge and competence to adapt empathetically to unfamiliar ways of being
• Civic engagement to use theatre to make a positive difference in local communities
• Integrative learning to combine practical and theoretical knowledge and experiences